

ISSUE 06  
FEB/MAR 2023

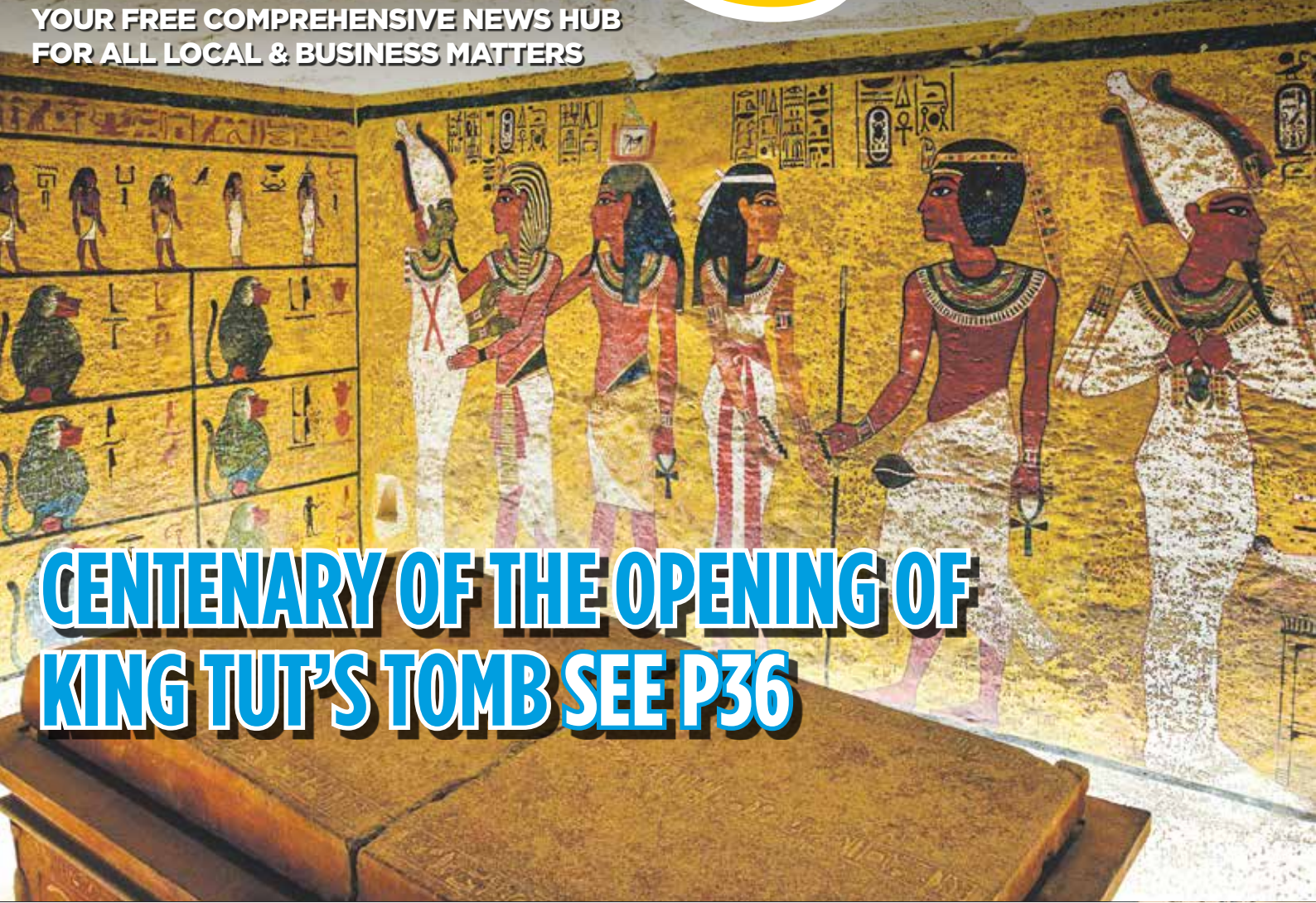
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## The Spring Clear Out

SEE INSIDE ON PAGES 26, 27 & 40

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## EDITORIAL

**W**elcome to our first edition of Little Village in 2023.

The weather gave us a cold start even though the long-range weather forecasts predict warmer weather due to global warming. Weather forecasts can be hit and miss so our cover feature this month looks at how animals and nature might be the best way to predict the weather. This is what our ancestors relied on. Make of it what you will. We also take a dip into Old Moores Almanac to see what he got right in 2022 and what is in store for 2023. We will keep an eye on these predictions and report back in future issues.

Local news includes the loss of jobs at Argos.



CENTENARY OF THE OPENING OF KING TUT'S TOMB SEE P36

We also report on the Brigid 1500 programme and other Kildare County Council initiatives.

We wish all our readers a happy and safe 2023.



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# Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil

## Local Enterprise Office Kildare

# LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE KILDARE CLIENTS CREATED OVER 284 JOBS IN 2022

Local enterprise office Kildare now supporting over 256 small businesses and 1,297 jobs according to new figures.

**T**oday, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Simon Coveney TD, announced the annual results of the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) for 2022 which showed that Local Enterprise Office supported companies created 284 jobs in 2022.

The net jobs created by Local Enterprise Office Kildare supported clients in 2022 was 148 which takes into account companies that amalgamated, ceased trading and those that transferred on to Enterprise Ireland.

The new figures show that the LEO Kildare financially supported 256 small businesses in their portfolio across the county and these companies in turn employ 1,297 people.

The total national figures for the Local Enterprise Offices across the country were announced with the LEOs now supporting 37,863 jobs across 7,221 companies. In 2022 there were 7,870 new jobs created by LEO client's companies with a net jobs creation figure of 3,447. This was up 10% nationally on 2021. From the jobs created, 84% were outside of the Dublin region.

The LEOs also provide substantial funded supports to thousands of other small businesses across the country with programmes such as the Trading Online Voucher, Lean for Micro and Green for Micro along with training and mentoring.

Simon Coveney, T.D., Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, said; "These results show the significant role the Local Enterprise Offices are playing in not only creating new businesses and jobs but also in sustaining them. On the back of some of the most difficult years for small businesses we are still seeing growth across the country. During the pandemic we saw how essential the LEOs were to small businesses, and they will be essential as we navigate the ongoing cost of living and energy crises.

"With 84% of new jobs being created outside of Dublin it reinforces the Government's strategy to strengthen employment throughout Ireland. As the remit of the Local Enterprise Offices has now broadened to companies up to fifty employees, even more SMEs will be able to avail of their supports, but also their expertise in growing enterprise in towns and villages across the country."

Kildare County Council's Chief Executive, Sonya Kavanagh, added: "The Local Enterprise Offices across the country have gone above and beyond in their support of small businesses, and Kildare is no different. We are seeing new opportunities for Irish businesses here and even with tough economic periods we see new ideas and companies emerge and flourish. We are proactive in building a vibrant infrastructure for entrepreneurs in our county and it is important to recognise all that they have achieved."



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RICS

# Kildare Groups Among IPB Pride of Place Finalists 2022

Kildare County Council has announced that their three Kildare nominees in the 2022 IPB Pride of Place Competition. The national winners of the prestigious competition across the island of Ireland will be announced at the gala Awards Ceremony in the Clayton Hotel, Dublin on the 21st January 2023.



**T**he IPB Pride of Place Competition celebrates unsung community heroes and their voluntary work. These groups make a significant difference in the places where they live, inspiring friends and neighbours to get involved and improving the lives of all in their community. It is known affectionately as the “Community Oscars.”

Kildare County Council has supported the competition for many years and nominated three inspiring groups for their efforts in 2022.

