

WORLD WOMAN

jingle tills

Our stores feel the pinch as shoppers stay away



CHANGES: A tough economic year has



forced Dublin's shoppers to stop splashing the cash



"We have not bought much on today's trip. I feel guilty about spending a lot these days."
- Laura Heslin

"I work part-time as a hotel receptionist but it's not enough to feed my shopping habit."
- Lisa Dardis

but that's all," Jenny adds. Glamorous grannies Eileen Sheppard and Maureen Watson used to love their girly shopping sprees. "We're neighbours and we do everything together. We even went to hospital together," says Maureen, who has cancer and struggles to pay medical bills. "Because my husband works, I can't get a medical card so I'm spending €90 a month on prescriptions and I have to visit my GP 15 times a year at €60 a shot. "Now I can't afford to go round the shops buying clothes." Eileen says she's had to cut down, too. "The two of us like to go for a treat together in a café. That's our luxury now. Apart from that we can't

STRUGGLE: Retailers take the hit as customers stay away afford to socialise or even go for holidays." "We do a lot of window-shopping," Maureen adds. "That's what we're doing today. Just browsing." Kildare girls Laura Heslin and her friend Lisa Dardis, both 19, were in Dublin for a funeral when they decided to pop into The Square for a bit of shopping. "We haven't bought much yet," says Laura as she hides a bag from a well-known boutique. "I feel

guilty about spending a lot these days!" Both arts students at Maynooth, they have very little cash to spare. "I work part-time as a hotel receptionist but it's not enough to feed my shopping habit," Lisa admits. "I spent €70 on a pair of shoes and I'm still feeling guilty about it. It's my biggest extravagance." Laura, who works in a bar part-time, confesses her debts dress cost €250. "It was worth it though

because it was perfect." Romantic Paul Clarke admits he's still a big spender when it comes to dates. "I always pay. Well, no girl likes a guy who can't take her out. "But it's just pubs at the moment. A night out clubbing in Dublin costs at least €200," he says. Shopaholic schoolgirl Rachel O'Brien (16), was on a spree with her mum and little brother Peter (3). "He's spoilt", she admits as Peter proudly shows me his brand new Power Ranger doll. Rachel, who also works part-time as a hairdresser, also treats herself. "I like buying clothes. I'm glad I'm leaving school soon because I'll be working full-time and earning more - I love shopping!"



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- Rachel O'Brien (with Peter)

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