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YOUR FREE MAGAZINE!

ISSUE 160, MARCH 2024

Car Warranty
How much do YOU pay?

Cycling Greenways

St. Patrick's Day Parade

**What is the Emergency
E-Call System?**

Pet Advice

Your March Garden

Trade & Services

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Alan Mac Court

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CAR WARRANTY

How much do YOU pay?



When you purchase a new or used car in Ireland from a motor dealer you are entitled to a warranty. For new cars these can vary from 2 to 7 years depending on the manufacturer. Should you purchase a used car, the motor dealer normally gives between 6-12 months warranty but the manufacturer's warranty transfers over with the car too. We have had a look at some of Ireland's most popular new passenger vehicles and the warranty. There were a few surprises with German reliability not been backed up with their warranty and only offering 2 years. The South Koreans, who make Hyundai and Kia and whose market share has rocketed in recent years, are the manufacturer's who show the most confidence in their product with 5 and 7 year warranties, although the latter does have some exceptions.

HYUNDAI

- 5 year unlimited mileage warranty.
- 5 year roadside assistance.
- 5 year vehicle health check.

TOYOTA

- 3 years or 100,000km, whichever comes first.
- 5 years / 100,000km hybrid warranty.

KIA

- Kia covers the components of a new Kia car for 84 months / 150,000km.
- Two notable exceptions to the 7 year warranty is:
The air conditioning refrigerant charge
- this is only covered for 24 months.
The original audio and navigation systems are covered for 36 months or 100,000km from the date of first registration, whichever comes first.

FORD

- 2 years, unlimited mileage.

SKODA

- The first two years have an unlimited mileage warranty. The 3rd year warranty has a limitation of 150,000km.

NISSAN

- 3 years or 100,000km, whichever comes first.
- The Nissan LCV range: NV200, NV300, NV400 & Navara, come with a manufacturer warranty for 5 years or 160,000km, whichever comes first. Nissan Leaf 5-year/100,000km warranty on all EV dedicated components. 3-year/100,000km for standard components.

VOLKSWAGEN

- 3 years warranty. The 3rd year warranty has a limitation of 90,000km.

RENAULT

- 5 year warranty. The first 2 years unlimited mileage and the third, fourth and fifth years are limited to 150,000km.

PEUGEOT

- 5 year warranty or 100,000km.

MERCEDES

- 2 year warranty.

TESLA

- 4 years or 80,000km, whichever comes first.

FERRARI

- 3 year warranty



Please note that terms and conditions apply and you should confirm before you purchase any vehicle. Warranty listed is for passenger vehicles purchased in Rep of Ireland only. Certain stipulations may be required to avail of full warranty period. Some electric vehicle batteries have extended warranties.

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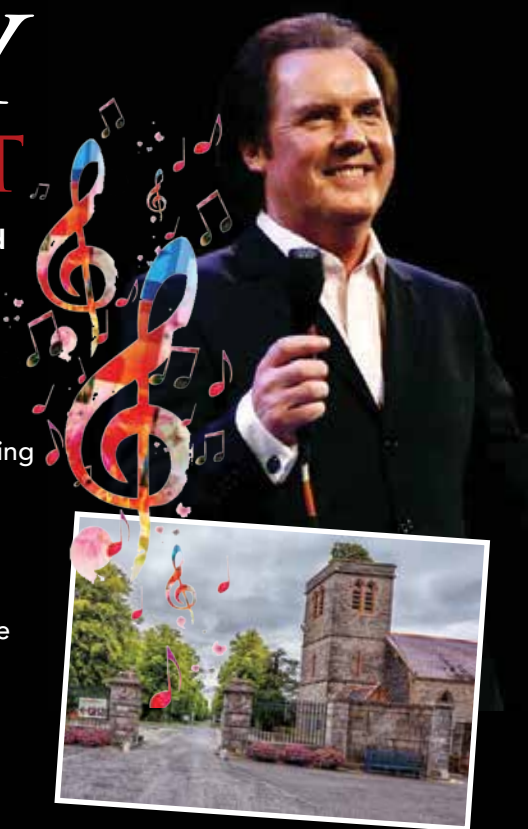
A quaint Church in Celbridge village has opened its doors to the world of music much to the delight of local people.

Christ Church located inside the entrance gates to Castletown House at the top of Celbridge Main Street dates back to 1884 and was gifted to the people of Celbridge by Lady Louisa Conolly. (The original church was burned in 1798). In recent years with fewer people attending services the community are now hosting concerts in the Church. Their efforts are proving very successful. Since last June artists such as The Celtic Tenors, Sean Keane, Brian Kennedy, Rebecca Storm, Johnny Mc Evoy and others have graced the venue with full houses. **On Saturday March 9th Red Hurley will take to the Church stage at 8pm.** Walk-ups are welcome.

