

ISSUE 17

AUG/SEP 2024

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## EDITORIAL

**W**elcome to our June/July Edition of little Village. Time is flying and we are still waiting and hoping for summer!!!!!! On that note we have an interesting article for you on Barbecuing.

If you are in the travel mood and feel like getting away for a short break we have a good read on Beyond the Pale featuring Sligo.

Congratulations to our team of athletes winning gold in Europe. See our short article on that.

We hope we have something of interest for all of you. For parents of young children we have an item informing us that children under 14 could soon be banned from the use of smart phones.

Enjoy what's left of our lovely long evenings and we will chat again in our next issue.

On behalf of the Little Village Team

Kind Regards, Little Village

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# 2024 Taste of Kildare

## Featuring Local Producers

This September, indulge in an immersive and exciting culinary adventure at the 2024 Taste of Kildare Festival.



**C**elebrating the finest that Kildare has to offer, the festival takes you on a county-wide tour of food and drink, all infused with the renowned hospitality of the region.

Among the featured producers is Celbridge's Rye River Brewing Company, Ireland's leading independent craft brewery known for its world-class beers.

The event will take place at the Naas Racecourse, Co. Kildare.

### Festival Schedule:

Friday, 20th September: 6:00 PM - 10:30 PM  
Saturday, 21st September: 12:00 PM - 4:30 PM  
Saturday, 21st September: 6:00 PM - 10:30 PM  
Sunday, 22nd September: 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
For more information, visit Taste of Kildare website.

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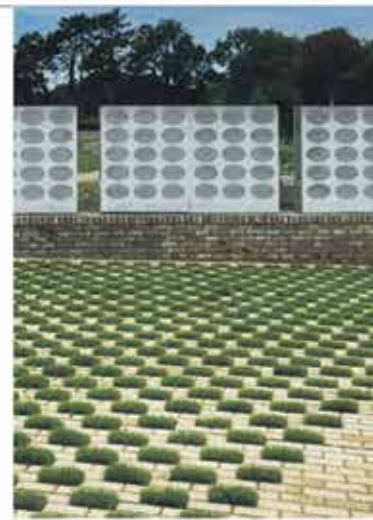
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# HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT WINE



Choosing the right wine can enhance your dining experience and elevate any occasion. Here's a guide to help you select the perfect bottle:

## 1. Consider the Occasion

Casual Gatherings: Opt for versatile, easy-drinking wines like Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, or Merlot.

Formal Dinners: Choose more sophisticated wines such as Bordeaux, Burgundy, or a fine Riesling.

Celebrations: Sparkling wines like Champagne, Prosecco, or Cava add a festive touch.

## 2. Match Wine with Food

Red Meat: Pair with robust reds like Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, or Malbec.

Poultry and Pork: Go for lighter reds such as Pinot Noir or medium-bodied whites like Chardonnay.

Seafood: Crisp whites like Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Grigio, or Champagne complement seafood dishes.

Spicy Foods: Off-dry whites like Riesling or Gewürztraminer balance the heat.

Vegetarian Dishes: Versatile wines like Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Noir, or Rosé work well.

## 3. Understand Wine Varieties

Red Wines: Typically, full-bodied with flavours ranging from fruity to earthy. Common varieties include Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Pinot Noir, and Zinfandel.

White Wines: Generally lighter and more acidic. Popular choices are Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling, and Pinot Grigio.

Rosé Wines: Made from red grapes with minimal skin contact, offering a balance of red and white wine characteristics.

Sparkling Wines: Includes Champagne, Prosecco, and Cava,

known for their bubbles and celebratory feel.

Dessert Wines: Sweet wines like Port, Sauternes, and Moscato are perfect for dessert pairings.

## 4. Pay Attention to Labels

Region: Certain regions are renowned for specific wines (e.g., Bordeaux for Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley for Chardonnay).

Vintage: The year the wine was made can affect its taste, especially for certain wines that age well.

Alcohol Content: Higher alcohol content usually means a fuller body.

## 5. Experiment and Explore

Attend Tastings: Wine tastings are a great way to explore different wines and find what you like.

Try Different Regions and Varietals: Don't hesitate to explore wines from various regions and lesser-known grape varieties.

