



JOKE: Kian and Nicky

Band in dad dancing

WESTLIFE'S Kian Egan and Nicky Byrne have traded jibes about how fans might see their onstage moves on their Twenty reunion tour as "dad dancing".

The pair joked about getting up off their stools, after a few ballads, to dance for their upbeat numbers when they met Singapore fans.

Album

Kian said: "We're really excited that we're back and have a new album in the process and we're hopefully going to be announcing a concert very soon. "So we're really looking forward to performing."



SWEET: The picture

I'll Biel there for you

ACTRESS Jessica Biel wished her husband Justin Timberlake happy birthday with an Instagram post. Biel and pop star Timberlake tied the knot in 2012 and have a three-year-old son, Silas. Timberlake turned 38 on Thursday and Biel (36) celebrated the milestone with a post on Instagram.

Water

She shared a selfie of her and Timberlake underwater and wrote: "Since the days of embarrassing pink ruffled bikinis and underwater photo shoots, you have been infusing my life with so much joy and laughter."

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WEATHER POSES WEE PROBLEM...

It could be wet out after pub

WELL, the forecasters of Met Eireann have certainly upped their game — with these 'yellow snow warnings'.

That's going beyond the call of duty, telling us where revellers may have stopped to take a wee on the way home from the pub the snowy night before.

The fact that the warning was extended nationwide is cause for a debate for another day.

I'd have thought, in this day and age, people wouldn't need to be warned about yellow snow but you can never be sure of anything I suppose.

This, after all, is a country where the capital's light rail system has warning signs saying it's covered in anti-climb paint.

Time

But you have to marvel at the technology that forecasters can call on, and it's advancing all the time...

We're coming up to the end of Dry January and lots of people will be going out on the lash, making up for lost time. They might be caught short on the way home.

But satellite technology is so accurate it can now predict yellow snow days in advance.

It's so good it can tell us that the every

county in the country should be on the alert for yellow snow right up to noon on Sunday. I don't know about you, but I don't plan on digging my hands in and tightly packing snowballs a minute before then. That's not a risk I'm going to take.

If you pay attention, you'll notice that the yellow snow alerts often specifically apply to areas on "higher ground".

I'm not sure why that is, but maybe putting a few portaloos in strategic places like the Sally Gap might help.

Linked

And there isn't much doubt that yellow snow can be linked to our national reflex action — when it snows, ditch work and go to the pub.

Every year people say the same thing: we can't handle a bit of cold weather, other countries have it for six months and manage fine.

Well other countries don't have the wonderful network of cosy pubs and the generally decent Guinness that we have. It's not complicated.

Anyway, at least it's just

yellow.

So far this year I have yet to hear an orange snow alert, or a red snow alert.

But in those circumstances I think it's those responsible for the colour of the snow that should be alarmed, not me.



GET A GRIP: Putting bag on seat makes me want to sit there

I'm sick of you space invaders

THE following is probably a sure sign that I've been crossing the country by bus more than anyone should.

But if you are going on a long bus journey, I'd like you to know this: your possessions aren't so special that they deserve a seat of their own.

Know that you're as bad as those people who put seats back on planes if you try to maximise the odds of keeping the seat beside you free by putting a jacket and bag on it.

Realise that I get the bus a lot and know your tricks.

If you're on before me I'll make you move your stuff and take the seat just to annoy you.

Deserve

The people who leave the seat free deserve their personal space more than you.

And to those who get on the bus and take two seats and pretend to fall asleep, I've no problem waking you up. And I will.



COST: RTE's new set; (inset) newsreaders on sofa

C-OUCH... THAT €1.4M BILL IS EYE-WATERING

● WE'VE seen them doing the news at a desk. We've seen them doing it standing up. Now — €1.4 million later — we get to see them do it on a sofa.

And as RTE justify the spend on their news set, saying they paid for it by selling land — oh, right so — I just wonder how it cost so much.

If you're the person that became a millionaire by selling them that sofa then, well, fair play to you I suppose.

● But €1.4 million for some blue screens, twiddling the tone setting on the theme music, and the sofa? Bloody hell, I hope it's comfortable, because I need to lie down.

I think the pint is made

THEY said that Dry January gave us a chance to work out where we stand with booze.

It sure did. I've decided I rather sit with mine.

Preferably in a peaceful bar with a newspaper.



MOTHERHOOD: Cardi

Cardi's unable for tour

CARDI B has dropped out of Bruno Mars' autumn tour because she is not ready to leave baby Kulture.