These concerts are ensuring great use of the local heritage buildings while providing top class entertainment. Restaurants in the area are delighted with the buzz on Main Street on concert nights.

There is something very special about performing in an intimate historic space. The Church capacity is 240 providing a lovely venue for both artist and audiences. The organisers are hoping for continued success and promise a warm welcome to all who visit this charming location.

All Christ Church Concerts are available for booking through Eventbrite or via the box office at 087 9630 719



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LASER THERAPY FOR PETS

This article is supplied by the veterinary team at the Riverforest Veterinary Centre in Leixlip. At Riverforest Vets, our mission is to provide the best possible veterinary care for our patients and the best possible service to our clients. Call us on (01) 4430890

Veterinary laser therapy is an innovative treatment that has gained popularity in recent years as vets discover its benefits for pets. Laser treatment can be used in conjunction with or in place of medication to manage pain, inflammation and wound healing.

'Laser' - an acronym for 'light amplification of stimulated emission of radiation' - refers to a unit that emits focused, penetrating light beams. Lasers are classified based on their wavelength and potential energy output, with four classes currently recognised:

Class 1 lasers, such as barcode scanners used in supermarkets, are used safely every day.

Class 2 lasers, include laser pointers.

Class 3 lasers were the original therapeutic lasers, but suffer from very low tissue penetration and long treatment times.

Class 4 lasers are the newest and most studied therapeutic leaders and include surgical lasers used to cut and cauterize tissue during surgical procedures. They are extremely effective, but must be used by trained professionals with caution.

How does laser therapy affect my pet's tissue?

Therapeutic lasers use light waves of a specific wavelength to cause photobiomodulation, or the alteration of cellular and tissue physiology. Light absorbed by cellular components stimulates electrons and activates cells to promote growth, proliferation, migration and repair. The type and depth of tissue that responds to laser therapy depends on the wavelength of the light that is delivered. Most therapeutic lasers use red or near-infrared light, which has a wavelength of 600-1070 nanometers. Laser beams of lower wavelengths are absorbed by superficial tissue, such as the skin, whereas beams of higher wavelengths penetrate deeper to muscles and bones.

Laser therapy helps tissue repair by causing the following:

- Endorphin (natural opioid) release
- Vasodilation, which increases blood flow to bring in oxygen and cells involved in the healing process
- Muscle relaxation
- Decreased inflammation
- Faster healing and repair

The main clinical benefits of laser use in pets include decreased inflammation, decreased pain and improved wound healing.

Who can benefit from laser therapy?

Laser therapy is used for many veterinary medical conditions, including:

- Arthritis
- Ear disease
- Chronic skin disease
- Surgical incisions
- Slow healing skin wounds
- Gingivitis (inflammation of the gums)
- Tendon and ligament injuries
- Traumatic injuries

Laser therapy is particularly useful for:

- Pets with hip dysplasia and other types of arthritis
- Cats, for whom only a few pain-control medications are approved
- Exotic pets for whom medication administration is difficult/impossible
- Gingivitis in cats and dogs
- Older pets with diminished organ function

How are laser treatments administered?

During a treatment session, the handheld laser wand is slowly moved back and forth over the damaged tissue, producing a warm, pleasant sensation that most pets seem to enjoy and find relaxing. Sessions usually last 5 to 10 minutes, with the number of sessions and frequency of treatments dependent on the injury.

Is laser therapy safe for pets?

Laser therapy is safe if performed correctly, using the proper settings and treatment durations. Laser beams directed at an eye can cause permanent retinal damage, so patients and all veterinary staff must wear protective goggles during treatment.



Dog with extensive skin injuries before and after laser treatment

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WHAT IS THE EMERGENCY E-CALL SYSTEM?

Article by Breda Corrigan

An Emergency E-Call System in a car, often referred to as an "emergency assistance button" or "SOS button" is a feature typically found in modern vehicles. When activated, it connects the vehicle's occupants to emergency services, such as Gardai, Fire Service or Ambulance, depending on the nature of the emergency.

The E-Call System is usually integrated into the car's infotainment system or overhead console and utilises the vehicle's onboard communication systems, such as GPS and mobile phone connectivity, to transmit the vehicle's location and relevant information to emergency responders. This feature is designed to provide quick access to help in case of accidents, breakdowns or other emergencies while on the road.

This rapid communication is crucial in situations where immediate assistance is required. Information such as the vehicle's location, the severity of the impact (if that is what triggered the system) and the number of occupants in the vehicle is automatically relayed to the emergency call centre. Because it automatically dials the 112 number (instead of the traditional 999 used in Ireland), it works both here in Ireland and across Europe.

