

Home & Away with Robert Walshe

THE recession has left people relying on the support of their families more than ever with the prospect of a return to the old traditional family holiday according to research. More than half of those surveyed spend leisure time with their extended family and when asked who they would like to spend more time with, the family comes out on top again - suggesting that precious time with loved ones is what people want more than anything else. People like to meet up regularly with 85% of respondents getting together as a group at least every couple of months. When money is tight families are not just looking for excellent value for money they are also looking for days out which will not be disappointing. This research should be a lesson to all tourism related business that value, service and return to a friendly welcome is the way forward.

Weekend Hotspot

Longueville House in Mallow Co Cork is very much a family affair run by William O'Callaghan, who is the chef, and his wife Aisling, who manages front of house. The property is perfect for those looking for that elegant Irish country house experience. You can tell that the owners have great pride in what they are delivering here as the gardens are beautifully kept and the house itself is absolutely splendid. The property built by the Longfield family in 1720 is Georgian, with ornate Italian-designed ceilings, inlaid mahogany doors, newly refurbished cellars and an equally impressive full-height staircase. To the right of the main facade you'll find an authentic Victorian conservatory of curved ironwork. The family tells us that it was added in 1866 by Richard Turner, the greatest ironmaster and designer of glasshouses of the Victorian era. William mentioned earlier is a descendant of the original owner Donough O'Callaghan who fought alongside the Catholics after the collapse of the 1641 Rebellion. This historical connection is very clearly seen throughout with family heirlooms, and period furniture. Longueville has 20 sumptuous country house style bedrooms all ensuite with direct dial telephone, TV and radios. The Presidents' Restaurant is at the heart of

Longueville, and the menu comes straight from the estate. William O Callaghan from my experience is one of Ireland's most gifted chefs and it's a pleasure to see a truly original talent at work. He sources produce such as fresh salmon in season, the famous Longueville lamb, and all the fruit and vegetables from the nearby farm, gardens and markets. These are expertly prepared by a dedicated team of staff and it's heartening to see Irish customer service winning again. An extensive wine list of old and new world wines is also on offer and the Presidents Restaurant is open nightly from Wednesday to Sunday for residents and visitors. Aisling and William like their events and are the most genial party hosts. They encourage activities all year and highlights include a dawn chorus in May, mushroom hunts in October, concerts and evening suppers in summer and game and festive theme dinners in winter and Christmas. The Blackwater River which runs through the estate offers salmon and brown trout fishing to guests and horse lovers will find the Duhallow Hunt and the Cork racecourse at Mallow, another reason to visit. Longueville House is an ideal base for touring the south-west and nearby Mallow is a busy market town. The remains of Mallow Castle date from the 12th century while the ruins of St Anne's church are from the late 13th century. The Nano Nagle Centre between Mallow and Fermoy at Ballygriffin is a wildlife sanctuary. My favourite North Cork town Millstreet, at the foot of the Claragh mountains, is an area rich in archaeological heritage. The Museum has a tourist information centre and nearby is Millstreet Country Park with 500 acres of amenities that include an arboretum, gardens, lakes, waterfalls, walks, a picnic area, a visitor centre and a restaurant and shop. Also one of Ireland's largest show jumping event venues at Millstreet is less than 45 minutes



■ Longueville House conservatory.



■ Longueville House exterior.



■ Living room at Longueville House.



Home and Away Extra

away. Longueville House is a member of Ireland's Blue Book a stunning collection of Irish Country House Hotels, Manor Houses, Castles and Restaurants. Located throughout the island of Ireland these charming and stylish hideaways are the perfect choice for those who like style, history and the most amazing home produced culinary experiences, Longueville House is my favourite so far and I cant wait to return! www.irelands-blue-book.ie/longueville or www.longueville-house.ie

Weekly Best Buy

According to scientists, the Icelandic volcano responsible for weeks of travel chaos across much of Western Europe is no longer active. Travellers should now feel confident that they their travel arrangements will more than likely not be disrupted. With this in mind there are many great holiday offers now in the mix to get people flying again. Gohop.ie have rounded up a number of post-volcano deals including the Algarve on a 7 night 4* hotel package from €699 B&B pps including flights, and Cuba with a 7 nights package from €1199. This package price includes:

Return flights including taxes from Dublin to Havana via Paris, 7 nights accommodation on all-inclusive basis at 4* Sandals resort, Transfers and a free Cuban visa. www.gohop.ie

Von Essen hotel's historic stately home, Cliveden House has been famous for various things over the centuries, but the event that in modern times the House is probably best remembered for, is the start of the greatest political and sexual scandal of the last century - The Profumo Affair. It was at Cliveden, on the evening of 8th July 1961, that Jack Profumo, then Minister for War in Harold Macmillan's Government, met the 19 year old, good time girl, Christine Keeler and to celebrate the 49th anniversary, Cliveden is offering a package with a talk and tour focusing on the scandal led by Rupert Gavin, a world expert on the subject. The day promises to provide a fascinating insight into the Scandal, and its consequences. Cliveden's Profumo Affair package is on offer now

from £497.50 pps. For further information or to book please contact the Reservations team on 00441628 668561 or info@clivedenhouse.co.uk. A new guide helps holidaymakers all over the world find the nearest English speaking church. The Directory of English Speaking Churches abroad is a handy booklet that will help travelers track down an Anglican church in the Gambia, a Baptist church in Bangkok or a Catholic church in Serbia. Get the guides through the Intercontinental Church Society, an international agency of the Church of England costing €6 www.ics-uk.org

Robert Walshe is a freelance contributor / broadcaster and is guest travel writer for River Media newspaper titles across the island of Ireland



Pet's Corner... with Kathleen Murray

Excitement in the animal world

EXCITEMENT is a normal reaction to certain events or happenings. For humans it is associated with happy times Outings, Birthdays, Surprises and things like that cause excitement. In the animal world there is excitement also. When an owner returns from shopping a dog or cat can get very excited.

They anticipate treats or excited greetings. Owners are also excited to see them, so there is petting and fun going on. If it can be started and stopped then everything is OK but when the excitement goes into over-excitement then things can get out of control. This is not good. Control is important in the ani-

mal world. It is how they keep things in order so that everything runs smoothly. Over-excited dogs jump up, often scratching your legs with their nails. If they are not taught that this is wrong then people get hurt and annoyed. An over-excited dog jumping up on a young child or an elderly person is a very dangerous thing.

They can knock people over and seriously hurt them if they fall the wrong way, or on concrete. Sometimes owners don't realise that they are not the only people that their dog will encounter in their lifetime. Dogs need to learn how to greet people properly. This needs to be practised with

excitable dogs. There is nothing more irritating to most people than a dog landing on them the second they come in the door or gate. If the owner wants the dog to jump on them then ask the dog to jump up otherwise make it wait until it is asked, or else sit down to greet the dog so it doesn't feel the urge to jump. When some owners decide to go for a walk the dog gets very excited. It often runs to get the lead and then can barely stay still until it is put on.

The owner is then dragged to the door and off down the road. This is mayhem and there is no need for it. This is not the fault of the dog. The owner has taught

the dog to do this by not correcting it for getting out of control.

When a few dogs get together and one of them gets excited, because the owner is petting it or putting on it's lead, then the others will try to take control and often a fight breaks out because the owner allowed the first dog to get too excited in the first place, and the owner may have caused the fight because the owner probably said "Walkies" or something similar to the dog, which caused the dog to get wound up. Always check back to the source of the trouble to see who is really to blame for excitable behaviour in animals, before you take action