Narraghmore was nominated in the Village with a population of 300 -1000 category. The Narraghmore Development CLG has led an impressive transformation of the village and oversees a variety of hardworking voluntary groups such as Biodiversity & Tidy Town Committee, The Old Hardware, and the newly formed Sustainability Committee

Liffey Linear Park, Newbridge was the nomination

in the Creative Place category. This flagship project by Newbridge Tidy Towns is the jewel in the crown of the Newbridge area. Liffey Linear Park, is a 9.5-acre public park which stretches along the banks of the River Liffey, in what used to be a floodplain. This group is no stranger to awards, having held the Green Flag recognition for a number of years.

Suncroft Young at Heart group has been nominated in the Community Wellbeing category. The group (aged 70+) felt that they needed to be with likeminded people, to reduce social isolation, improve the health and wellbeing of the older people in Suncroft and surrounding hinterlands, and to enhance their quality of life as they age. They have truly become the backbone of the community, participating in all activities, fundraising, helping with bingo, and encouraging the community to keep active and support one another.





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# Thousands of families to benefit from substantial reductions in early learning and childcare costs.

- New subsidy rates under the National Childcare Scheme effective from 2 January.
- Record numbers of children now benefitting from supports under the Scheme.
- All families encouraged to ensure they are availing of their entitlements under the Scheme.

**R**oderic O’Gorman, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth today welcomed the introduction of new subsidy rates under the National Childcare Scheme, which is set to substantially reduce out of pocket costs for early learning and childcare for thousands of families across the country.

From 2 January, the minimum hourly subsidy under the National Childcare Scheme for all children under 15 will be €1.40 – an increase of €0.90 per hour from last year.

For families using Tusla-registered early learning and childcare, this subsidy increase represents further cost reductions of €2,106 (or a reduction of €3,326 in total) off the annual cost of early learning and childcare for each child.

The change to the National Childcare Scheme is being backed by €121 million secured in Budget 2023 by Minister O’Gorman, bringing total funding for the Scheme to €358 million this year.

Record numbers of children are now accessing supports under the Scheme. More than 98,000 children are currently in receipt of support, representing an 82% increase in the number of children for the same period last year.

Welcoming today’s changes to the National Childcare Scheme, the Minister said:

“This Government is delivering on its promise to make high-quality early learning and childcare more affordable for families and accessible to all children.

Families can now benefit from significant increases in the National Childcare Scheme, helping to ease the financial pressure associated with early learning and childcare in Ireland.

Increasing the subsidy that families can avail of under the National Childcare Scheme is the best way to ensure all families with children in Tusla-registered early learning and childcare can benefit from the Government’s €1 billion investment in early learning and childcare for 2023.

More families than ever before are already availing of the National Childcare Scheme, offsetting their early learning and childcare costs, and I am confident that with this additional investment starting today, we can bring further benefits to these families and thousands more like them.

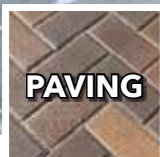
I encourage all eligible families to avail of these supports on offer, by visiting [www.ncs.gov.ie](http://www.ncs.gov.ie), calling the Parent Support Centre on 01 906 8530 or talking to their early learning and childcare provider”

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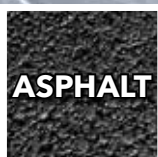
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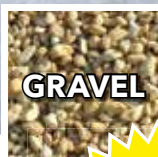
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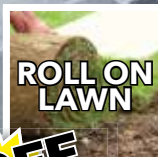
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# Garda Inspectorate launches its Domestic Abuse Victim Survey

The Garda Inspectorate has today launched an on-line survey to gauge how victims of domestic abuse are dealt with by the Garda Síochána.

**T**his survey is part of an on-going inspection into the effectiveness and efficiency of the Garda Síochána's response to domestic abuse. Deputy Chief Inspector Pauline Shields, who is leading this inspection said, "Hearing from victims and survivors of domestic

abuse is an important part of our inspection. I would encourage anyone who has been a victim of domestic abuse to take this opportunity to tell us about their experience with the Garda Síochána. She continued, "I want to assure people that the survey is completely anonymous and any information supplied to the Garda Inspectorate will be treated in the strictest confidence."

The Inspectorate will refer to the results of the survey in a published report relating to this inspection.

This inspection is examining the Garda Síochána's approach to tackling domestic abuse at both strategic and operational levels, with reference to the best standards of comparable police services.

The survey will run for a period of four weeks from Monday 9 January 2023.

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# Kildare County Council Through its 'Brigid 1500' Programme Announces a Host of Events for 2023 to Celebrate the Life and Legacy of St. Brigid

Kildare County Council is delighted to announce through its 'Brigid 1500' programme a full calendar of events and initiatives for 2023, which aim to celebrate and commemorate St. Brigid, the woman, the life, and the legacy. Featuring light shows, concerts, literary events, walks and more, the impressive calendar for 2023 has something for all tastes and ages as we approach and celebrate the first official bank holiday weekend dedicated to Ireland's female patron saint this February.

**H**ighlights of the calendar include; iconic sites and buildings across Kildare and further afield being lit up and others hosting an array of stunning light illustrations depicting St Brigid and her legacy on the 31st of January and 1st February 2023

Another key event as part of the Brigid 1500 Programme for 2023 is a Fire & Light Walk, which commences from Kildare Town Square at 6pm on Saturday 4th February 2023.

On Sunday, 5th February St Brigid's Cathedral in Kildare Town welcomes the amazing Eimear Quinn to perform a special concert including a rendition of her original song dedicated to St Brigid.

Libraries across the county will also open their doors to a series of events to celebrate St Brigid, including craft workshops, poetry readings and children's storytimes.

In addition, a comprehensive school lesson plan will launch later this month, plus a school tree planting day will take place on 31st January in participating schools.

There is also a special GAA Blitz taking place for sixth class pupils on St Brigid's Day. The full calendar of events is now available at [www.brigid1500.ie](http://www.brigid1500.ie).

The 2023 programme will set the scene for 2024, which marks the 1500th anniversary of the death of St. Brigid. The main aim of 'Brigid 1500' is to create a meaningful cultural and societal legacy that appeals to a diverse contemporary audience.

'Brigid 1500' is being delivered by Kildare County Council supported by a Steering Committee of leading experts across the fields of arts and culture, academia, tourism, industry, spirituality and faith, community, education and more.



'Brigid 1500' will engage communities with the story and heritage of St. Brigid, providing a tangible connection with the past, through events and programmes that have an ongoing meaning and relevance. The programme will engage with the values St. Brigid championed including faith and spirituality, biodiversity and sustainability, arts and culture, social justice, peace, hospitality, and education.

**For full details of Brigid 1500 and the programme of events, please visit [www.brigid1500.ie](http://www.brigid1500.ie).**

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# Promised Rail Service Improvements Must Be Delivered On Time

Sinn Féin Councillor for Lucan-Palmerstown-North Clondalkin, Derren Ó Brádaigh, has called for greater focus and urgency to address the growing need to meet rail commuter requirements in tandem with population increases and continued housing expansion in West Lucan. The Councillor has continued to bring this concern to National Transport Authority management and was commenting to a recent response received regarding specific questions posed.

**C**llr Ó Brádaigh said; “The feedback that I am receiving on the ground from residents and existing commuters is one of concern. Lucan commuters are increasingly worried about the delivery of much needed improvements to the local services and indeed the wider railway network into the future. Entire swathes of estates extending from Griffeen and South-East Lucan, all the way through to the newer developments in West Lucan such as Shackleton, Gandon, St Helen’s and

Adamstown are already in need of a good reliable train service.

