

Irish Examiner Tomorrow

Just two will do
Child expert Oliver James on how one-to-one childcare is best for baby
Feelgood



Fr Ted's World Cup
Dermot Morgan's son Don Morgan recalls a wonderful family holiday in Europe for Italia '90
Features



Write on Author Anthony Horowitz headlines the West Cork Literary Festival
Arts



WINGBACK: This image of an Atlantic puffin, taken on Skellig Michael, is from Sheena Jolley's exhibition *Island Magic* at Kinsale Arts Week. The exhibition will be opened by journalist Donal Musgrave on July 6, at 6pm to coincide with the opening of Sheena's new gallery at 41, Main Street, Kinsale, Co Cork.

Picture: Sheena Jolley

Trouser mishap leaves mayor exposed

ENGLAND: A lord mayor has apologised after his trousers fell down during a visit to a local library.

Colin Hall, Lord Mayor of Leicester, suffered the mishap on a visit to Southfields library in Leicester yesterday morning.

Mr Hall was a guest at a "Summer Showcase" organised by Global Education Leicester/Shire, a network which works with teachers and education institutions to promote greater understanding of global perspectives, a city council spokesman confirmed.

He said Mr Hall offered his "deepest apologies" for anyone who might have been offended when his trousers came loose and fell down at the event.

The spokesman said: "The Lord Mayor of Leicester, Councillor Colin Hall, attended a function at a local library where he suffered an unfortunate problem with his trousers.

"He was not wearing a belt and the trousers came loose and fell.

"The Lord Mayor has offered his deepest apologies to those attending the event for any offence caused by the accident."

NEW ZEALAND: A lock of hair cut from Napoleon Bonaparte's head after he died has sold for \$13,000 (€10,500) at an auction in New Zealand.

Extra phone lines were installed for the sale to cope with an expected rush of international buyers seeking to snip up the hair cut from the head of former French Emperor a day after his death in 1821 while he was in exile on the island of St Helena.

The circle of hair was part of a collection brought to New Zealand in 1864 by Denzil Ibbetson, a British commissary officer and artist.

Ibbetson served on St Helena during the six years that Napoleon



was held on the island after being defeated at the Battle of Waterloo.

The collection of about 40 items, including sketches by Ibbetson of Napoleon on his death bed at the age of 51, was sold by the descendants of

Ibbetson. According to the auction house the lock was bought by an unnamed collector in London.

USA: An 87-year-old US woman who was tasered by police while hooked to an oxygen machine in her bed is suing her Oklahoma hometown.

Lawyer Brian Dell said that he filed the lawsuit on behalf of his client, Lona Varner. He did not specify the amount she is seeking from the city of El Reno but said it is at least \$75,000 (€61,000).

Varner's grandson called the emergency services in December and said his grandmother "wanted to end her life" and that he was concerned she had taken some unknown medicine.

Officer Thomas Duran said in a police report that Varner pulled a kitchen knife from under her pillow and threatened to stab and kill him if he tried to take her from her home.

The report says another officer used a Taser stun gun on Varner.

USA: A Northern California woman says her Chihuahua died protecting her children from two pit bulls that got into her apartment.

Mayda Estrella, of Richmond, says the family's Chihuahua, named Manchitas, jumped in between the canine invaders and her four-year-old son.

A pit bull grabbed Manchitas with its jaws and carried the Chihuahua away.

Contra Costa County animal services officials say the Chihuahua was killed, and the pit bulls are now in custody.

The pit bulls' owner says they had escaped their yard by chewing through a fence. Estrella says her front door was open when the dogs came in.

County officials say the owner won't face criminal charges.

SUMMER SALE

STARTS TOMORROW @ 10AM



CROWLEY CALNAN

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Our bosoms are our own business

In the latest instalment of a mother's place always being in the wrong, much hoo-haa erupted this week about comments made on breast feeding. A mummy wrote that she found it "creepy" when her tiny baby went where only lovers had gone before; cue instant splattering sound of stuff hitting fan. And by stuff I mean poo. This was partly because, apart from the collective outbreak of outrage that this particular mummy, Kathryn Blundell, regarded the function of her bosoms as primarily sexual rather than nutritional, she was writing in *Mother & Baby* magazine, where she works as deputy editor.

Cue more splattering noises. A woman, a mother and an editor of a mummy mag who does not wholly, entirely and unreservedly embrace breast feeding? A Facebook page swiftly ensued, calling for her public beheading. (Not literally, you understand, but it might as well have, given the tsunami of righteous fury directed at her). Worse still, she had cheerfully admitted that she "couldn't be fagged" to breast feed. Off with her head, screamed the lactating brigade. Tar, feathers, and burning stakes! Obviously, if you write for a mummy and baby publication, you might be expected to be totally on-message, which means pro-breast feeding. But not breast feeding your babies does not make you Fred West. I didn't breast feed either of my babies — do I need to give you a reason? I don't think so — and still they both survived, and grew up with arms and legs and heads and everything. I didn't immunise them either, and they're both still robustly alive, and with immune systems to die for, so to speak.

These details should be irrelevant to anyone except myself and my kids, but mummyhood has always been a public domain where everyone else can wade in finger-wagging and tutting. Mummy bashing is our favourite contact sport, with dad-deification a close second: he



Suzanne Harrington

The Last Word

picked them up from school and defrosted a pizza for their tea? Give him a medal! This dad-deification goes off the scale when the dad is single.

But single or partnered, lesbian or straight, mummies generally do their best. What we need to remember is that there are many ways to skin a cat, or rear a..... if I put 'brat' it would probably cause offence, so I better put 'kid' instead. If someone prefers to keep her bosoms for men, that's her prerogative; you may profoundly disagree with her, but mind your own business. Equally, if someone wants to breast feed her baby until it's old enough to open it's own bank account, that's her business too. You might find it freaky, but butt out. The vast majority of mummies knock themselves out for their kids; we are doing the most important job on earth. Honour us, please. And stop with the Facebook carping.

LIVE AT THE MARQUEE, CORK 2010

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