Read Reviews and Recommendations: Wine magazines, websites, and apps can provide helpful insights and ratings.

## 6. Personal Preference

Taste Over Price: An expensive wine isn't always the best. Choose what tastes good to you.

Consider Sweetness Levels: Whether you prefer dry, semi-dry, or sweet wines can significantly influence your choice.

## 7. Ask for Help

Consult Wine Experts: Sommeliers, wine shop staff, and knowledgeable friends can offer valuable advice tailored to your preferences and needs.

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# BACK TO SCHOOL COSTS A FINANCIAL BURDEN FOR 62% OF PARENTS



The Irish League of Credit Unions (ILCU) has published the 2024 results of its annual Back to School survey which tracks the costs and impacts of children returning to school as well as broader cost of living factors.

**T**he 2024 research has found that 62% of parents say that covering the cost of back to school is a financial burden.

Commenting on the 2024 findings, David Malone, CEO, Irish League of Credit Unions said; “This year’s back to school survey findings are very insightful as they show that Government initiatives such as the Free School Books scheme do seem to have eased the financial burden for some families. However, there is still an onerous cost burden on parents with increasing levels of associated debt linked to schooling and the cost of living.

“The 2024 research shows that 28%, more than 1 in 4, of parents are taking on debt to cover back to school costs, with the average debt amount at €368, which is an increase of €62 on the same figure last year. The issue of debt is significant, and it should be noted that 32% of parents in debt have debts of over €500 to cover these costs.”

Mr Malone continued, “These costs and

increasing levels of debt have a knock-on effect as our 2024 research shows that 46%, almost half, of parents of school children who’ve been affected by the Cost of Living since the start of 2024 say they’ve cancelled or reduced non-essential service or activities to cover rising costs, and 23% are trying to earn additional income. Added to this, our research found that 86% of parents with schoolchildren say their income or household costs have been affected by rising costs of living, with 91% of those affected experiencing additional grocery costs and 89% seeing additional costs to utility bills.

“Overall, we want parents of both primary and secondary students to know, credit unions are here to help plan out and manage these expenses. As not-for-profit organisations, established in communities all across Ireland, we understand the impact of these important costs on households, and we would encourage anyone who has concerns to talk to their local credit union.”

# Lucan 55 Years Ago



It's that time of year when we take to delving in to our archives, to find some long-forgotten pieces that will surely interest our readers. We don't have many copies of early editions, but from what we have, we have just realised how far Lucan has come in the past 55 years, since the first issue of Lucan Newsletter appeared in February 1967.

In 1967, there was only one parish in Lucan – St. Mary's . The church building itself, was the original footprint from 1840. The Presentation Sisters looked after the Church – cleaning, providing flowers from their garden, training altar boys, and also training and playing the organ for the choir.

In the village itself, were St. Andrew's Church of Ireland, Lucan Presbyterian Church and Lucan Methodist Church .

There were three Primary Schools – Presentation Girls N.S., St. Mary's Boys N.S. and St. Andrew's Church of Ireland School .

There was just one Secondary School – 'PCL' were the letters intertwined on the crest of the girls Presentation Convent Lucan . The name, 'St. Joseph's College' came into being when the present building was completed in 1969.

The Tech – Lucan Vocational School on Esker Hill, catered for boys and girls up to Group Cert, in 1967. The school sat its first Leaving Cert in 1969.

1967 was the year when Free Secondary Education was introduced by Minister Donogh O'Malley

In 1967, the population of Lucan was just

over 2,000 souls!

There were no Shopping Centres – the various village shops provided all our needs, with fish available on Fridays only, and ice-cream only available in Summer!

And we went to 'Dublin' as opposed to 'Town', a couple of times a year....

In the village itself, we had the Garda Barracks with a great Horse Chestnut tree out front, often referred to as the Policeman's Umbrella, as the Garda on duty could take shelter from the elements under its leafy branches.

Lucan had been an R.I.C. (Royal Irish Constabulary) village, and the building was still referred to as the 'barracks' in 1967.

Looking east, the Garda Barracks is just out of sight on the right of this picture, but the big Chestnut tree is standing tall.