“Recently, I asked for clarity regarding Iarnród Éireann’s plans both in the short and longer term to increase carriage numbers for services stopping at Adamstown, Fonthill and Parkwest stations. In their response, Iarnród Éireann reiterated to me, that they are taking delivery of 41 new Intercity Railcars (ICR’s). These are expected to enter service throughout 2023. As they are intermediate carriages, they will facilitate the lengthening of existing trains. While at the time



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of order their primary usage was envisaged to be on commuter lines, the company is reviewing proposed deployment with the NTA in the context of emerging post-Covid travel patterns, and Iarnród Éireann's Strategy 2027 which targets service frequency improvements on several routes. Decisions on this will be made over the coming months, based on evaluation of demand across the network.

"In 2024, delivery of 95 DART+ carriages are expected, and I am informed that a further 90 carriages are scheduled for 2026. These carriages will be used across the Greater Dublin Area to allow for increased service frequency and capacity. The first 95 will be used on the Northern Commuter Lines, hopefully freeing up Intercity Railcar and Commuter Carriages for usage elsewhere on the network, and the subsequent 90 carriages will directly benefit the Heuston commuter lines, through Clondalkin and Lucan along the Kildare railway line. It is essential that these deliveries and timelines are now met, but also kept under constant review as Lucan continues to grow, with the transition in transport choices away

from the motor car being actively promoted.

Regarding the long-delayed opening of the Kishogue train station, Cllr Ó Brádaigh was also commenting;

"Having sought yet further updates as to the opening of the Kishogue train station, I was informed that Iarnród Éireann intend to start work to bring Kishogue station into service towards the end of this year and being fully operational. There are extensive works needed to bring the station into service, including meeting present day accessibility and system requirements. Unfortunately, as we know, the station has remained idle for 14 years with the original cost of construction €6.35m and every week people continue to ask me the same question "When is Kishogue opening?" Both my colleagues and I have and will continue to press upon the importance of the delivery of a first-class transport system, that addresses the everyday needs of local workers and all the inhabitants of the general travelling community."

# Why your cat might be a better weather forecaster than Met Éireann



Irish people certainly talk about the weather a lot. This is not surprising as we have such a changeable climate; it has been often said that in Ireland one can experience the four seasons in one day.

**W**hilst we talk about it, how good are we at predicting it? There is a lot of folklore about predicting weather and it turns out, some of it is true or partly true. Here are some examples of weather folklore and why animals know more than we do.

## **A year of snow, crops will grow.**

Fact: A several-inch layer of snow contains more air than ice. Trapped between the interlocking snowflakes, the air serves to insulate the plants beneath it. When the snow melts, the water helps to keep the ground moist.

## **If there is thunder in winter, it will snow 7 days later.**

Partly True: According to a meteorologist in Washington, D.C., this is true about 70 percent of the time, especially from the East Coast to the Plains. Thunder in winter is an anomaly often caused by a big dip and a big rise in the jet stream. When the next weather system arrives several—if not exactly 7—days later, temperatures may still be cold enough to cause the moisture in the system to fall as snow.

## **A ring around the Moon means rain will come real soon.**

True: A ring, or halo, around the Moon is caused when the light of the Moon refracts through ice crystals present in high-level clouds. Although these clouds do not produce precipitation, they often occur in advance of an approaching low-pressure system,

which often brings precipitation in the form of rain or snow. Here are a few clues to making your own predictions:

## **Pay attention to winds and clouds.**

These are the big predictors of changes in barometric pressure and resulting weather. For instance, the adage “No weather is ill, if the wind be still” indicates a high-pressure system, a broad area of descending air characterized by calm winds and little cloud formation.

## **Observe sheep, cats, and cows.**

Their bodies are affected by changes in air pressure. When rain is on the way, old sheep turn their backs to the wind, cats sneeze, and cows lie down. They become restless when stormy weather approaches and may lie down in a dry spot. (Of course, cows also lie down for several other reasons!) Also, Animals graze with their tail toward the wind so that if a predator sneaks up behind them, the wind will help catch the scent of the predator and prevent an attack.

## **When Cats Sneeze, Rain's on Its Way**

We all know that our feline friends seem to have extra-sensory abilities (at least, the cats think so). But is there any truth to this? A book commissioned by the American War Department, “Weather Proverbs,” in 1883 stated that cats had many ways to predict weather.

## **Sheep**

One proverb states, “When sheep turn into the wind, expect rain.”



Another says, "If sheep ascend hills and scatter, expect clear weather."

Conversely, if sheep huddle up in a tight group, expect rain or snow. Frankly, if you had warm and woolly friends, wouldn't you huddle up, too?

**Watch birds in flight.**

Air pressure affects many birds. For example, swallows have sensitive ears; when the barometric pressure drops, they fly as close to the ground as possible, where air density is greatest. Generally, low-flying birds are signs of rain; highflyers indicate fair weather.

Many animals are affected by changes in air pressure—including us humans! Here are some more proverbs to ponder:

- Expect rain when dogs eat grass, oxen sniff the air, and swine are restless.
- If the bull leads the cows to pasture, expect rain; if the cows precede the bull, the weather will be uncertain.
- When hungry bites the thirsty flea, rain and clouds you sure

shall see.

- When horses and cattle stretch out their necks and sniff the air, it will rain.

**Frogs Croak Loudly When It's About to Rain**

Ever heard that "frogs croak loudly when it's about to rain"? It's true! Why? Frogs croak loudly to mate, and they are more successful following a good rain. This is because the eggs are laid in bodies of water (fresh water). The male frogs will start croaking with more gusto before a rain.

**Crickets Predict the Temperature**

We all know the evening sound of a cricket. Did you know the number of cricket chirps report the temperature? No kidding! Just count the number of times a cricket chirps in 14 seconds and add 40 to that number. The total is the temperature in Fahrenheit. Take a few measurements and then use the average to determine the temperature.



# NEW INTERNATIONAL SURROGACY LAWS WILL GIVE FAMILIES LEGAL CERTAINTY IN IRELAND

Parents of babies born through surrogacy will finally have their right to parentage enshrined in Irish law, Dublin Mid West's Fine Gael TD has said..

**D**eputy Emer Higgins welcomed yesterday's agreement at Cabinet for legislative amendments to be brought to the committee stage of the Assisted Human Reproduction Bill to legislate for international surrogacy.

Deputy Higgins said: "It was an honour to serve as the vice-chair on the Oireachtas Committee on International Surrogacy as we came together to examine the difficulties and challenges that parents through surrogacy face and how we can best protect and acknowledge them and their children.

"The amendments agreed yesterday will make sure that parents who went through surrogacy and who are not currently legally recognised by the State will be able to apply for parental orders so that they can make decisions for their children.

"I know this will be really welcome news for the many parents and advocates we met and engaged with as a committee," said Deputy Higgins.

"Currently parents in this situation can't make decisions for their children on things like school trips, medical care,

medication, or having their photos taken.

"And in situations where a relationship may break down second parents have been at the mercy of the child's biological father as to whether get access or custody of their children which can lead to extremely nasty and stressful negotiations for some mothers.

"But now, parents in this situation will be able to go through the court to secure access and custody of their children.

Deputy Higgins continued: I've met a number of local families in Dublin Mid West who have been impacted by our old-fashioned laws but now Ireland will have a very high ethical legislative framework to provide protections for families and surrogates when Irish children are born via surrogacy abroad.

"And I have to commend my colleagues in Fine Gael, especially Senator Mary Seery Kearney for her continued hard work in this area to get us to where we are now.

