

The Carrigdhoun

NEWSPAPER

Opinion

Bad Timing

Reeling under an avalanche of criticism in recent months, Brian Cowen's government might well be justified in feeling hard done by at the moment. After all, Brian and his Ministers have precious little control over the effects of the global economic crisis and it would be unfair to expect them to wave a magic wand, which would render Ireland impervious to the chill economic winds which are currently battering us. What they could do, however, is improve their sense of timing.

Back in October when we had our early budget all attention was focused on the government's attempt to deny the over 70's their automatic entitlement to a medical card and the hints that third level fees were to be re-introduced. Brian Lenihan's announcement that there would be an increase in VAT rates in December appeared to slip under the radar. Now, as we approach the busiest time of year in retail sales, businesses around the country are finding out the hard way that both Brians have a very poor sense of timing.

The VAT rate changed on Monday last from 21% to 21.5% - just in time for the run up to Christmas. A nice little earner to be sure but for retailers, service industries and just about every other business around the country this is a real inconvenience. From midnight last Sunday, all price tags had to be altered and computers and tills re-set and, since VAT returns are made very two months, all this was happening in the middle of a VAT period. It would have made far more sense to postpone this increase until the 1st of January.

Faced with hordes of shoppers rushing willy nilly over the border to stock up on groceries, presents and booze, retailers are having a tough enough time trying to keep shoppers at home for the festive season. Even though a half of one percent doesn't sound like much, it is making life even more difficult for beleaguered Irish retailers, many of whom have stated that they will not be passing on the VAT increase to customers until the New Year. So they will bear the burden, while also battling a drastic reduction in sales and the credit squeeze. Let's hope, in the New Year, our government develops a better sense of timing.

Office

Tel : 021-4373557
Lo Call : 1850 37 37 55
Fax : 021-4373559
ISDN : 021-4852062/3
E-mail : carrigdhoun@eircom.net

Main Street,
Carrigaline,
Co Cork,
Ireland.

STAFF

Managing Editor - Vincent O'Donovan
Reporter - Mary Scally
Advertising - Vanessa Kessell

OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

NEWS

The Carrigdhoun is your paper, and we are here to report what is happening locally. If there is anything you would like us to cover, please let us know.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Our photographer is available to cover community or sporting events, just let us know. Most photographs are available from the office in Carrigaline.

DEADLINES

The general deadline is Monday noon. The sport deadline is Tuesday 11am. Items received after these times cannot be guaranteed publication.

SUBMISSIONS

Text, reports or news items on computer disc (Mac or PC, please save as 'Text Only') are very much appreciated (the disc will be returned to you). Please feel free to e-mail reports, comments or letters to us also.



Letters to the editor

MAIN STREET, CARRIGALINE, CO. CORK.

Censorship?

Sir,
As a Mother of five I disagree with Jennifer McCarthy's assault on the Carrigdhoun for failing to 'preserve children's innocence' by publishing the literary short story 'The Cure.' Ms. McCarthy deemed the story, of alcoholism and domestic violence, as "adult" subject matter, completely unsuitable for inclusion in a local newspaper... aimed at families'. But 'The Cure' won an Art's Office award, is published in an Arts Office anthology, is available in our local libraries and thereby freely available to our families, alongside Shakespeare and his uncomfortable themes such as incest!

As a psychologist I applaud the Carrigdhoun for carrying 'The Cure' and those who work with the victims of domestic violence would likewise endorse this story.' The 'Cure' is brutal in its language and its actions, but not for its own sake but the sake of carrying a strong message: that dysfunctional family issues need to be acknowledged and acted upon before they lead to tragedy for the perpetrators, their spouses and their children.

Blaming 'The Cure' for its coarse language and advocating its censorship is counterproductive to listening to its message, a message that is pertinent to families, and a message that could have the potential to preserve the lives of innocents like Baby P.

Elaine Rhys-Davies,
By E-Mail.

The Library (Again)

Dear Sir,
I have written to you on many occasions to complain about the complete incompetence shown by Cork County Council with respect to opening the new library in Carrigaline. I have read the articles published in the Carrigdhoun on this subject penned by various local politicians and now in last week's paper I read that "Cork County Council have advertised for the fit out of the Library building on the Crosshaven Road". What? According to another article you published well before the summer the Council were supposed to do this last May! That was seven months ago and they still haven't got around to doing it. Further along in the same article it states that 'it is planned to have the library ready in the summer'. Well, that's another seven months away. So,

to recap, the library is built and it's in the hands of Cork County Council for well over a year. They have left this building sit there, empty and left the citizens of Carrigaline waiting, for no good reason, doing nothing to get the library up and running.

Our local representatives have some questions to answer in regard to this matter. As I previously stated, I have been keeping a close eye on the reports in the Carrigdhoun and other newspapers on this matter and as far as I can make out they are all doing the same thing. Reporting every couple of months that the council is planning to take a certain course of action in the coming weeks; we hear nothing more about it for about six months and then we hear that the council is planning to take the exact same course of action 'in a couple of weeks' and, again, nothing happens. To think that it takes a year and a half to put in a couple of shelves, computers and desks and to move the books is beyond belief! Shame on you Cork County Council and shame on our local representatives. Don't forget, the local elections are only a few months away and you have been found wanting!

Mrs T. Kelly,
Carrigaline.

Not Very Christmassy!

Dear Editor,
I am writing about the lights in Carrigaline for Christmas. They seem a bit mean to me and not very Christmassy. Also the tree in the car park looks a bit stupid with just a few strings of small lights. Could we not have put on more of a show?

'Carrigaline Reader'
(Name and address with the Editor).

Carrigdhoun Weather

THURSDAY/
FRIDAY

Friday will be cold and bright with

overnight frost clearing. It will be mostly dry with winter sunshine. However, there will be a blustery northwest winds and afternoon temperatures will be around 7 or 8 degrees Celsius. Very frosty on Friday night.

SATURDAY/
SUNDAY

The prospects through the weekend are for a lot of dry, cold weather with sunshine during daylight hours but very cold and frosty conditions during the hours of darkness. Afternoon temperatures of 5 or 6 degrees.

OUTLOOK

Prospects suggest it won't be quite as cold through the early days of next week. It will, however, be unsettled, with mainly fresh, westerly winds bring some rain or showers at times.



(L to R) Martin Kelly (Rochestown) Art Craft and design, Caroline Conway (Carrigaline) Adult Leaving Cert, Jeremiah Callanan (Kinsale) Amenity Horticulture, Rory Dillon (Carrigaline) Music Management and Sound Engineering, Receiving their FETAC Awards at Colaiste Stiofain Naofa, College of Further Education