She and husband Offset welcomed their daughter on July 10, and she was due to support Mars starting in September.

Recover

Now the singer (25) has changed her mind and posted on Instagram: "I thought that after giving birth to my daughter that six weeks would be enough time for me to recover mentally and physically."

She added: "I think I underestimated this whole mommy thing."



SHARKS: Bear Grylls

Bear is grilled on park

TV ADVENTURER Bear Grylls has been slammed by animal rights activists after unveiling his new adventure park where customers can swim with sharks.

The Bear Grylls Adventure Park in Birmingham, includes an attraction where visitors swim alongside aquatic creatures, including Black Tip Reef Sharks.

Petition

But animal welfare campaigners have criticised the idea saying animal parks should be a thing of the past.

A petition against the attraction now has more than 20,000 signatures.

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HERE'S TO LAGER THAN LIFE PALS...



SCHMOOZING: Enda with Harry and Meghan

Taoiseach gets happy Enda after

WE made Enda Kenny our Taoiseach, knocking all those rough edges off him over the years.

We paid the bills as he learned the ways of the world in Ireland's top job, then we made him ex-Taoiseach and set him free.

So now he's out there in the big bad world, mixing with the likes of Harry and Meghan at polo tournaments.

He's done well for himself — it's a long way from meeting that man in a pub with the two pints in his hands.

Pub stalwarts never forgotten

THERE'S a quiet tradition that goes on in good pubs, one that marks out friendships, an honour after death for a select few who earned it in life.

It's gentle and understated — when a friend of the bar passes away, a photo of them is framed and mounted on the wall.

It's as simple as that — but means a lot. A friend's presence can still be felt in a place their company was enjoyed long after they're gone.

Another framed photo went up in my Dublin local this week. I hadn't been in the bar for a while and didn't know he hadn't been well.

Gone

But as soon as I saw the photo I knew he was gone. He was a gentleman, and will be missed.

There's been a few pub friends I've had over the years who've earned the photo tribute.

They were people I rarely saw anywhere outside the pub. Some were old, some not so old.

They were the type of people I could count on for a chat when I wanted one — or a comfortable silence when silence was required.

They're dying off — the ones still living

are outnumbered by the frames on the wall — but you'll still find them in every pub in every town and village in Ireland.

I'll go into a pub anywhere and see the framed faces of people I've never met, but I know that if I did meet them, I'd have liked them.

These days, the Irish pub isn't what it used to be — they were at their best before food started being served. Now there's menus for gin.

The beauty used to be in the simplicity — a quality pint, a firm stool, some friends and a dim light with enough glow to read a paper was all that's required.

Life

You'd share the space with the same characters you've known all your life — and some will be more popular than others.

They're the pub stalwarts, auld fellas or auld wans, they have

their routine — and over years of encountering them their routine becomes part of yours.

Their company makes paying more than a fiver for a pint of Guinness almost worth it.

And when their ultimate last orders is called, thanks to a simple photo in a frame, they won't be forgotten.



GEMS: Some of the country's biggest gents can be found in bars

FEW ARE STILL OPEN TO GOOD MANNERS

MAYBE women have been holding doors open for me all my life but I haven't noticed.

Until this week — when a heavy door at the top of a flight of stairs was held open for me by women, twice.

These days, the only thing men like me get is the blame. There's a lot of

demented men haters out there.

But there's still a few reasonable women too — women who don't think men are the reason their lives are horrible.

And when they show the courtesy of holding a door open rather than expecting to have one held open for them, that's a good thing.

Grand while it lasted

THERE'S a not so grand non-stretch in the evenings. It's not enough to get anxious about just yet, but be warned: our wonderful summer evenings are numbered. Make the most of what's left.



DARK: Kelly Osbourne

Kelly's sober year

KELLY Osbourne is celebrating a year of sobriety after a dark time in her life.

And she thanked her parents, rocker Ozzy and his wife and manager Sharon, and brother Jack for their unwavering support.

Share

"This past year has been one of the hardest years of my life and I feel it's time I share that with you guys," Kelly (33) wrote on Instagram and Twitter.

She added: "Thank you to the friends who have walked the path of sobriety with me. I can't believe it's been a year."



REHAB: Demi Lovato

Lovato tour is axed

DEMI Lovato has cancelled the rest of her world tour — days after going into rehab.

She was due to take her Tell Me You Love Me tour to Mexico next month and then to Chile, Argentina and Brazil in November.