"I hope now that these legislative amendments will move quickly through Oireachtas and we will see the first applications to the Courts being made next year," concluded Deputy Higgins.

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## Argos to close all Ireland Stores

Argos will shut all of its stores in the Republic of Ireland in June this year, the company said on Thursday, following a “period of careful consideration”. This includes Argos stores in Blanchardstown and Liffey valley.

**T**he move is expected to result in 580 employees losing their jobs and the closure of 34 sites across the country.

The company, which sells electronics, gadgets, and toys, said it would propose an enhanced redundancy package for the affected workers during negotiations with Mandate, the trade union that represents retail workers in Ireland.

Argos said the package would go “well beyond its statutory obligations”.

Following a review, the company said it had concluded that the “investment required to develop and modernise the Irish part of its business was not viable and that the money would be better invested in other parts of its business”.

The company operates in the Republic of Ireland with a “significantly different” business model to England,



Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, according to Argos, meaning the closures would not affect any of the company’s other branches.

Andy McClelland, Argos Ireland Operations Manager, said: “We understand this is difficult news for our customers and colleagues.

“As with any major change to our business, we have not made this decision lightly and we are doing everything we can to support those impacted.”

Argos stores will remain open to customers in the Republic of Ireland until 24 June 2023.

Before that date, the company will begin winding down its operations - it will stop taking orders from customers via the Argos website or its home delivery service after 22 March 2023.

The aftersales, returns, refunds and exchanges policy will continue to apply until Argos stores close.



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# Kildare County Council are to progress Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road



Kildare County Council has successfully completed Phase 2 of the Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road project - Options Selection - and can confirm that, through funding from the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government (DoHPLG) under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF), that they will now progress to Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation.

To date, the project has completed the concept and feasibility stage and more recently the selection of options. The Option Selection Report for the Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road scheme has now been published and all documentation is available to view on the project portal website below:

<https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/consultation/celbridge-hazelhatch-link-road-final-preferred-route-corridor-option>

Hard copies of the documentation are available to view at Kildare County Council offices, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co. Kildare W91 X77F by appointment only from December 15th, 2022 – February 9th 2023.

Celbridge is an important regional town within Kildare and a significant commuter town for Dublin and other employment centres in the region. Celbridge has seen its population more than double in the past 30 years with over 70% of the population living north of the River Liffey.

Traffic demands in Celbridge are likely to grow significantly in the coming decade with lands south of the town centre earmarked for development with the existing

road network in and around Celbridge town centre, including the existing bridge over the River Liffey, already experiencing daily traffic congestion.

The new Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road (CHLR) Scheme will benefit all road users and deliver local improvements through:

- Improving connectivity to Hazelhatch Train Station
- Improved safety for pedestrians and cyclists
- Facilitate development of zoned lands
- Result in shorter, safer, and more sustainable journeys to Hazelhatch Train Station

The project will now move to the next phase - Design and Environmental Evaluation - which includes the preliminary design of the road alignment. An initial design is currently being progressed, which will allow the Project Team to start meaningful discussions with affected landowners in Q2 2023.

In addition, ground investigation works, and various environmental and other surveys will be required as part of this phase which will inform the design the alignment and proposing mitigation measures.





## Naas - County Kildare Retains Ranking as Ireland's Cleanest Town

Kildare County Council is delighted to welcome the announcement that Naas has again topped the rankings as the cleanest town in Ireland by Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) in their most recent survey. Maynooth also performed strongly, coming in tied second with Kilkenny.

**A**n Taisce, who conduct the surveys on behalf of IBAL, described the main street of Naas as 'exceptionally well presented and maintained' and praised the town for attaining 'a level of cleanliness and presentation that should inspire local authorities across the country'.

Cllr Evie Sammon, Mayor of the Naas MD welcomed the announcement saying: "It's a wonderful start to the New Year for Naas, and to retain the title again is fantastic. We're very proud of our Main Street in Naas and to have it acknowledged as "exceptionally well presented and maintained" is a great honour."

"This award is all down to the work of Naas Tidy Towns volunteers who are out picking litter and cleaning the streets from dawn until dusk every day. It's also an acknowledgment of volunteerism and of the cooperation between Naas Tidy Towns and Kildare County Council, in particular the Environment Department of the Council. Congratulations to all."

The national IBAL litter survey showed cleanliness improvement levels of 6% nationwide, with three quarters of the 40 cities and towns surveyed being deemed clean, compared to just over half, this time last year.

## Kildare County Council Launches Celbridge as an Age Friendly Town

Kildare County Council was delighted to officially launch Celbridge as an Age Friendly Town recently.

**A**n Age Friendly Town is one in which older people are actively involved in social, economic and cultural life and in creating a better local environment, to everybody's benefit. Age Friendly Towns respond to what the older community needs.

The local community in Celbridge has worked with Kildare County Council, and the Kildare Regional Age Friendly Programme to achieve this Age Friendly status. The main street in Celbridge is now fully accessible, safer, and more pleasurable for older people in the town.

Older people can walk safely, park their cars in the designated Age Friendly parking space, shop, socialise and rest of any one of the new Age Friendly seats that have been installed in the town. The community in Celbridge is delighted to receive the national status of Age Friendly from Age Friendly Ireland. Celbridge is one of many Age Friendly projects in Kildare.



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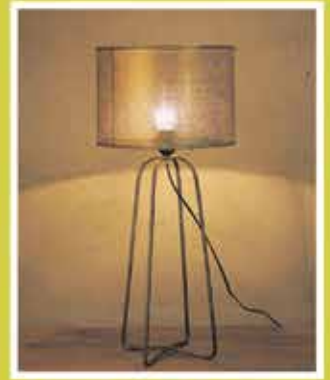
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# Vital E-Scooter Legislation is passed ahead of roll out of Electric Charging Strategy

NCBI, Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind and Irish Wheelchair Association are urging Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan to take action with e-scooter legislation in order to protect pedestrians with access needs before it is too late.



**T**he Minister recently unveiled his strategy for electric charging vehicle infrastructure which will include the development of new mobility hubs in cities, where people can charge electric cars, bikes and scooters and avail of shared-use electric vehicles. However, despite their increased usage there is still no clear legislation or a regulatory framework around the use of e-scooters. The three organisations are calling on the Minister to bring forward late-stage amendments to ban the use of e-scooters on footpaths, mandate designated parking bays, reduce the maximum speed limit, and to ensure age restrictions and insurance requirements apply.

Recent research conducted by Dublin City Council demonstrates that 73% of respondents identified “Danger to other road users” as a negative aspect of e-scooters and 59% indicated a preference for designated parking for e-scooters.

**Lorna Fitzpatrick, Advocacy and Engagement Manager** said; “Having the infrastructure to support this use of electric vehicles is vital but the legislation and regulations around use of e-scooters is essential to protect the safety of pedestrians with access needs. We know from our own research that 77% of respondents have already reported they had an incident with an e-scooter on a footpath. The Bill bans the use of e-scooters on motorways and busways yet not on footpaths that people with access needs rely on for independent travel. There is clear evidence from at home and abroad that e-scooters have caused harm to people when involved in accidents, yet the Minister has not moved to mitigate against these risks within the legislation.”

**Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind Advocacy Manager, Léan Kennedy**, said; “Blind and vision impaired people have no way of pre-empting a collision with an e-scooter in their travel space. Often, encroaching e-scooters can startle a guide dog forcing

it to stop and thereby disorientating its owner. We know that 90% of our clients are concerned for their safety in relation to e-scooters, with 53% having had a negative experience or near collision with an e-scooter. It should be easy to understand the need to prohibit e-scooter use on footpaths and in pedestrianised shared use areas. Despite Ireland having ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the needs of Guide Dog and Assistance Dog owners are being neglected by the Minister in the development of this bill and it would take minimal effort for the recommendations in our position paper to be incorporated into the primary legislation. We strongly encourage the Minister to meet with us before the confidence and freedom that people with mobility and vision impairments currently enjoy comes to significant harm.”

