

DEATHS

BUTLER (nee Drohan) (Killure Bridge Nursing Home, Waterford, formerly of Rossiere Harbour, Co. Wexford) — July 16, 2011, wife of the late Tom Butler, will be sadly missed by her loving family, sister Carmel, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, granddaughters, great-grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends. R.I.P. Reposing at Killure Bridge Nursing Home today (Sunday) evening from 5.30 o'clock. Burial Mass tomorrow (Monday) at 12 o'clock in St. Patrick's Church, Rossiere Harbour. Funeral immediately afterwards to St. Adans Cemetery, Kiltane.

COSTELLO, Mary (1 Wellpark, Monongah, Galway) — July 15, 2011 (peacefully) at Merinark Hospital, deeply regretted by her loving family, sisters-in-law, Teresa, brothers Paddy, Arthur, Frank and John, nephews, grandnephews, relatives and friends. R.I.P. Reposing at Irwin's Funeral Home, Bothar Irwin from 5 o'clock this (Sunday) evening. Removal at 7 o'clock to St. Patrick's Church. Mass tomorrow (Monday) at 12 o'clock. Burial afterwards to the new cemetery, Bohernmore.

COUGHLAN (nee Kennedy), (Ashtown, Dublin 15 and formerly of Laurel Lodge, Castleknock and Barna, Faliasgreen, Co. Limerick) — July 15, 2011, (suddenly) with dignity and in the loving care of his staff at the Mid Western Regional Hospital, Limerick. Burial at 11 o'clock in the new cemetery, Bohernmore. "Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dílis"

DEATHS

D'Arcy, (nee McDonough), (Magheramore, Oughterard, Co. Galway) — July 15, 2011, Margaret, (peacefully) at U.C.P.S. in her 95th year relict of Martin and infant son Martin; deeply regretted by her loving family, sons Paddy, John, Tony, Thomas and Frank, daughter Catherine, daughters-in-law, sons-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives, neighbours and friends. R.I.P. Reposing this (Sunday) evening at 7 o'clock in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Cullinstown, Mass tomorrow (Monday) at 12 o'clock. Burial afterwards in Kilmunin Cemetery.

DALY (nee Byrne), Catherine (Kitty), (Pettswood Manor, Mullingar and late of Ballinacorney, Mullingar) — July 15, 2011, (peacefully) at the Regional Hospital, Mullingar. R.I.P. Reposing at 7 o'clock in the Church of the Holy Spirit, Mullingar. Burial tomorrow (Monday) at 12 o'clock. Mass to the Rock Cemetery.

DORAN (nee McDonnell), (5 Ballycaseyemore Hill, Shannon, Co. Clare and late of Ballycastle, Co. Mayo) — July 14, 2011, (peacefully) at Letterkenny General Hospital, Letterkenny. R.I.P. Reposing at 7 o'clock in the Church of Our Lady Help of Christians, Navan Road tomorrow (Monday) evening arriving at 5.30 o'clock. Burial on Tuesday after 10 o'clock. Mass to Mulhuddart Cemetery. "Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dílis"

DEATHS

FANNING, (Clontarf) — July 16, 2011 (peacefully) at St. Francis Hospice, Dermot, dearly beloved husband of Miriam and devoted father of Eoin; very sadly missed by his loving wife and son, also sadly missed by his loving mother Máirín, sisters Helen and Mary, brothers Hugh and Brendan, mother-in-law, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, uncle, aunts, nieces, nephews, relatives, neighbours and friends. Removal on Tuesday morning to The Church of St. John The Baptist, Clontarf Road to arrive for Funeral Mass at 11.30 o'clock, followed immediately afterwards by Burial in St. Fintan's Cemetery, Sutton. Family flowers only with donations in lieu to St. Francis Hospice, Raheny. "May he rest in peace."

FARRELLY (nee Conway) Josephine (Jo) (Clontarf, Dublin and late of Bangor-Ennis, Co. Mayo) — July 16, 2011, (peacefully) in the Mater Hospital, beloved wife of the late Jack Farrelly; sadly missed by her sons John, Pádraig, Matt and Hughie, stepdaughter Collette, daughters-in-law Siobhan, Dara and Martina, grandchildren, Matthew, Rachel, Leo, Sophie, Kate, James and Tom, sister-in-law, nieces, nephews and friends. R.I.P. Removal from Stafford's Funeral Home, North Strand tomorrow (Monday) evening to St. Gabriel's Church, Dollymount arriving at 5.30 o'clock. Burial on Tuesday after 11 o'clock. Mass to Old Balgriffin Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to St. Francis Hospice, Raheny. "Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dílis"

FORDE, (Ashford, Ballagh, Co. Limerick) — July 16, 2011, in the loving care of the Bluebell Unit at St. Ita's Community Hospital, Jerry (retired principal teacher, Rathenagh National School), only son of the late Tom and Ita Forde; deeply regretted by his sister, Bridgid (Bradley) and family, cousins, relatives and friends. R.I.P. Reposing at Sexton's Funeral Home, Broadford, this (Sunday) evening from 6 o'clock, with removal at 8 o'clock to Ashford Church. Requiem Mass tomorrow (Monday) at 12.30 o'clock. Burial afterwards to Killeedy Cemetery.

DEATHS

GAFFNEY, (late of Puncestown, Co. Kildare) — July 16, 2011, Joseph (Joe), (peacefully) at home, deeply regretted by his beloved wife Delta, daughter Nora, son Jody and partner Fiona, granddaughter Poppy, extended family and friends. Reposing at home (private) followed by Funeral after 11 o'clock Mass tomorrow (Monday) in The Church of the Immaculate Conception, Eadestown. Followed by Burial in Eadestown Cemetery. Donations if desired to St. Brigid's Hospice, The Curragh, Co. Kildare.