The Royal Bank of Ireland stood where the AIB Bank is today.

McCarthy's had the Post Office , on the corner of The Square/Main Street. Inside was a public phone booth, while the other public phone kiosk was just along the road between the Garda Barracks and Primrose Lane. (see photo above).



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This photo shows the traffic along the road between the Griffeen and the shops - plenty of Anglia's, Prefects, Cortinas, Morris Minors and Minis about.

The petrol pump belonged to Lynch's who had a drapery shop at that site. Giltraps Shop, just a few yards away on the corner of The Square/Main Street, also had a petrol pump outside.

The Picture House (The Premier Cinema) was refurbished and renamed The Grove in 1967 – Films of the year included The Graduate, To Sir with Love, Bonnie and Clyde.....

The only 'By-Pass' was the High Road running from the junction of Chapel Hill to the Garda Barracks since 1837.

Only one GAA Club – Lucan Sarsfields , founded in 1886.

Two Soccer Clubs – Lucan Celtic and

Doddsboro United

Lucan Pitch & Putt Club was 4 years old, while Lucan and Hermitage Golf Clubs were well established.

The bigger employers were Shackletons Flour Mill, Hills Woollen Mill , and CPI (Concrete Products of Ireland), and Cromers Builders .

The Parish Hall , formerly the old boys' school, catered for a Youth Club, and hosted weekly Bingo, and from time-to-time Teen Talk – at which Bunny Carr presided on one occasion.

1967 saw the beginning of modern housing estates with Hillhouse (later Lucan Heights), and Esker Lawns leading the way. Sarsfield Park was still under construction being completed in 1968.

The country was still on LSD - £.s.d – Pounds, shillings and pence!

Lucan Newsletter , with just 12 pages, cost 2d in 1967.

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# A BRIEF HISTORY OF LEIXLIP



Leixlip, named by Vikings from the Old Norse for “salmon’s leaping place,” is located at the confluence of the Liffey and Rye rivers. Recent discoveries show that the area was inhabited by Stone Age people around 5,500 years ago in Cooldrinagh, on Leixlip’s southeast side.

## Cooldrinagh and Development

In 2003, burial sites dating back 5,500 years were found at Fingal County Council’s waterworks in Leixlip. Salmon Leap, once a popular tourist site, vanished after the mid-1940s construction of a hydroelectric power station. This reflects a pattern of industrial development that has shaped Leixlip’s history. As the town faced industrial and residential growth, organizations like the Leixlip Tidy Town Association struggled with these changes.

## Historical Infrastructure and Growth

By 1820, Leixlip’s village-centred infrastructure was largely complete. Despite recent commercial development, much of the historic layout remains intact. The Mall, formerly The Parade, has not changed significantly since its construction around 1785.

In the late 1960s, large housing developments began, attracting many commuters, particularly from western Ireland. Leixlip’s proximity to Dublin and its water resources made it appealing for businesses like Intel Corporation and Hewlett Packard. These companies have significantly contributed to the local economy, increasing the town’s population and housing stock substantially. As of now, Leixlip has around 5,500 homes and 16,000 residents, with many commuting to Dublin.

## Community Efforts and Governance

The Leixlip Tidy Town Association (LTTA), founded

in 1963 by Colonel Niall Mac Neill, has been pivotal in preserving the town’s historical and natural features. The LTTA’s efforts led to the formation of a Community Council in 1970 and a Town Council in 1988, though the latter has limited power, with most decisions made in Naas, which is inconveniently accessed.

## Historical Buildings and Sites

Leixlip retains several historic buildings and landmarks:

- Leixlip Castle: Built in 1172 by Adam de Hereford, a follower of Strongbow, it is one of the oldest continuously inhabited buildings in Ireland.
- Leixlip House: Originally Gazebo Park, built by William Brady after the Rebellion of 1798, it now operates as a small hotel.
- St. Mary’s Church: Features a clock tower built in Norman times that also served as a priest’s residence.
- Toll House and Liffey Bridge: Built between 1732-1734, the bridge is notable for its stonemasons’ marks, making it unique among pre-railway Irish bridges.
- Wonderful Barn: A World Heritage site, this five-storey grain magazine was constructed in 1743 by John Glinn following the Great Frost.

