

**ANOTHER SUNDAY WORLD EXCLUSIVE**



**NAPPY DAYS:** Geraldine with Michael Sweetman



**NOSE COUNTRY FOR NICE GALS:** Geraldine gets a whiff of dung

# WELL DUNG

By **GERALDINE COMISKEY**

IT was a filthy idea which nearly sent tourism down the toilet in one of the country's leading holiday resorts.

Killarney's jarveys were locked out of the National Park when they refused to put nappies on their horses.

They created a stink last summer when Office of Public Works honchos told them they would have to comply with new EU regulations for horse-drawn carts.

It left a bad smell which lasted until March, when both sides agreed a compromise.

Now the jarveys say their horses are happy in their nappies.

But the situation is not perfect, the jarveys' spokesman Michael Sweetman told the Sunday World last week.

**Resting**

"The horses' tails are resting in the nappies and they're covered in poo. We have to wash them a few times a day. It looks terrible."

His horse Nancy's beautiful tail had just been washed in washing-up liquid when I met her - but moments later it was covered in stinky dung as she did a massive plop.

Okay, so it wasn't the smelliest in the world but it did attract a lot of flies to poor Nancy's nappy. And as she swatted them with her tail some of the poo went flying out at the sides.

It was a total nightmare for Michael, who had to clean her all over again.

Michael says the dung-catcher idea was a load of horse manure

## Killarney jarveys back in business after bureaucratic war of nappies



**HORSING AROUND:** Geraldine and Michael Sweetman go for a ride

right from the start. "John Gormley suggested we cut the horses' tails short - but the horses need their tails to swat flies. Sometimes we plait them but it's not the same as having a bit swishy tail to keep the flies off."

The jarveys had initially objected to the nappies because they would bang against the horses' hind legs. But they found a different design which is worn just under the tail. "It gets dirty but at least it's not stressful for the horses," Michael explained.

The OPW had pointed out that horses on the Continent have been wearing dung-catchers for years.

But Michael said Irish jarveys' horses are different. "Horses in the likes of Budapest live in stables and they eat dry hay. Their dung is little hard pellets.

"Our horses are fed on grass and they're more like cows. They eat oats too like all horses. But their diet is mostly fresh grass, which is moist and very good for them. So they do a lot of poo," he said.

And I believed him when he let me have a peek inside his horse Nancy's nappy. This horse was hot to trot in more ways than one.

"Nancy does a plop every 15 minutes," Michael said. "I counted my horse's poops one day and 18 times the horse dunged in one day. Two dungs is one stone."

Six stones of poo is normal for a healthy animal that weighs nearly a tonne, Michael points out.

The dung, which used to litter the paths of Killarney's National Park, was scooped up by the jarveys themselves, the park's cleaners and local gardeners who used

it as fertiliser on their rose-bushes.

"The only difference now is that the OPW are the only ones picking it up - and they collect it directly from us. They take it away and store it in big containers, and leave it to decompose for 12 months. Then anyone who wants it for their garden can ask for it," Michael explained.

"But they still have to clean up the park because not all the poo lands in the nappies," he added.

Michael says the horse's welfare is his main priority. "I have two working horses - they take turns. The other one is out in a paddock eating loads of grass today - and making loads of poo for tomorrow!"

**Hunter**

He also has a hunter and spends his days off either hunting or showjumping.

Nancy was clearly born to be a jarvey's horse too. As we trotted through the park, she stopped at the tearooms.

Michael hasn't trained her to stop at pubs like Mickieen's horse in The Quiet Man. But that might soon become part of the trip, with Irish tourists now making up the bulk of his business as more of us have holidays at home.

The price of a jaunt is nothing to sniff at - four people can ride at just €40 a plop.

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DEBTS: Pam Anderson

## PAMMY SET FOR PARKLIFE

By **MIKE PARKER**

SEX bomb Pamela Anderson could be forced to live with her two young sons in a trailer park for at least a year after plunging into massive debt.

The former Baywatch babe (43) moved into the mobile home following a financial bust-up with builders renovating her ocean-front mansion in Malibu's gated Colony estate.

**Stopped**

They claim she owes them tens of thousands of dollars for work already done and have stopped until the dispute is settled, leaving the luxury residence uninhabitable.

Pam is also battling the IRS, America's federal tax collection agency, over a monster bill of more than a million dollars she allegedly owes.

Yesterday she said of the new abode she shares with Brandon, 13, and Dylan, 11: "We're still in Malibu, just down the road from our home, and trailer park life kind of grows on you."

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