Home

Promoter Live Nation said Demi has cancelled her upcoming tour dates in South America "as she is focusing on her recovery".

The Sorry Not Sorry singer (25) was found unconscious at her home on July 24 after an overdose and is now in a rehab centre.

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KNOCKED DOWN A PEG OR TWO...

Shrine a light on a tall tale



RULES ARE RULES: Muffin top and (below) the dress code sign

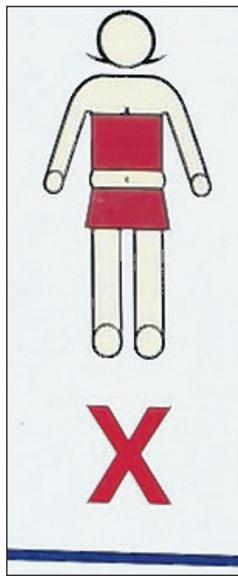
Muffin personal

● YOU'LL have noticed I've a good grasp on Catholicism. That's probably because I spent a full 25 minutes in Knock last Sunday.

That was all the time I needed. And thankfully — having seen the large dress code sign — I wasn't wearing a 1940s-style swimsuit.

And we all know the wise words of Jesus that went: "Blessed are the peace-makers, theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

● But not so many know this one: "Not blessed are the ones with exposed muffin tops, they shall be turfed out of the shrine."



LET your imagination go wild for a minute and run with this one...

Imagine, just try at least, that Mary, Joseph, and Saint John DIDN'T appear miraculously on the gable end of a church in Knock in August 1879.

Yes, I know. It's a daft proposition. It's more likely that God decided images of what some people think the trio looked like would look lovely there.

But let's say for the laugh that God wasn't behind the two-hour show that started a multimillion industry the next morning.

Imagine it was the priest — who sided with landlords when the Land League was fighting for peasant tenants, his parishioners.

Protests

Say — hypothetically speaking — the Land League lads wanted to chop the priest's ears off, and the priest knew this as he'd already seen protests outside his church.

So — just putting it out there — he got a magic lantern, an old fashioned projector, and a mirror, and propped it on the window ledge of the church gable.

Imagine that by positioning it there, with the mirror, he could project the image down on the wall without fear of onlookers casting shadows on it, revealing that it's a hoax.

Then let's say he sends his housekeeper out, and she rounds up a small close-knit group who all proclaim the images a miracle.

Imagine she runs back to the priest and tells him about it — but he refuses to even look out his window as he doesn't want to be complicit if the hoax is discovered.

Same with the police — who could have helped acquire the projector — they were suspicious of the locals but didn't head out to monitor this group.

So the "witnesses" look at it for a while — some only hang around for 15 minutes. And nobody happens to be looking when the image vanishes.

Say the next day the priest is out, and suddenly all up for it, bottling rain water dripping off the walls as Knock as we know it is born.

And his ears remain on his head — the priest is untouchable, even by the Land League.

Bare

So he gets on the group of holymen whose job it is to declare it an apparition so the proper money-making can start.

People strip the gable wall bare — and the priest lets them destroy any evidence of projector fixtures and fittings. Some even eat bits of the wall and get sick.

Yet the priest starts his book of miracle cures. Poorly people flock there. It soon costs a fortune for an armchair overnight in a place nobody heard of before...

OK, that's all a bit far fetched. The stuff of cranks, or conspiracy theorists. Next thing I'll be saying the moon landings actually happened.

Maybe it's far more likely that God decided he really liked the look of the gable wall and beamed the family photograph there himself.



READY: Knock prepares for Pope

AN IMMACULATE DECEPTION

YOU'VE got your Jesus, and your Mary. But I always felt a bit sorry for Joseph.

Seems to me that Joseph was roped into something and didn't realise at the time how big it was going to get.

He might have been too polite — and decided to go with "you're marrying Mary" as it was easier than saying he'd rather just be friends.

Then everything goes viral.

Suddenly his wife's pregnant and it's nothing to do with him.

Now he's humanity's best known wingman with a celebrity baby and sleeping with a cow. An actual cow, not Mary who I'm sure was lovely if not a bit pushy.

And was he really comfortable with everyone calling his wife a virgin?

The man got a raw deal. He'd be a good patron saint for the hapless.

THEY sell holy water for €2 a tiny bottle in Knock just yards away from eighteen taps from which it flows for free. I don't know about turning water into wine, but some followers of Jesus know how to turn it into cold hard cash.