Leixlip’s history reflects a blend of ancient habitation, medieval construction, and modern industrial growth, maintaining a unique character amidst change.



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# Beyond the Pale

## Inishowen Peninsula Co Donegal

Our 'beyond the pale' series continues



### Untamed Beauty

Traverse the feathery marram grasses that line the sand dunes behind Culdaff Beach, and you'll be greeted by one of the most breathtaking coastal vistas in County Donegal. Here, expansive pale sands stretch out, bordered by rugged rocky outcrops, overlooking the frothy, rolling waves of the Atlantic Ocean. This is a wild, inspiring landscape, epitomizing the natural allure of the Inishowen Peninsula.

Extending into the Atlantic, Inishowen is Ireland's largest peninsula. Sculpted by the Ice Age and continuously shaped by the relentless ocean, its terrain is a dramatic mix of stony green hills, rugged coastal cliffs, and cozy fire-lit pubs nestled in picturesque villages. Scattered throughout are charming, thatched cottages perched on secluded

headlands. The beauty of Inishowen is not just in its landscape. By day, the skies can range from steel grey to speckled blue, while by night, you might be lucky enough to witness the mesmerizing Northern Lights.

At the peninsula's northernmost point lies Malin Head, crowned by Banba's Crown. Here, you can grab a coffee from the Caffè Banba truck, Ireland's northernmost coffee spot, and stroll up to the historic clifftop tower dating back to 1805. From this vantage point, you'll enjoy sweeping views of the Inishowen Hills, Horn Head, and the distant peaks of Muckish and Errigal. Look to the east, and you'll see Inishtrahull Island, a poignant landmark that once marked the last view of Ireland for emigrants departing from Derry Londonderry for America. With such stunning





scenery, it's no surprise that this location served as a filming site for Star Wars: The Last Jedi.

### Historic Charm and Ancient Sites

Inishowen's rugged beauty attracts visitors, but it also offers a deep historical richness visible in its place names and ancient landmarks. Perched above the serene waters of Lough Swilly is the enigmatic Grianán of Aileach. Enter this ancient ring fort with its imposing 5-meter-high dry-stone walls, and you'll find yourself immersed in over 4,000 years of history. For a more recent glimpse into the past, visit the Doagh Famine Village, which showcases original thatched cottages from the 1840s, lived in until 1983. Local guide Pat Doherty and his family will give you a personal tour of this historical village.

What truly stands out about Inishowen is its sense of vastness and solitude, offering an unparalleled sense of escape. From hidden coves to rugged cliffside trails, you might find yourself alone in the midst of nature's splendour. Yet, the peninsula also has its cozy side. In the fishing village of Greencastle, you can spend a pleasant afternoon at Kealy's Seafood Bar, which serves up fresh seafood with a warm, welcoming atmosphere.

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# EASY VEGETARIAN LASAGNE



## INGREDIENTS

3 red peppers, cut into large chunks  
2 aubergines, cut into ½ cm thick slices  
8 tbsp olive oil, plus extra for the dish  
300g lasagne sheets  
125g mozzarella  
handful cherry tomatoes, halved  
For the tomato sauce  
1 tbsp olive oil  
2 onions, finely chopped  
2 garlic cloves, sliced  
1 carrot, roughly chopped  
2 tbsp tomato purée  
200ml white wine  
3 x 400g cans chopped tomatoes  
1 bunch of basil, leaves picked  
For the white sauce  
85g butter  
85g plain flour  
750ml milk

## METHOD

### STEP 1

To make the tomato sauce, heat the olive oil in a saucepan. Add the onions, garlic and carrot. Cook for 5-7 mins over a medium heat until softened. Turn up the heat a little and stir in the tomato purée. Cook for 1 min, pour in the white wine, then cook for 5 mins until this has reduced by two-thirds. Pour over the chopped tomatoes and add the basil leaves. Bring to the boil then simmer

for 20 mins. Leave to cool then whizz in a food processor. Will keep, cooled, in the fridge for up to three days or frozen for three months.

