

FIVE THINGS to do this week...

1 Enjoy some good food, great company and festive cheer. 'Tis the season and all around people are smiling and excited for 2012. Whatever you do, and wherever you go, be sure to have some fun with family and friends. Whether it is cuddling up with your other half, visiting your nana and granda or feeding your extended family – Christmas and New Year is all about the company you keep.



2 Treat yourself to a nice meal in your favourite restaurant. After all of the Christmas cooking pressure it is a good week to relax and head out to be wine and dined. Lots of restaurants are offering great value deals over Christmas and the New Year so you don't have to spend a fortune to have a good time.

3 Take to your sofa on New Year's Eve and enjoy a whole host of sporting events – there is a full schedule of Barclays Premiership fixtures as well as plenty of horse racing action to look forward to – all live on TV. Add to that the two live Blue Stars games in Thomas Davis GAA Club on New Year's Day and there are plenty of sporting contests to look forward to.

4 Check out Jedward and the Beanstalk at the Olympia Theatre. Panto are the ultimate Christmas indulgence and this one is sure to put a smile on the faces of adults and kids alike. As well as the Lucan twins, there is plenty of local talent in the show with actors and dances from across west Dublin performing. The show runs until January 8.

5 Blow the Christmas cobwebs away and get out for a game of astro football with your friends. It is a great way to catch up over Christmas and get some much-needed exercise done during the festive period. A brisk walk, game of tennis or a puck-about with the hurl will do the same job.

Turbo charged to play

CLONDALKIN band Mitzi Turbo is starting the new year touring early with gigs already lined up for January. The uncompromising hard-rock band is finally

By Lynda O'Donoghue
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GOING PLACES: Mitzi Turbo, from Clondalkin, have a growing fan base and after recording their first demo, just over a year ago, they are now very confident that the coming year has a lot to offer

Poets corner

Mae Newman lives in Rathfarnham and has won numerous national and international awards for her writing. Her debut collection of poetry 'Mist Shrouds the Morning' was published by Lapwing last year. A member of St Muirín's writing group and Platform One, she has featured in many anthologies about life in Tallaght and Rathfarnham where she has lived for the last 40 years.

Silent Cry by Mae Newman

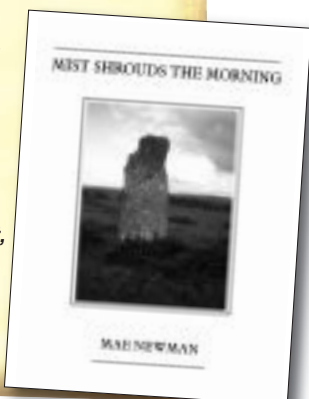
*Slap bang in the middle of the road he stood,
stretched to his full height, in a stately pose,
his dead lover at his feet.*

*Heartbroken, demented, not knowing which way to turn,
you could sense the anger, despair, heartache,
looking at each car, pleading, help me
bring her back to life.*

*And the next thought, if this is human,
I don't want to know.*

*You could taste the venom he was spitting,
the grief he was feeling.*

*Not knowing what to do,
I thought of stopping, maybe help,
then I was too far gone to go back.
How could I have known a bird, a pheasant,
could love and suffer like a man.*



Celebrate New Year's Eve

at Bewley's Hotel Newlands Cross

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- Accommodation
- Full Irish Breakfast
- Dinner with drinks reception
- Live Music in the Bar to ring in the New Year
- Complimentary 3pm check out

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