

2011 - IRELAND

12 June 2011



Newbridge

Many Irish names have english equivalents - eg: Hollihan is "arrogant one" and Ferdinand translates as "black man".

STAYING HOME

The weather continues to be overcast and miserable. It was drizzling when we woke and continued all morning so we decided to stay inside today and sit around reading the newspapers, do some more research about things to do and see in Dublin, catch up on some laundry and, in short, simply enjoy the day doing very little.

We read with interest that England, Wales and Scotland are facing an extremely dry summer this year after the driest and hottest spring on record yet, on the very day that drought has been declared, hailstones the size of golf balls fell in parts of the country. Our relatives in Poland too have had large hailstones which have damaged their cars and house facades.

Meanwhile, in Ireland, the Nowak's continue to be positive and believe the weather reports that each day predict that the weather will improve for the rest of the week. We therefore anticipate it's going to be sunny weather for the rest of our time in Ireland - at least it will be better than the weather we are having in Brisbane where the temperature has been the lowest ever recorded in June at 10 degrees.



Lazing around like an Irish lady



Hurling action



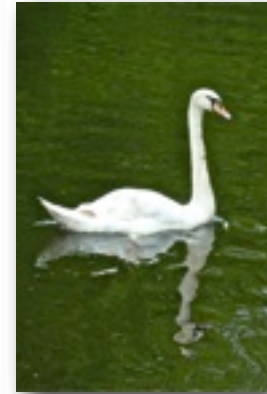
Gaelic football

The women's version of hurling is called camogie. Hurling also has similar rules to the Scottish game called shinty.





Examples of Newbridge terrace houses



Liffey River swan

We are surprised that very little news about Australia is reported here yet it seems that every second person we chat to in the United Kingdom and Ireland seems to have a relative, a friend or a neighbor either visiting, living or has visited Australia (a large majority in Perth). We saw a TV program last week about reflections by English families that have moved to Australia. It was appalling - our customs and people appeared uncouth, stupid and very "occa-ish". Maybe it's the Irish, English or Scots that made us the way we are. Anyway we wonder why anyone would want to go to Australia - it's overrun with spiders, crocodiles and snakes.

NEWSPAPERS

I try to buy the Daily Telegraph (English) as often as I can. The Irish and Scottish dailies are quite useless - more parochial than Queensland papers. The Telegraph, on the other hand, has lots of investigative reports and, more importantly, a fantastic sports section which takes me 30 minutes or more to read due to its in-depth reporting (about football). Heather prefers to read (or re-read) her

novels or glue her eyes to the Horse and Country channel when its available.

SOME REFLECTIONS ON IRELAND

- Irish history fascinates us.
- We love listening to lyrical Irish accents.
- Drivers generally drive conservatively.
- Rainy Irish weather results in lush green fields.
- It is wise to wear rain proof coats - everywhere.
- House gardens are minimal or non-existent.
- Irish house designers are stuck in a rut - design one house and duplicate this exactly many times over. Then go on to another development site, choose another design and duplicate it all over again making sure to use the same paint color.
- Although we have not sampled many Irish pubs, we notice they are found in every village. Not all serve food.
- The Irish Gaelic language was invented by the Clingons while flying the Spaceship Enterprise.
- Hurling has prehistoric origins (played over 3000 years ago) and is considered (by the Irish) to be the fastest field team game in the world (even faster than Gaelic Football).



Some say the glass is half empty, some say its half full - the Irish simply ask "are you going to drink that?"

"Being Irish is very much part of who I am so I take it everywhere with me."



Enjoying a rest beside the Liffey River



Newbridge's shopping centre mall



Riding alongside the Liffey River