The E-Call system works independently of the driver or passengers, eliminating the need for manual intervention. As a result – even in situations where individuals may be incapacitated or unable to make a call, the system takes charge, reducing

response times dramatically and increasing the likelihood of a positive outcome in critical situations. To complement its effectiveness, the system incorporates GPS and other location tools to ensure that emergency services can pinpoint the exact location of the vehicle. This is of significant importance in scenarios where the accident (or breakdown) occurs in remote or unfamiliar areas.

From April 2018, E-Call became a mandatory European standard, and the system has to be fitted to any newly launched model being homologated for sale in the European Union. During its development, it was claimed that E-Call could reduce the response times of the emergency services by up to half for countryside accidents or incidents. What a brilliant invention!



Safe Spring Driving to all our Readers!



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CYCLING GREENWAYS

As the Spring and Summer progresses many of us will be coming out of hibernation and cleaning the trusty old bike up again, myself included.

By the end of this month the hour is going forward so sunset will not be until 8pm. It gives enough time to get home from work, grab a bite and get out for a walk or a cycle in daylight hours for many of us.

Ireland has some magnificent greenways suitable for walking, cycling and running throughout the country. I have chosen a few here that may get you in the mood.

1) THE ROYAL CANAL GREENWAY

This is the longest greenway in Ireland and the one that is on our doorstep.

It is 130km greenway route that takes you close to the River Shannon and runs along Ireland's historic Royal Canal.

Travellers on the Royal Canal Greenway will pass 90 bridges, 33 locks, 17 harbours, and four aqueducts with plenty of restaurants, cafes, shops, and pubs that are situated along the route to stop off for a bite or drink.

Stretching over four counties, including Kildare, Meath, Westmeath, and Longford, the entire journey can be done all at once or in stages.

On any given day you can check out the weather and if it is a strong westerly wind, you can get the train to Enfield, Mullingar or Longford and cycle back home with a nice wind at your back. Alternatively, with an Easterly wind you can cycle to your chosen train station and get the train home. Please note that most trains take bicycles but they have to be booked on in advance.

2) THE WATERFORD GREENWAY

Opened in 2017, the spectacular Waterford Greenway provides 46km of glorious car-free pathway stretching all the way from Waterford City to the beautiful seaside town of Dungarvan in west Co. Waterford. The Comeragh Mountains provide a dramatic backdrop to a breathtaking journey across eleven bridges, three viaducts, through a 400m-long tunnel, along the lush banks of the River Suir, all the way to the scalloped beaches of Waterford's famed Copper Coast. There is a free carpark on the outskirts of Waterford city where the greenway trail begins. There is bike hire available in Waterford City, Kilmacthomas and Dungarvan.



3) LIMERICK GREENWAY

The Limerick Greenway in Limerick is a 39 km off-road walking and cycling route along the old railway line that connects the three lovely market towns of Rathkeale, Newcastlewest and Abbeyfeale in west Limerick. The Limerick Greenway provides a journey through the wonderful built and natural heritage of countryside and villages along the route. Along the journey, you will encounter Norman castles, abbeys, medieval ruins, workhouses, famine graveyards, deserted railway stations, a viaduct and breath-taking scenery!

4) THE SUIR GREEN/BUEWAY

The Suir Blueway in County Tipperary opened in 2019 at a cost of just under €6 million. The Suir Blueway runs for 53km in an east-west direction from Carrick-on-Suir to Cahir via Clonmel. The route is made up of a walking/cycling trail for 21km which runs from Carrick-on-Suir to Clonmel and a further 32km of waterway along the River Suir which can be canoed or kayaked. It is the river-based element of the route that makes it a Blueway rather than a Greenway! Please note while there is a place to rent bikes in Carrick-on-Suir we have not discovered anywhere that rents kayaks or small boats for the Blueway. Please visit greenwaysireland.ie for more information on this route, especially for the Blueway.

5) OLD RAIL TRAIL WESTMEATH

The Old Rail Trail runs from Athlone to Mullingar, County Westmeath. This cycle route is a 43km converted stretch of the Midlands Great Western Railway carved through rich fertile farmland and leads visitors through the very heart of Ireland. The route traces the historic Midlands Great Western Railway track, past restored station houses and under pretty stone arched bridges. Linking the mighty River Shannon in Athlone with the Royal Canal in Mullingar, it passes through areas of unique biodiversity and heritage along the way. For the more enthusiastic cyclist it is possible to easily Link up with The Royal Canal Greenway and make it over a 100kms cycle if travelling from Celbridge, Leixlip or Maynooth.

Please note we covered the Western Greenway in Mayo in last month's Link.





