

# The Week

## In case you missed it By Eoin Butler

### Photograph of the Week

#### Graduation day at Trinity



■ It was a day of joy at Trinity College Dublin on Thursday as students from the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities graduated with a Level 5 Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice. The two-year programme is aimed at transforming possibilities open to people with intellectual disability as they make transitions towards adult life and the workforce. PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL SHARP/SHARPPIX

### Barometer



Barbie Thug

The electro-goth singer from Macroom will represent Ireland at Eurovision in Malmö in May.



Roberto Lopes

The Irish-born Shamrock Rovers defender has enjoyed remarkable success helping tiny Cabo Verde to the quarter-finals of the African Cup of Nations.

**Good week Bad week**



Andrew Tate

The influencer has lost his appeal against a ruling that stops him leaving Romania, where he faces rape and human trafficking charges.



Bill Roache

The actor (91), best known for playing Ken Barlow in Coronation Street, is reportedly facing bankruptcy for a second time.

### Give Me a Crash Course in ... Marcus Rashford

#### What happened with Marcus Rashford in the past week?

The Manchester United footballer was photographed and filmed partying in Belfast last week before the club's FA Cup game against Newport County. The problem was he'd called in sick for training. Oops.

#### Belfast? What was he doing there?

Rashford was visiting his friend Ro-Shawn Williams, another former Manchester United youth academy player, who now plays for NIFL Premiership club Larne. Earlier that day, he visited Larne's ground and met coach Gerry Flynn.

#### What sort of boozing did he allegedly do?

According to reports, Rashford went out to Lavery's bar on Wednesday, a popular Belfast haunt, where he was spotted ordering shots of tequila. United players had a day off on Thursday and the club was initially informed that he was only out on Wednesday and got sick on Thursday, but more footage emerged of Rashford at Thompson's Garage nightclub on Thursday night, allegedly passed out while clothed, well into the early hours, and just hours before he was due for training on Friday morning.

#### How did Manchester United respond to the news?

A club statement said Rashford had "taken responsibility" for his actions and manager Erik Ten Hag said it was an "internal matter" and considers the case to be "closed". Rashford's weekly wage is a hefty £325,000, so he is reported



■ Redemption? Marcus Rashford after Manchester United's match last night

to have been fined two weeks wages for his actions, a cool £650,000, on top of the thousands he spent on food and drink, and £1,500 a night on the residence suite in the Fitzwilliam Hotel in Belfast.

And a waitress claims Rashford also carried around a bag of £20 notes that totalled many thousands. An expensive few nights, to say the least.

#### How's his team doing anyway? Maybe he was just letting off some steam?

Well, it appeared there were probably better times for this sort of session. United is having a nightmare campaign so far, out of the Champions League in the group stage and mid-table in the Premier League. Rashford's form had also dropped off considerably. After his best campaign in a United shirt last season when he scored 30 goals in all competitions, Rashford had only scored four before his Belfast sesh this season.

#### How have the Manchester United players reacted?

His partying did not go down too well with his team-mates. According to the Times of London, staff have described him as "distant" recently and responding poorly to instructions. Perhaps knowing he was in big trouble, Rashford offered to play against Newport after his boozy weekend, but Ten Hag told him to train in Manchester instead. In November, the forward was spotted in a nightclub hours after the club lost to Manchester City. Ten Hag called it "unacceptable".

This all comes as one of Rashford's allies in the team, Jadon Sancho, left to go on loan to Dortmund. Sancho was frozen out for refusing to apologise for calling out Ten Hag on social media after the manager said he had been dropped for poor performances in training. Unlike Sancho, Rashford at least apologised.

#### So Rashford will be punished by being left out of the team for a while?

No, not at all. Perhaps wisely judging that United could not afford to lose another key player, Ten Hag started the English international against Wolves in the Premier League on Thursday. Rashford scored a cracking goal within five minutes, as Manchester United won a thrilling game 4-3. It was arguably his best performance of the season.

Rashford is sure to be on the thinnest of ice with Ten Hag for his erratic behaviour. But all's well that ends well? Maybe a two-day bender in Belfast is what we all need to blow the cobwebs away.

DAVID GORMAN

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### Soundbite

#### The unionist people had the right to know

Loyalist blogger and activist Jamie Bryson, right, defends live-tweeting details of a private DUP meeting thanks to leaks from inside



### Place of the Week

#### Cape Ray, Newfoundland, Canada

Cape Ray is a rugged headland on the southwestern tip of the island of Newfoundland. The cape is known for its lighthouse, which has played a crucial role in guiding ships through the treacherous waters of the Cabot Strait.

The Cape Ray Lighthouse, which was established in 1871, stands as a historic landmark in the region, its importance due to its proximity to international shipping routes.

This week saw much excitement among the local community of 350 people when a centuries-old shipwreck appeared inexplicably on the sands of a nearby beach.