### STEP 2

To make the white sauce, melt the butter in a saucepan, stir in the plain flour, then cook for 2 mins. Slowly whisk in the milk, then bring to the boil, stirring. Turn down the heat, then cook until the sauce starts to thicken and coats the back of a wooden spoon. Will keep, cooled, in the fridge for up to three days or frozen for three months.

### STEP 3

Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Lightly oil two large baking trays and add the peppers and aubergines. Toss with the olive oil, season well, then roast for 25 mins until lightly browned.

### STEP 4

Reduce the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Lightly oil a 30 x 20cm ovenproof dish. Arrange a layer of the vegetables on the bottom, then pour over a third of the tomato sauce. Top with a layer of lasagne sheets, then drizzle over a quarter of the white sauce. Repeat until you have three layers of pasta.

### STEP 5

Spoon the remaining white sauce over the pasta, making sure the whole surface is covered, then scatter over the mozzarella and cherry tomatoes. Bake for 45 mins until bubbling and golden.



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# FORD CAPRI RETURNS AS ELECTRIC SUV



After nearly 40 years, the iconic Capri name is making a comeback to the Ford lineup, now reimagined as an all-electric SUV. Ford heralds this new Capri as “the car the iconic sports coupe was destined to become.”

**B**uilt on Volkswagen Group’s MEB electric vehicle platform, the new Ford Capri offers two powertrain options. The all-wheel drive (AWD) version boasts twin electric motors delivering 340hp, achieving 0-100km/h in 5.3 seconds. It features a 79kWh battery with a WLTP range of up to 592km.

The extended range rear-wheel drive (RWD) model comes with a 286hp electric motor, allowing it to sprint from 0-100km/h in 6.4 seconds. This model’s 77kWh battery provides a WLTP range of up to 627km.

Both models support DC charging, with the RWD charging up to 135kW and the AWD up to 185kW. According to Ford, both can charge from 10-80% capacity in less than 30 minutes.

The interior of the new Capri is described as luxurious, featuring a minimalist digital design with soft-touch materials and sculpted one-piece front seats. Standard high-spec comfort features include keyless entry and start, heated front seats and steering wheel, dual-zone climate control, and a driver’s seat with massage and memory function.

With up to 572 liters of boot space, the Capri also includes



a foldable boot floor, a 17-liter MegaConsole beneath the front armrest, and additional storage behind the sliding 14.6-inch center screen.

Color options include ‘Blue My Mind’ and the exclusive ‘Vivid Yellow,’ with wheel choices of 19 or 20 inches depending on the specification.

Irish pricing for the new Ford Capri will be announced at a later date.

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## Kildare County Council signs contract for the purchase of Donaghcumper House & Lands

Kildare County Council is delighted to announce that the Council has signed a contract for the purchase of Donaghcumper House in Celbridge, County Kildare along with approx. 26.3 hectares of adjoining lands.

**K**ildare County Council currently owns 12.33 hectares of land on the south side of the River Liffey adjoining the Donaghcumper landholding. The purchase of these additional lands at Donaghcumper will re-unite the landholding into the Council's ownership. It is also part of a longer-term vision to establish the River Liffey Amenity Park and corridor and it is a step towards the County Development Plan objective to protect the special landscape character associated with the historic country estates and houses of Castletown, Donaghcumper and St. Wolstans.

In due course, and following the expected close of sale, Kildare County Council will prepare a masterplan for the Donaghcumper lands in consultation with the public and local stakeholders. It is expected that the lands could accommodate a new public parkland with potential opportunities for sports, recreation, amenity, and biodiversity initiatives together with some community and mixed uses.

Sonya Kavanagh, Chief Executive, Kildare County Council said; "We're delighted to announce the signing of the contract for the purchase of Donaghcumper House along with adjoining lands.

This allows us to progress ambitious plans for the development of amenities in the area. We look forward to consulting with the public and stakeholders throughout the process to bring it to fruition."

Cllr Joe Neville, Cathaoirleach of the County of Kildare said; "On behalf of the elected members of Kildare County Council, we're delighted to welcome the purchase of Donaghcumper House and adjoining lands by Kildare County Council. Throughout my time as a Councillor to date, a significant frustration of mine and of the communities in the Celbridge area has been a lack of publicly owned land used for community spaces for young people and families. The purchase of the Donaghcumper Estate provides us with a unique opportunity to provide facilities that will be enjoyed by communities in Celbridge and the surrounding areas for generations to come.

