

Window To The Past



This photo was sent to PJ Leddy, our Manorhamilton correspondent, by Noel Healy, chairman of the parish council in Manorhamilton. It is a fantastic image of an open air Mass at Bunlin Bridge, Donegal in 1867. If anyone can offer us more detail on the photo please contact the editor at michael.daly@donegaldemocrat.com or call 074-97-24211. (2411MDopen)

Careers Advice

CV personal statements

Q: I have seen CVs with personal statements at the outset. I wonder if they are effective. Do employers not get fed up looking at this stuff over and over again? (TL, email)

A: I know it can seem unusual for you to write about yourself in that way. "Highly motivated, conscientious and determined" – these are not words you would necessarily use about yourself on a day to day basis.

But job seeking is not a day to day thing. You must push yourself out there and promote yourself. In the history of job searching, there have very few, if any, cases of candidates saying "oh I see you had Joe Bloggs in for interview before me, give them the job."

Therefore the onus is on you to talk yourself up in such a way as to make yourself attractive to the employer.

I favor the use of a personal statement in virtually all CVs. I believe employers need to get an early impression of who you are. And a personal statement should be written with the very employer in mind. You should not just write one personal statement for your CV and never change it from day to day, month to month or week to week.

Before you send it out, you should adopt this so that it speaks directly to the employer. A CV may be viewed by hundreds of pairs of eyes, but never forget – it is only viewed by one pair of eyes at any particular time.

So talk yourself up, summarise your strengths, and apply all of those to the job for which you are now applying.

More and more people are now moving towards a position where they are less inclined to talk themselves down, because of the highly competitive jobs market that now pertains.

Q: What do you do if you don't have much work experience – if you're just out of college? I have recently completed my thesis but I have never worked in my sector (engineering), apart from some jobs in local bars and restaurants. What should I do? (LN, email)

A: All you can ever do with work experience is outline the best available to you. It may well be in your case that your work experience in local bars and restaurants has the value of showing you as somebody with a willingness to work.

I would put a line in your CV like "proven ability to work hard and produce quality results – as evidenced by my continuing to hold down part-time jobs throughout my education."

Sli Nua Careers (www.SliNuaCareers.com) have an online service that allows you to create a superb CV from the comfort of your own desk or home. For more details, visit www.slinuacareers.com/cv

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When did their profits become our debts?

When Johnny Ronan - and all the other Irish developers - had their private jets, their opulent mansions in exclusive areas and Maybach Mercedes cars, they probably looked down on the school teachers and members of the gardai as being small people, stupid.

They were masters of the universe, capitalists bucaners, big risk takers making big money. And the profits they made were giving them a lifestyle that even royalty would envy.

The bankers were in the same circle - paying themselves huge salaries and huge bonuses loaning money to people who were outbidding oil rich Arabs for marque properties in London, Cannes and other sought after locations.

So how come when these people were making huge profits it was their money but when it turned to debt it became our money, our problem? And if profit is capitalism why has the debt been socialised, spread around to people who gained nothing when the capitalists were getting rich?

By the way, the reason I single out Johnny Ronan is that he symbolises most what we became when we lost the run of ourselves during the so called 'Celtic Tiger' era.

The son of a small farmer from Carrick-on-Suir he had it all - the garish pink mansion on Burlington Road in Dublin, the €600,000 luxury Merc, the private jet, the glamorous girlfriends including former Miss World, Rosanna Davidson, and the small matter of €2.7 billion in borrowings - most of which he will never now be able to pay back.

A little bit cynical...

Like a lot of people I thought there was something more than a little cynical last week when the Catholic church released six diocesan child protection reports on the one day.

Unlike the devastating reports into Ferns and Cloyne these were dry, officialese publications more into practices and procedures than an investigation into the pain and suffering of victims.

It was so well done it didn't even make the



lead story on RTE's 9 O'clock news so if this was news management and damage limitation it succeeded.

Something tells me Jesus would have had very different priorities....

More walks in the woods

Remember last week I mentioned going for a walk in Corvaddy Woods, outside of Letterkenny, and being less than impressed by the shape the drains, the paths, and the signposting there were in. So let me share more on the subject this week..

Per Olaf Wedin manages 4.3 million hectares of prime Scandinavian woodland. His firm, Sveaskog, is the fourth biggest forestry owner in Europe. For this he's well paid, very well paid - €250,000 per annum with another 200,000 in pension contributions and perks.

Last year David Gunning, head of our state owned Coilte, earned more than €473,000, a little more than Mr. Wedin. He has, however, only 445,000 hectares in his care. Should, therefore, he not be on a tenth of what his Scaninavian colleague earns?

Won't happen but I thought I would mention it...

Mafia, not journalists

British tabloid behaviour has been so out

of control for so long that revelations to the Leveson Inquiry in London are far from shocking, but some antics make some press men seem like paid up members of the Mafia, not members of the Fourth Estate.

Kate McCann told how extracts from her private diary, lifted by Portuguese police after her daughter Madeline went missing, suddenly appeared in the 'News of the World'. No one asked her permission or even told her what was about to happen; she got a call from a friend on a Sunday morning asking, 'Have you seen the News of the World yet?'

Author JK Rowling told of finding a note from a tabloid paper in her child's schoolbag. How it got there, no one knows.

When Britney Spears was clearly having a nervous breakdown British tabloid photographers were leading the pack including taking the infamous shot of her emerging from a car when she clearly was not wearing underwear.

Far from having sympathy for a young girl who was clearly in turmoil and desperation they published the pictures to the sound of ringing cash tills.

Whatever it is, this is not journalism, at least not my understanding of journalism.

No snow shows

I see hospital managers in Letterkenny have warned staff who missed days at work due to extreme weather conditions must take those days as annual leave? While I can understand the reasoning I have to ask are they serious?

How does someone who lives, say, in Dungloe get over Meenaroy when there is three feet of snow and the ice makes it like a skating rink? People would be risking life and limb on these occasions.

And it's not like Canada or Norway where we have brilliant public transport solutions in place - we have no 'Let the train take the strain' options in Donegal.

I'm sure there were staff who milked the situation for all it was worth this last couple of years but equally I'm sure there were as many who were genuinely snowed in.