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YOUR MARCH GARDEN

Preparation

Spring is here and the growing season is well underway. In Ireland, many consider March to be the start of the gardening calendar so now is the time to get out there and start afresh, or create a new area in your existing garden.

As plants come into growth, pests and diseases will be on the increase so make sure your plants grow healthy and strong this year by looking closely at them now and dealing with any problems without delay. Pests like slugs, aphids, whitefly, scale insects and red spider mites may all be waiting to attack but this can be kept under control if treated now with a pest control product. If you catch them early it will go a long way in reducing the problem for the rest of the year.

If you haven't already done so, repair or replace any paving, garden furniture or other items which require it. Problem areas are easier to spot while the garden is still relatively bare and it pays to make your garden a safe and relaxing place to be.

A good tip for any gardener is to keep note of all your gardening information. Make a list of what you plant in the garden, including plant name, brand, variety, planting date, and so on. During the growing season keep notes on how well the plants are doing and record any problems and what was used to treat them. You can refer back to this in future years and this will help with garden planning.

To Do List

March is the perfect month for rejuvenating your houseplants. Start by re-potting those plants that need bigger pots and treat all your houseplants to a good feed. Houseplants will need regular feeding over the next few months but if you can't remember to do this, then consider using a controlled-release fertiliser, which is a great way to simply feed and forget. Your garden plants will also benefit from being fed now too, again you can opt for a general granular fertiliser or chose a controlled-release fertiliser.

Weeds will be germinating now so remove them before they've had the chance to flower. The best way to remove them at the moment is by hand. You don't want to disturb the bulbs and roots of plants.

Give your roses a good start. They will benefit from pruning during the first couple of weeks in March. After pruning, spray with an insecticide and fungicide; give them a good feeding and a covering of mulch. Fruit trees and bushes will also take advantage of a feed now too and you can add some mulch or composted bark. This will ensure bumper crops later in the year.



Sowing and Planting

Plants that are looking good now, if you want some instant colour in your garden, include camellias, clematis armandii, azaleas and forsythia. If you have a greenhouse there is plenty to keep you busy here, for example start canna, begonia and dahlia tubers into growth now for earlier blooms.

Select a permanent spot in the garden for herbs. Many of them will come up year after year. Parsley is rich in Vitamins A and C. Start some seeds indoors now and you can transplant them later to a sunny



corner of your vegetable garden. Herbs can also be planted in beds and borders, or grown in pots on the patio where they will be handy to pick. Many have excellent colour and aroma and some, such as rosemary and sage, are very easy to grow.

Start planting potatoes towards the end of March when the soil warms up a little. Of course you will need to start chitting way before that, February being the best month for this. Chitting is the process of encouraging the seed potatoes to sprout before planting. Ideally chitting should start about six weeks before you intend to plant the potatoes. Every seed potato has a more rounded end that has a number of 'eyes'. Simply stand the seed potato with the rounded end facing upwards in a tray or old egg carton and allow plenty of natural light. When the shoots are approximately 1.5cm high then the potatoes are ready for planting outside.

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St. Patrick's Day Parades

in Celbridge, Leixlip and Maynooth



St Patrick's Day parades are taking place in Maynooth, Leixlip and Celbridge at staggered times of 11am, 1pm and 4pm. First up is the Maynooth parade. The main street will be closed from 10.30am until 12.30pm.

Maynooth Parade will have prizes for several categories including the best Commercial, Club and School Float, the Best Band and the Best Portrayal of Irish Culture. The theme this year is Pirates.

This brings us perfectly to the Leixlip parade which kicks off at 1pm and starts at Green Lane. It will take approx. 60 minutes to go through the town and finishes in Mill Lane. If you would like to take part in the Leixlip parade please contact Anto Larkin on 087 212 8837

Celbridge parade starts at 4pm but there is a lot going on before and after that.

There is a FREE pre-parade gig on the main street from 2.30pm to 3.30pm, with the wonderfully talented Sina Theil taking to the stage in what is now becoming her annual St. Patrick's Day concert with this being her 4th appearance at the parade.



Celbridge Parade will have bands from Alabama and South Carolina with over 500 musicians, dancers and flag bearer's.

The Main Street will be closed from 1.30pm to 6pm. Some local pubs will have live traditional music during the day.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Celbridge St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee urgently requires stewards/volunteers for the 17th March between 2pm and 6pm. Please contact Stephen 087 751 7176

The Link

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The Link Magazine delivers door to door at the start of every month to 94% of homes in Celbridge, Leixlip & Maynooth

	Homes	Population
Celbridge	5,700	20,288
Leixlip	5,000	15,504
Maynooth	5,000	14,585
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