Cllr Bernard Caldwell, Cathaoirleach of the Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District said; "This is a very welcome development for Celbridge and the wider county of Kildare. We now look forward to seeing the project progress to public consultation, so that the views of the local community and stakeholders inform the future plans for this important community space."



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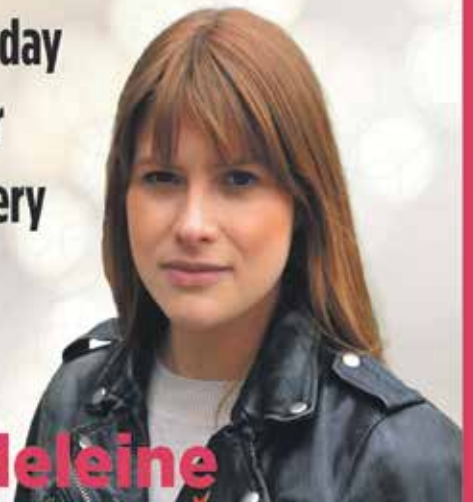
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# Explore Connections, Routes & Networks this Heritage Week 2024



Heritage Week 2024 which takes place nationwide from Saturday 17th to Sunday 25th August, will showcase the joy, diversity and accessibility that can be found within Kildare's rich heritage including several events in Celbridge and Leixlip.

**A**s a nation of storytellers, all of our heritage is linked to stories of people, places, moments and things. The Theme of Heritage Week 2024 is 'Connections, Routes & Networks', which encourages people to look at the roads, routes, traditions, species, and ecosystems all of which are connected.

Events taking place in Kildare include barge trips, biodiversity walks and exhibitions and tours for all ages. Full details are available at [www.heritageweek.ie/](http://www.heritageweek.ie/)

Heritage Week is coordinated by the Heritage Council and Local Authority Heritage Officers and supported by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, with the aim of fostering a greater understanding and awareness of our own local heritage.

"Heritage Week presents an opportunity to take part in one of the numerous walks organised by community groups to present and explain local heritage and to discover the wealth of fascinating heritage within the county. National Heritage Week is a wonderful opportunity to shine a light on not only our heritage but the work of hundreds of Kildare volunteers who give their time to preserve and promote it" said Heritage Officer, Kildare County Council.

Most events are free; however, participants are advised to confirm details of events in advance as some events require booking. Children are welcome to most events; however young children should be accompanied by an adult. Some events may be weather dependent and take place on uneven ground, so suitable dress and footwear is advised.

"I am amazed at the number and variety of events happening during Heritage week this year. We have a hundred events taking place, many of which are organised by history, heritage, and tidy towns groups to showcase their local heritage. I really must commend community and heritage groups for their enthusiasm and energy during heritage week each year" said Alan Dunney, Director of Service, Kildare County Council.

Events and projects might involve the exploration of the traditions of hurling, camogie or Gaelic/Ladies football; a deep dive into the beauty of traditional Irish music, dancing or singing; the preservation of our crafts and skills such

as Traveller tin smithing, lace making and basket weaving; the showcasing of our built heritage traditions such as thatching, lime plastering and dry-stone walling.

Heritage Week is part of a European wide initiative with the express aim of fostering awareness of Ireland's built, natural and cultural heritage, thereby encouraging its conservation and preservation and increasing interest in our shared heritage.

Kildare County Council has compiled a listing of these and the many other events happening around the County. This listing of events which is available from <https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Heritage/CommunityHeritage-GetInvolvedinHeritage/HeritageWeek/>



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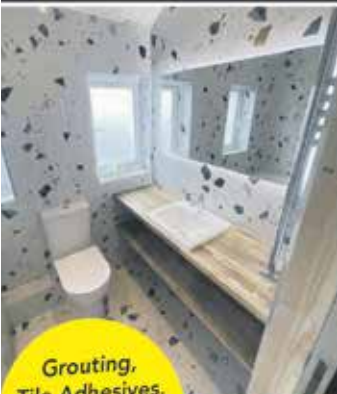
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