**John Fulham, Irish Wheelchair Association Public Engagement Manager** said; “The concerns and lived experience of people with disabilities and limited mobility in relation to the use of e-scooters has been clearly communicated by us to the Minister. Regrettably, this has not been deemed important enough by the Minister and his department to be adequately addressed within the proposed legislation. The safety and security of those with disabilities and limited mobility is being compromised. Should the legislation remain in its current form, it places those with disabilities and limited mobility in a very vulnerable position. We urge Minister Ryan to reconsider his approach and address the issues previously raised in the legislation.”

All three organisations have again expressed their concerns that the Minister has not been available to meet with them to hear directly about the issues this legislation will have for people with access needs across the country and again reiterate their openness and availability to meet with the Minister at his earliest opportunity.

# PUZZLE PAGE

## WORDSEARCH (Types of Gemstones)

L	I	P	E	A	R	L	A	E	I	A	I	T	D
A	I	E	A	K	P	E	R	I	D	O	T	D	D
R	Q	D	A	R	U	A	Z	U	R	I	T	E	I
U	I	U	L	T	A	N	J	K	A	A	U	S	A
I	Z	N	A	A	A	R	Z	A	G	R	R	A	M
C	R	O	Z	M	R	N	R	I	D	A	T	P	O
I	T	I	T	D	A	E	Z	E	T	E	R	P	N
T	P	O	O	L	Y	R	M	A	I	E	A	H	D
R	R	R	P	D	A	G	I	E	N	J	P	I	Z
I	P	M	P	A	M	A	D	N	K	I	I	R	T
N	L	R	L	L	Z	R	I	E	E	R	T	E	A
E	O	N	Y	X	R	N	E	E	I	O	U	E	E
U	L	A	P	O	R	E	P	S	A	J	L	B	N
A	L	T	S	Y	H	T	E	M	A	X	D	I	Y

TOPAZ  
EMERALD  
KUNZITE  
AQUAMARINE  
ONYX  
AZURITE  
CITRINE  
SAPPHIRE  
AMETHYST  
JASPER  
DIAMOND  
PEARL  
RUBY  
GARNET  
TANZANITE  
PERIDOT  
JADE  
OPAL

ANSWERS  
ON THE  
NEXT  
PAGE >>



## IRELAND QUIZ

- Which county have won the most All-Ireland Senior Hurling championships?
- Which famous Irish author died in 1941 and is buried in the city of Zurich?
- What is the largest lake in the Republic of Ireland?
- In 1999, which was the first Irish province to win the European Rugby Champions Cup (a.k.a. the Heineken Cup)?
- What is the name of the fictional pub in the RTÉ soap "Fair City"?
- For what 2007 film did Saoirse Ronan earn her first Oscar nomination, when she was only 13?
- How long is a term of office for an Irish President?
- In April 2020, who became the manager of the Republic of Ireland's men's senior soccer team, taking over from Mick McCarthy?
- Excluding islands, the easternmost point in the Republic of Ireland is in which county?
- In February 2020, Fianna Fáil councillor Tom Brabazon became the 351st person to hold what position in Irish public life?

## CROSSWORD



## FIND THE ODD ONE OUT

- Paris, Sydney, Ottawa, Cairo
- Radius, Femur, Tibia, Fibula
- Cucumbers, tomatoes, aubergines, carrots
- The Righteous Brothers, The Everly Brothers, The Walker Brothers, The Doobie Brothers
- Dolphins, Eagles, Falcons, Bulls
- Leonardo, Caravaggio, Michelangelo, Raphael
- Ben Affleck, George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Michael Keaton
- Seán Lemass, Liam Cosgrave, Jack Lynch, Charles Haughey
- Brown, Smith, Adams, Chisholm
- Lion, Tiger, Dog, Horse

### Across

- Figure of speech (8)
- Zodiac sign (3)
- Performed in a play (5)
- Chivalrous, dashing (7)
- Refuse politely (7)
- Free from obstructions (5)
- Noon (6)
- Poland's capital (6)
- Afterwards (5)
- Exterior (7)
- Female singing voice (7)
- Dire (5)
- Scarlet (3)
- Clamber (8)

### Down

- Lured (7)
- Assistance (3)
- Loftier (6)
- Unwilling (9)
- Go away (5)
- Aquatic mammal (5)
- Bicycle for two (6)
- Behind with payments (2,7)
- Proficient (7)
- Every seven days (6)
- Hue (6)
- Defeated contestant (5)
- Slightly warm (5)
- Provide with weapons (3)

# ANSWERS PAGE

## QUIZ ANSWERS

1	Which county have won the most All-Ireland Senior Hurling championships?	Kilkenny
2	Which famous Irish author died in 1941 and is buried in the city of Zurich?	James Joyce
3	What is the largest lake in the Republic of Ireland?	Lough Corrib
4	In 1999, which was the first Irish province to win the European Rugby Champions Cup (a.k.a. the Heineken Cup)?	Ulster
5	What is the name of the fictional pub in the RTÉ soap "Fair City"?	McCoy's bar
6	For what 2007 film did Saoirse Ronan earn her first Oscar nomination, when she was only 13?	Atonement
7	How long is a term of office for an Irish President?	Seven years
8	In April 2020, who became the manager of the Republic of Ireland's men's senior soccer team, taking over from Mick McCarthy?	Stephen Kenny
9	Excluding islands, the easternmost point in the Republic of Ireland is in which county?	Wicklow Head
10	In February 2020, Fianna Fáil councillor Tom Brabazon became the 351st person to hold what position in Irish public life?	Lord Mayor of Dublin

## ANSWERS : ODD ONE OUT

1	Paris, Sydney, Ottawa, Cairo	Sydney - not a capital city
2	Radius, Femur, Tibia, Fibula	Radius - others are leg bones
3	Cucumbers, tomatoes, aubergines, carrots	Carrots - others grow above ground
4	The Righteous Brothers, The Everly Brothers, The Walker Brothers, The Doobie Brothers	Everly Brothers - only real brothers
5	Dolphins, Eagles, Falcons, Bulls	Bulls - not an NFL team
6	Leonardo, Caravaggio, Michelangelo, Raphael	Caravaggio - not an architect
7	Ben Affleck, George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Michael Keaton	Brad Pitt - never played Batman
8	Seán Lemass, Liam Cosgrave, Jack Lynch, Charles Haughey	Liam Cosgrave - others were Fianna Fáil
9	Brown, Smith, Adams, Chisholm	Smith - not a Spice Girl
10	Lion, Tiger, Dog, Horse	Horse - the others are predators

## CROSSWORD ANSWERS

1	M	2	E	3	T	4	A	5	P	6	H	7	O	8	R	9	L	10	E	11	O
12	T	13	N	14	I	15	I	16	E	17	E	18	T								
19	A	20	C	21	T	22	E	23	D	24	G	25	A	26	L	27	L	28	A	29	N
30	N	31	I	32		33	H	34	U	35	V	36	E								
37	D	38	E	39	C	40	L	41	I	42	N	43	E	44	C	45	L	46	E	47	A
48	E	49	E	50		51	R	52	T	53											
54	M	55	I	56	D	57	A	58	Y	59	W	60	A	61	R	62	S	63	A	64	W
65																					
66	L	67	A	68	T	69	E	70	R	71	C	72	N	73	K	74	E				
75	O	76	E	77	E	78	L	79		80	O	81	U	82	T	83	S	84	I	85	D
86																					
87	S	88	O	89	P	90	R	91	A	92	N	93	O	94	A	95	W	96	F	97	U
98	E	99	I	100		101	R	102	U	103	R	104	U	105	Y						
106	R	107	E	108	D	109	S	110	C	111	R	112	A	113	M	114	B	115	116	117	118



