

**NEWS  
IN BRIEF**

**COP CLAMP  
ON DRUNKS**

PLAIN clothes gardai are to spearhead a campaign aimed at clamping down on drunkenness in pubs across north Cork. Undercover officers will target pubs and nightclubs in a bid to reduce alcohol fuelled violence and public order offences.

The Gardai will specifically be on the lookout for bar staff selling drink to customers who are already drunk.

**DUNG ROW  
CONTINUES**

KILLARNEY jarveys must respect other users of the National Park, Environment Minister John Gormley has insisted. The jarveys lifted their picket during a recent visit by German tour operators but the dispute with the National Parks and Wildlife Service goes on. The NPWS wants the jarveys to try out dung catching devices.

**EXCLUSIVE TOP GEAR SKIDS TO**

**ALLICENCE**

**Most people would be sick with envy as our girl got to drive James Bond's car but, she was just plain sick...**

**DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION:** It's queasy does it as our girl Geraldine gets ready to take to the track



BY GERALDINE COMISKEY

ANY girl would be thrilled to go for a ride in James Bond's car.

But when yours truly got to live the dream, it was 0-0-urgh!

While your average Bond Girl might be expected to throw some karate moves, I just threw...up.

It seemed the (Sunday) World Was Not Enough to get Mr Bond to slow down. But a threat to puke all over the leather cockpit of his beautiful Aston Martin DB9 earned me a quick exit by the roadside.

Luckily for me, Q hadn't fitted an ejector seat.

There was only one way to save my dignity - hijack the car and drive it myself.

And when I got behind the wheel of the iconic car, I was in 0-0-Heaven.

OK, so there was no sign of Daniel Craig. But there was no shortage of hunks Q-ing up to step into his shoes and give me the ride of my life at they put their supercars through their paces on the Mondello racetrack this week.

They were warming the cars for the Top Gear Live Show at the RDS this week-end - when the cars will be the stars.

The Aston Martin, Porsche 911, Honda S-2000 and a hand-made Westfield will be wowing the crowds alongside Ferraris, Lamborghinis, Maseratis and exotic machines straight out of Q's garage.

**Fastest**

Among the 100 machines on display are the original Batmobile and the world's fastest car, the \$1.2 million (one point two million dollars) SSC Ultimate Aero TT, whose top-speed is 257 mph and which can go from 0-60 mph in 2.7 seconds.

Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May are presenting the show, which is based on the world's most popular TV series of all time.

And the mysterious Stig with his team of stunt-drivers is thrilling the punters with car-azy antics.

The event, which is being held in Dublin for the second year, is expected to attract a crowd of 350,000, organiser Richie Molloy told the Sunday World.

Mondello Park is providing a back-up team of drivers and mechanics, as well as a simulator in which punters can race each other around a virtual track - and a military tank.

But what makes Top Gear Live a



**STIRRED:** Geraldine does her very best with the classy Aston Martin

total petrol-head's fantasy is the fact that, for the first time ever, ordinary punters will get a chance to drive some of these amazing cars around town in a Dream Rides competition. Take your pick from a Ferrari, Dodge Viper or some of the cars I tried out this week.

The traffic-jammed streets of Ballsbridge and their speed-cameras might be a bit of a challenge when you have an eight-litre monster straining at the leash, so I was glad I got to do it on the track at Mondello.

I have to admit that I'm a bit of a petrol-head myself - but more in the gas sense. I love fast cars - but performance takes a back seat to looks.

Not this time. As I gently pressed the accelerator of the Porsche 911 and felt it take off like a rocket, I could see why this baby was worth €130,000.

Never mind Top Gear - I was still only in second gear as I took the hairpin bends at speed.

The tiny gearstick and extra-sensitive pedals made the car as skittish

as a thoroughbred horse. With the engine behind my head, it was like being strapped into a rocket.

Not only was this the ultimate fantasy car - it had been souped up. Its owner, Bob Campion, who just happens to be Ireland's champion Porsche driver, had already taken me for a few nerve-wracking laps of the Mondello circuit.

**Dizzy**

When I finally took the wheel, I was still dizzy in more ways than one.

But my passenger, Mondello Park Operations Manager Philip Lawless, brought me back down to earth.

As I tore around a series of hairpin bends, shifting down to third for the extra-hairy ones, Philip laughed: "You're a safe driver, you're definitely not a speeder." I asked him to tell that to my insurance company.

Next up was a proper spin in the Aston Martin. After my embarrassing barfing incident, it was time to tame the beast.

With the traction-control turned off, it slid all over the track like the playful creature it was designed to be. With the top down and the wind in my hair, I felt like a Bond Girl at last. The car was worth every cent of its €110 grand price-tag.

The luxurious leather seats added a touch of glamour to the experience and I wasn't surprised to learn that its owner is a jeweller, Seamus Fahy of

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