As per the Guardian: "Gordon Blackmore, a local resident, was hunting seabirds on the sandy shores of Cape Ray when he spotted a dark shadow under the turbid waters. It had not been there when he visited the spot just a few days earlier. "He rushed back into the family home, shouting about the discovery, his mother told the Canadian Press. "It's amazing, there is no other word for it."

Wrecks have been found in this area before. But what makes this event unique is the unexplained nature of this ship's sudden appearance.

Neil Burgess, president of the Shipwreck Preservation Society of Newfoundland and Labrador, suspects the ship was freed by a combination of coastal erosion and the force of post-tropical storm Fiona, which destroyed homes in the region last year.

Large ocean swells last week may finally have nudged the wreck free, pushing it towards the shore, he told the Canadian Press.

"This is perfect," he said. "This is a great, great event."

Photographs of the wreck on social media – a pile of soggy wood beams and planks – have provided some clues about the ship's origins. Wooden dowels

and copper pegs were commonly used in the 1800s. And the size – at least 24 metres – suggests the vessel was larger than a schooner.

The community's Facebook page was soon ablaze with speculation as local residents trawled through old records and family knowledge of fatal voyages.

"It is a part of our history that has just been awakened," wrote Elizabeth Gover. "It would be good for all of us if we could offer some history we know and a place for remembrance. At least a marker. This is our history. Let's find out."

### Seven Days

#### In numbers

**3.5%**

Percentage of eligible people who have applied for their free GP card in the Republic of Ireland – 15,000 out of 430,000

**60**

Number of people facing prosecution over unpaid TV licences.

**726**

Days that Northern Ireland had been without an executive before this week's power-sharing deal was struck.

**£7,897**

Taxpayer money then prime minister Boris Johnson and his staff spent on a boozy office party to celebrate Britain leaving the EU in January 2020.

**\$50m**

What Donald Trump's 2024 re-election PAC spent on his legal fees in 2023.

### Quiz of the Week

## Have I got fake news for you

#### 1. One of these news stories is fake. Which one?

- (a) The city of Venice is putting cameras on its canals in a bid to catch speeding gondolas.
- (b) A Brazilian university student partied for four days over New Year unaware that he'd been shot in the head.
- (c) An Oklahoma senator has introduced a Bill that will make it illegal for a person to text anyone other than their spouse.
- (d) Israeli special forces dressed as doctors killed three suspected militants in their beds in a West Bank hospital.

#### 2. In an interview to mark his retirement, veteran RTÉ news presenter Bryan Dobson predicted "There are quite a few twists and turns left in..."

- (a) The US presidential race.
- (b) The RTÉ pay scandal.
- (c) The Stormont power-sharing saga.
- (d) The Sex and the City film franchise.

#### 3. Who is this?



#### 4. What kind of test did Donald Trump tell rally of his own supporters they would be unable to pass?

- (a) A driving test.
- (b) A literacy test.
- (c) An STD test.
- (d) A cognitive test designed to screen for dementia.

#### 5. An Iranian drug trafficker in Canada has been charged with hiring two members of what group to kill an Iranian dissident in that country?

- (a) Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
- (b) Aryan Nation.
- (c) Hells Angels.
- (d) Nickelback.

#### 6. In an interview on RTÉ's This Week programme, Minister for Justice Helen McEntee said she supports Ireland intervening in what?

- (a) Nato.
- (b) Opec.
- (c) South Africa's genocide case against Israel at the UN.
- (d) Nickelback.

#### 7. The FAI has stated that it would prefer if the next Republic of Ireland manager did what?

- (a) Spoke Irish.
- (b) Lived in Ireland.
- (c) Selected Irish-born players.
- (d) Selected Irish-based players.

#### 8. On the BBC's Desert Island Discs, actor Jamie Dornan revealed he once fled to a rural hideaway to avoid the "ridicule" that greeted... what?

- (a) His acting in Fifty Shades of Grey.
- (b) His singing in Belfast.
- (c) His west of Ireland accent in Wild Mountain Thyme.
- (d) Surrendering a UN base to Katangese separatists in The Siege of Jadotville.

#### 9. For the first time in history, members of the Irish Defence Forces will soon be allowed to grow what?

- (a) Crops.
- (b) Topiary bushes.
- (c) Beards.
- (d) Cannabis plants.

#### 10. The first human subject has received a Neuralink brain implant. What does Neuralink connect your brain to?

- (a) PlayStation.
- (b) Fridge.
- (c) Computer or smartphone.
- (d) Car's infotainment display.

### Answers

- 1(c) An Oklahoma senator is NOT trying to ban people texting anyone other than their spouse. (He's trying to ban sexting anyone other than their spouse!)

- 2(b) RTÉ pay scandal.

3. Tatjana Zdanoka: The Latvian MEP linked to Clare Daly and Mick Wallace has been accused of working with Russian intelligence services since 2004.

- 4(d) A cognitive test.

- 5(c) Hells Angels.

- 6(c) South Africa's genocide case against Israel.

- 7(b) Lived in Ireland.

- 8(a) His acting in Fifty Shades of Grey.

- 9(c) Beards.

- 10(c) Computer or smartphone.