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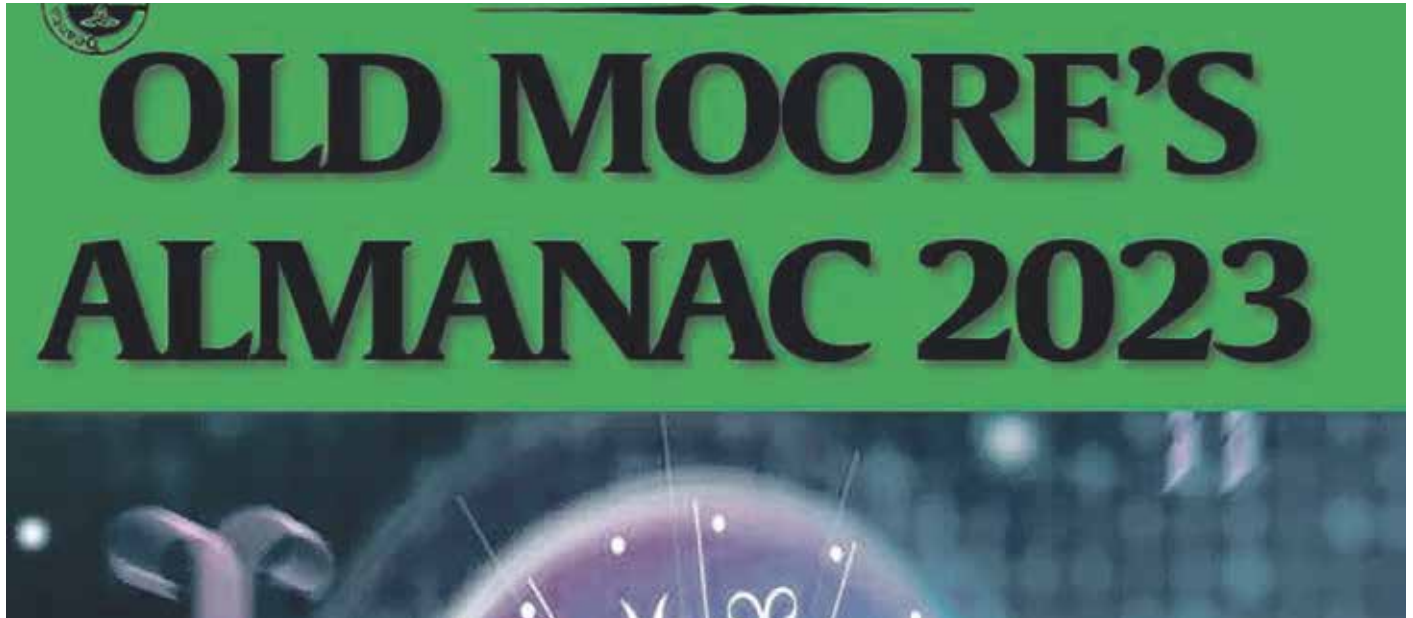


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# What is predicted for 2023?

The Old Moore's Almanac is the one with the green cover. It is the first and original, and Irish. Some editions over 200 years old still sit in the Long Room Library in Trinity, next to the Bibles.



Recently, in 2022, he predicted that there would be riots and an uprising in China. It just happened! He also predicted that Putin would have a health crisis and cause a scandal.

## So, what are the Predictions for 2023?

- A severe health warning for Trump.
- In Ireland, house price rises will slow but still go up.
- An Atlantic event affects the West Coast of Ireland and the coastline of other countries.
- A "great reset" of the financial system. It has already started.
- Recession but also a reordering.
- Bank run, people trying to take out their funds, the world over. Your cash is not your cash.
- Digital currencies issued by central banks are coming.
- Russia will have a bad winter.
- Big tech companies will merge and fall.
- Asteroid in the news, it's too close for comfort.
- Weather records set and broken again.
- Alien news that intrigues us.
- Submarine drama.
- Team Mars will be chosen.
- Internet outage across the world.
- 2023 is the year of AI, watch as jobs go to the bots.
- Meghan and Harry, marriage and money problems.
- A change of Pope.
- Gaelic Football: Kerry.
- Hurling All Ireland: Limerick.

## So, what are the best predictions Old Moore got right in 2022?

In Ireland, Old Moore predicted a scorcher summer in 2022, and temperatures hit the 30s in 2022... he also predicted a small tsunami, which there was in Cork after an earthquake, which he also predicted.

## Further afield:

**The prediction:** Putin has a health crisis and a scandal. Terrorism

returns to the European region, causing a shift in policy across Europe. Germany will be in the news all year, for something entirely strange. Shortages of items cause panic and hoarding. A boat sinking will cause an international drama.

This paragraph has been one of the most amazing prediction sequences of the year. So, let us break it down.

Putin indeed is ailing, with shaking and being unsteady as part of his symptoms. He also has had a cancer specialist shadowing him. Terrorism returns to the European Union – We can all agree that Ukraine has been at the sharp end of terrorism for months now. As for Germany being in the news, it seems as though they now face an energy and heating crisis thanks to Russia switching off the gas supply. As for the prediction that there would be panic and hoarding after a shortage of items in the EU... this very thing has happened. A boat sinking causing an international drama? Well, here it is.

One of the most famous predictions from 2022 must be that of "a second pandemic, unrelated to the first." Unfortunately, Monkey Pox took hold this year, moving from Africa, right across the world.

**The prediction:** There will be new competitor to the big social media platforms, offering more freedom of speech.

Welcome, Twitter2.0.

**The prediction:** Blind people will see again. That happened.

**The prediction:** Birth rates would fall. Yep, it happened.

**The prediction:** The economy in China is on the brink. Those Chinese citizens who have invested in property... will find themselves in dire financial straits.


**What happened:** The latest reports are that China is indeed in over its head. This article says that "China's property slump and suffering economy is leading some to wonder if China could be on the brink of its own Lehman-style crisis."





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# Knock Knock

**One day, 3 men died and went to heaven. "Religion?" God's secretary asked the first man.**

**"Jewish," the man replied.**

**"Okay, go to room 23, but be very quiet when you go past room 8," the secretary said.**

**"Religion?" he asked the second man.**

**"Muslim."**

**"Go to room 10, but be very quiet when you go past room 8."**

**"Religion?" he asked the third man.**

**"Agnostic."**

**"Go to room 71, but be very quiet when you go past room 8."**

**"Why must I be quiet when I go past room 8?" the man asked.**

**The secretary replied, "Oh, the Catholics are in room 8, and they think that they are the only ones here."**

**Q: Have you heard about the new restaurant called Karma?**

**A: There's no menu; you get what you deserve.**

**Q: What has more lives than a cat?**

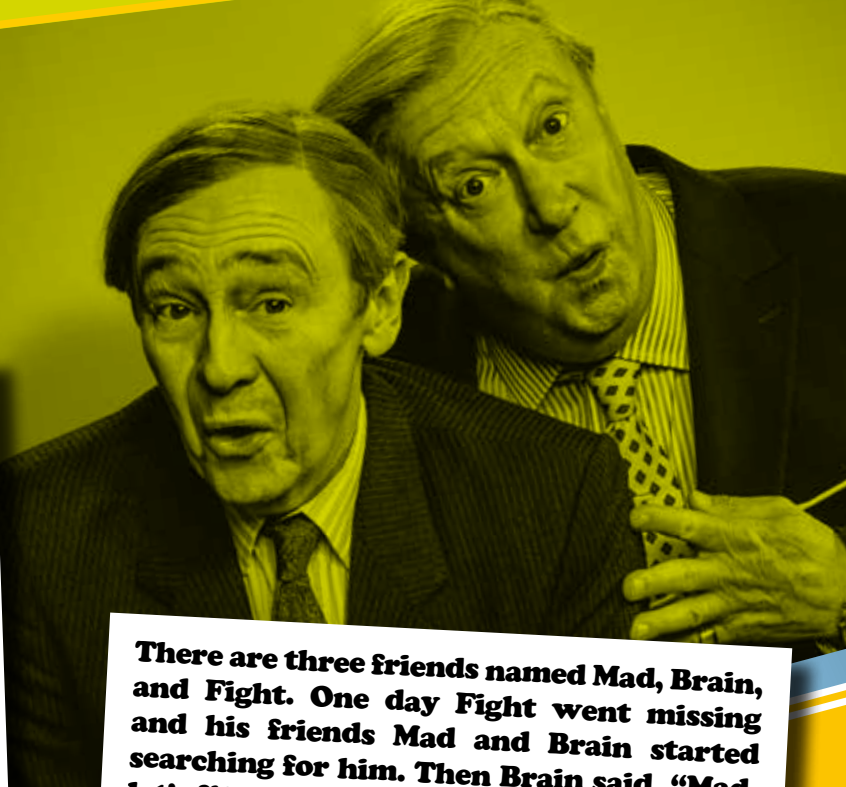
**A: A frog because it croaks every night.**

**Q: What do you call a cow that just gave birth?**

**A: Decalfeinated.**

**A woman is at a grocery store. She goes to the clerk to purchase her groceries. The clerk looks at her items and sees a carton of eggs, a gallon of milk, and a head of lettuce. He says to the woman, "You must be single." The woman was surprised & replies, "Yes, how did you know?" The clerk answers, "Because you're ugly."**

**Late one night, a preacher was driving on a country road and had a wreck. A farmer stopped and said, "Sir, are you okay?" The preacher said, "Yes, I had the Lord riding with me." The farmer said, "Well, you better let him ride with me. because you're gonna kill him."**



**There are three friends named Mad, Brain, and Fight. One day Fight went missing and his friends Mad and Brain started searching for him. Then Brain said, "Mad, let's file a missing person report with the police." When they were about to walk into the police station, Brain said, "Mad, you go and make the report. I will wait for you here." Mad said, "Okay." Mad walked in but no police officers paid attention to him. Then he saw a policeman drinking a cup of coffee. Mad went to the officer, smacked the table, and the cup of coffee flew in the air, landing in the officer's lap. Angry, the policeman asked, "Are you looking for a fight?" Mad replied, "Yes, I am." The policeman asked, "Are you mad?" Mad replied, "Yes, I am Mad." The policeman then asked, "Don't you have a brain?" Mad replied, "Brain is outside sir."**

**Bob goes to see his friend Pete. He finds Pete in his barn dancing naked around his John Deere. "What are you doing!" asks Bob. Pete stops dancing & says, "My wife has been ignoring me lately so I talked to my psychiatrist and he said I needed to do some thing sexy to a tractor." [to attract her]**

**One day a duck walks in a store and ask the manager if they sell grapes. The manager says, "No, we don't sell grapes." The duck goes home and comes back the next day and asks the same question. The manager says the same thing again, "No, we do not sell grapes." The duck goes home, comes back the next day, and asks the manager if they sell grapes. This time the manager says, "No, we don't sell grapes! If you ask one more time, I will nail your beak to the floor!" The duck goes home. It comes back the next day and asks the manager if he has any nails. The manager says, "No, I don't have any nails." The duck says, "Okay, good. Do you sell grapes?"**



## General Knowledge Questions

1. How many people held the office of British Prime Minister in the 20th Century?
2. According to the Bible in which river was Christ baptised?
3. What name did the Romans give to Ireland?
4. Who in 1998 founded internet giant Google with Larry Page?
5. Which songs with "Devil" in the title were UK top twenty hits for the following artists, [a] The Stereophonics (2005), [b] Cliff Richard (1976), [c] Jesus Jones (1993), [d] Neil Sedaka (1961) and [e] Sonia (1993)?
6. Who wrote the novel "Catch 22"?
7. What was the name of the Greenpeace ship that was sunk in Auckland in 1985?
8. Who was the original presenter of TV's "The Crystal Maze"?
9. Which is the only US State that only borders one other?
10. In the Popeye comic strip, who was Olive Oyl's brother?
11. What four train stations feature on the standard UK version of Monopoly?
12. Which two letters have a scoring value of 8 points in a game of Scrabble?
13. In which movie of 1956 did Elvis Presley make his acting debut?
14. Which is the fastest running bird, that is native to the UK?
15. Who attended the tea party in "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" alongside Alice?

# THE TACSAÍ MAGAZINE BUMPER QUIZ

16. The ancient city of Byzantium could be found in which modern day country?
17. What were the names of the three original members of pop group The Police?
18. In which month of the year is Oak Apple Day?
19. In which year were the Grammys first awarded?
20. Which is the Holiest day of the year in Judaism?

11. Kings Cross, Marylebone, Fenchurch Street and Liverpool Street.  
12. J & X.  
13. Love Me Tender.  
14. Pheasant.  
15. The Mad Hatter, the Dormouse and the March Hare.  
16. Turkey.  
17. Sting, Andy Summers & Stewart Copeland.  
18. May (29th).  
19. 1959.  
20. Yom Kippur (The Day of Atonement).
1. Twenty.  
2. River Jordan.  
3. Hibernia.  
4. Sergey Brin.  
5. [a] "Devil" reached no 11, [b] "Devil Woman", no 9, [c] "Rap Devil", no 15, [d] "Little Devil", no 9 and [e] "Better the Devil You Know", no 15.  
6. Joseph Heller.  
7. Rainbow Warrior.  
8. Richard O'Brian.  
9. Maine.  
10. Castor Oyl.

**ANSWERS**

# Centenary of the opening of King Tut's tomb

February 16th this year, marks the centennial of the opening of the inner chamber of the Tomb of Tutankhamun in Egypt, which had lain undisturbed for more than three thousand years, until one hundred years ago. Local writer Claire Keogh reports briefly on the historical significance of the find.

**T**utankhamun reigned as pharaoh between c. 1334 and 1325 BC, towards the end of the Eighteenth Dynasty during the New Kingdom. He took the throne as a child after the death of Akhenaten (who was his father); and the subsequent brief reigns of Neferneferuaten and Smenkhkare. Akhenaten had radically reshaped ancient Egyptian religion by worshipping a single deity, Aten, and rejecting other deities, a shift that began the Amarna Period. One of Tutankhamun's major acts was the restoration of traditional religious practice. His name was changed - from Tutankhaten, referring to Akhenaten's deity - to Tutankhamun, honouring Amun, one of the foremost deities of the traditional pantheon. Similarly, his queen's name was changed from Ankhesenpaaten to Ankhesenamun. His name was often shortened to Kit Tut.

Shortly after Tutankhamun took power, he commissioned a full-size royal tomb, which was one of two tombs from the same era, WV23 or KV57. The tomb is thought to have originally been a non-royal tomb, intended for Ay, Tutankhamun's advisor. After he died prematurely, KV62 was enlarged to accommodate his burial. Ay became

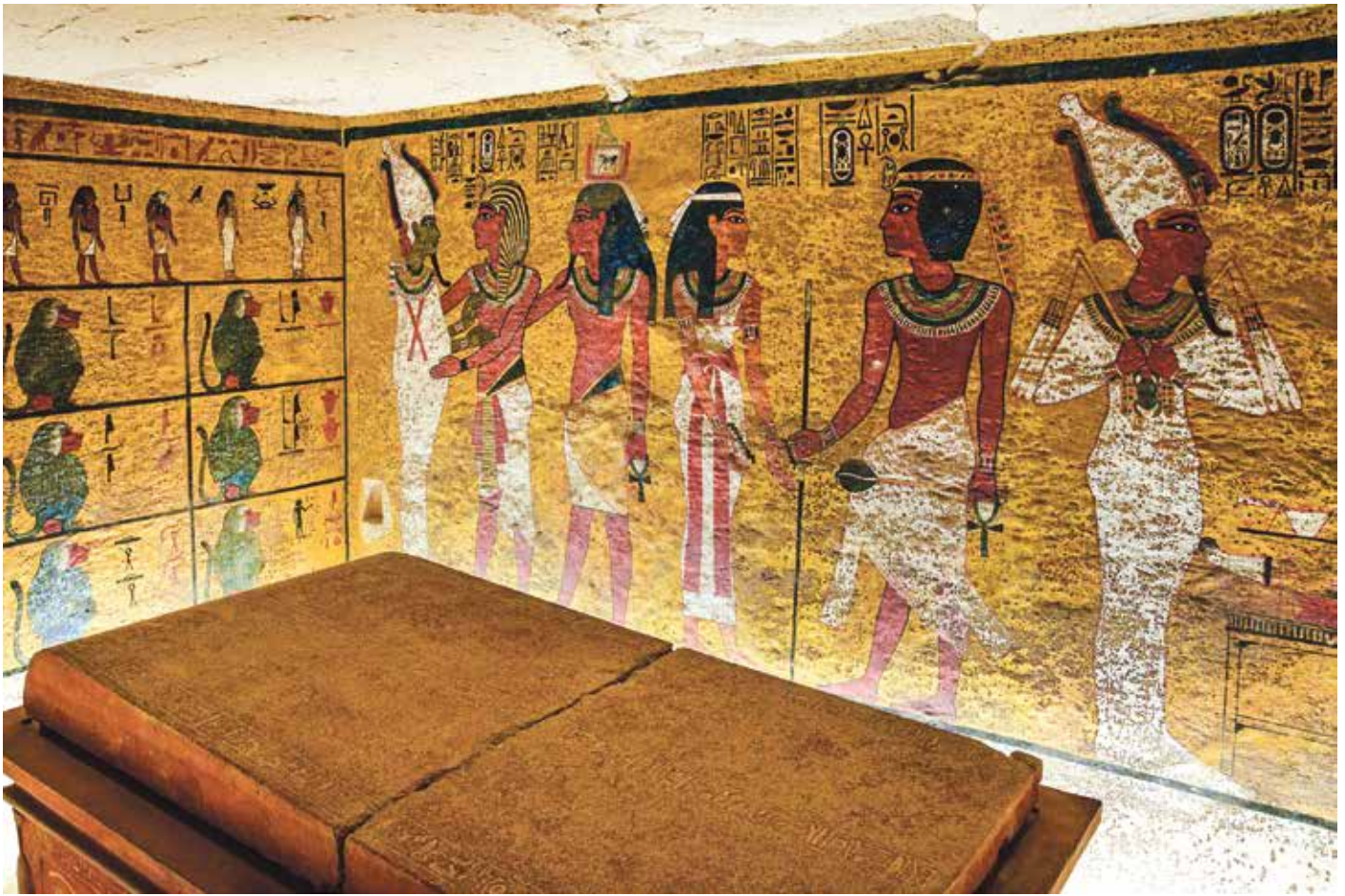
pharaoh on Tutankhamun's death and was buried in WV23. Ay was elderly when he came to the throne, and it is possible that he buried Tutankhamun in KV62 to usurp WV23 for himself and ensure that he would have a tomb of suitably royal proportions ready when he himself died.

After Ay's death, Tutankhamun's general, Horemheb, came to power, although it may have been a contested transition and caused a brief period of unrest. Following the trend of rejecting Atenism, Horemheb attempted to strip away Akhenaten's existence and take credit for the monuments that Tutankhamun had built. Future king-lists moved on from Akhenaten's father, Amenhotep III, to Horemheb with no mention of Akhenaten.

Not long after being buried, the tomb was robbed twice. After the first instance of theft, the officials in charge of it rescued and repacked some of the items that had been damaged and filled the hallway with chunks of limestone and objects left by the robbers to ward off any future break-ins. However, a second set of looters managed to tunnel through the debris. This was discovered, and after a quick restoration, it was sealed off again.







The Valley of the Kings is often hit with sudden flash floods that bring with them alluvium. The entrance to Tutankhamun's tomb was obscured by the layer of sediment that had come in with the torrential rains. Stephen Cross has theorized that this flood had occurred after KV62 was closed and before huts were built for the tomb diggers, meaning that Tutankhamun's resting place would have been inaccessible by the time of Ay's rule. On the other hand, Andreas Dorn has suggested that this layer was around during Tutankhamun's reign, which would mean that laborers had to burrow through it to reach the bedrock where they carved his burial chamber.

More than a century and a half after King Tutankhamun's burial, KV9, the tomb of Ramesses V and Ramesses VI, was cut into the same amount of rock situated west of Tutankhamun's tomb. The opening of his tomb was masked by mounds of debris from the digging of KV9 and huts constructed by the graveyard laborers.

In the next few years, thievery ran rampant in the valley - first by groupings of local thieves during the late Twentieth Dynasty, then by representatives or members of the High Priests of Amun during the Twenty-first Dynasty who plundered the tombs' prized possessions and stole away the royal mummies.

The tomb of Tutankhamun lay deep in the chamber, all but hidden by sand and rock, swallowed by the earth. It had gone undiscovered. Twenty-one centuries after being sealed and buried, Tutankhamun's mummy was still in perfect condition, when it was opened, although the burial goods were not.

Many people assume that the sheer number of items found in Tutankhamun's tomb is an indication that other, longer-lived rulers were buried with an even greater number of possessions. However, Joyce Tyldesley, an Egyptologist, points out that Tutankhamun's burial goods barely fit into his crypt; she argues that the tombs of other, larger kings in the valley contained similar collections of items, but arranged much more neatly and elegantly.

The statuette of Tutankhamun standing on a panther is a duplicate of images from the tomb of Seti II. Burial objects found in tombs in the Valley of the Kings indicate that there was a common set of objects given to royals in this period. Many of the statues and statuettes of deities in Tutankhamun's tomb are like those found in other tombs in the area, while his own statuettes are like wall paintings in KV15, Seti II's tomb.

A bronze statuette of Tutankhamun on a panther, located in his tomb, is very similar to images found in the tomb of Seti II. Objects like these were a norm in the tombs of royalty during this period. Numerous statues and statuettes found in Tutankhamun's tomb are similar to other tombs in the Valley of the Kings, while his own statuettes are very much like the paintings in KV15.

Funerary models were not usually seen in non-royal tombs during the New Kingdom. However, many royal tombs still had them. But Tutankhamun's tomb deviated from the norm by not having funerary texts on papyrus. Yet there was an excerpt from the Book of the Dead on a papyrus from KV35, found in Amenhotep II's tomb, which suggests that their absence may have been considered strange.



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