HEALY (nee Guinnane), (24 Maddens Terrace, Clarecastle, Co. Clare) — July 15, 2011 (peacefully) at the Mid Western Regional Hospital, Ennis, Anna; deeply regretted by her sons, daughters, brothers, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, nieces, relatives and friends. R.I.P. Reposing at Kennedy's Funeral Home, Ennis, this (Sunday) evening from 5 o'clock. Burial in the Church of the Holy Spirit, Clarecastle Church. Funeral Mass tomorrow (Monday) at 12 o'clock. Burial afterwards in Clarehill Cemetery.

HESSION, Fran — July 13, 2011 (suddenly) at home, beloved husband of Siobhán (nee O'Carroll) and adored father of Seanán, Sachin and Seimí, much loved son of Phyllis and Frank, son-in-law of Phyllis and Pádraig O'Carroll and brother of Claire, Dominic, Margaret, Peter and Jim; deeply missed by his large extended family and friends. Reposing at home today (Sunday) with removal tomorrow (Monday) to St. Columba's Church, Iona Road arriving at 10.50 o'clock. 11 o'clock. Funeral Mass.

HOUSTON, (Dunwiley, Stanlor, Co. Donegal) — July 15, 2011, Sean (John P.), (peacefully) surrounded by his family at Letterkenny General Hospital, Letterkenny. R.I.P. Reposing at home, deeply regretted by his loving wife Maureen (nee McGill), daughter Olga, sons Paul and John, granddaughters Ruby and Myrtil, son-in-law Digory, Pádraig's partner Patricia, sisters Mary, Kathleen, Josephine, Rosaleen and Brenda, brother Francis, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, and friends. R.I.P. His remains are Reposing at the family home, Funeral tomorrow (Monday) after 11 o'clock. Requiem Mass in St. Mary's Church, Stanlor, Interment afterwards in Drumboe Cemetery. House private on morning of Funeral. Family time 11 o'clock (evening) to 1 o'clock (morning). Family flowers only (please), donations in lieu if desired to Oncology Services at Letterkenny General Hospital C/O any family member.

DEATHS

KEOGH, (Big Jim), (Church Terrace, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow) — July 16, 2011, James, (peacefully) at home in the loving care of his family, loving husband of the late Rose, loving father, grandfather and brother. Removal from his residence today (Sunday) at 5 o'clock. Burial at St. Nicholas of Myra Church, Dunlavin for 8 o'clock. Funeral Mass tomorrow (Monday) at 11 o'clock with burial afterwards in Dunlavin Cemetery.

LALLY (Mail Mews, Rock Square, Castlebar, Co. Mayo and formerly of Ciar Aobhinn, Claremorris and Station Road, Castlebar, Co. Mayo) — July 15, 2011 (peacefully) at the Beaumont Hospital, Dublin, J.J.; very deeply regretted by his children Jack, Robert, Jason and Erin, and their mother Nicola and his daughter Niamh (Lawrence, U.S.A.). Mass tomorrow (Monday) at 12 o'clock. Burial at 12 o'clock for Funeral Mass at 1 o'clock in the Church of the Holy Rosary, Castlebar. Burial afterwards in the new cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the Beaumont Hospital, Dublin or Co Moran's Funeral Directors, Castlebar on 0949021231.

LENNON, (Ardpatrick, Co. Limerick and formerly of Knock, Co. Mayo), Seán (ex-principal Ardpatrick) and his wife Evelyn and the late Elizabeth Harper; survived by his sons Seán and Tony, daughter Pauline, step-children Billy and Geraldine, daughters-in-law Bernadette and Mandy, grandchildren, step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren, brother Mel, sisters Bridget, Kathleen and Margaret, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. R.I.P. Reposing in Our Lady's Manor Nursing Home Chapel from 7 o'clock this (Sunday) evening with Prayers at 8 o'clock followed by Removal to St. Patrick's Church, Ardpatrick. Requiem Mass tomorrow (Monday) at 12 o'clock. Burial afterwards in Kiltinan Cemetery. Donations to Mildred Hospice please in lieu of flowers. "Ar dheis Dé go raibh a nam dílis"

DEATHS

NUGENT, (Cherryrourt, Clonmel) — July 15, 2011 (peacefully) in the loving care of Rathkeeran Nursing Home, Paddy, sister-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives, friends, R.I.P. Reposing at O'Connell's Funeral Home, Kicham Street, Clonmel. Removal at 11.15 o'clock tomorrow (Monday) morning to St. Mary's Church, Irishtown for Requiem Mass at 12 o'clock. Burial immediately afterwards in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

O'CONNOR (Marian Avenue, Edgeworthstown, Co. Longford) — July 15, 2011, (peacefully) at home, deeply regretted by his children John (late caretaker of Edgeworthstown Man); deeply regretted by his wife, daughter Peggy, daughter Geraldine, son U.S.A.). Mass tomorrow (Monday) at 12 o'clock. Burial at 12 o'clock for Funeral Mass at 1 o'clock in the Church of the Holy Rosary, Castlebar. Burial afterwards in the new cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the Beaumont Hospital, Dublin or Co Moran's Funeral Directors, Castlebar on 0949021231.

O'NEILL, (Aughnagereagh, Old Road, Ardagh, Co. Longford) — July 15, 2011 (peacefully) at home in his 75th year, John (Johnnie), beloved husband of Evelyn and the late Elizabeth Harper; survived by his sons Seán and Tony, daughter Pauline, step-children Billy and Geraldine, daughters-in-law Bernadette and Mandy, grandchildren, step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren, brother Mel, sisters Bridget, Kathleen and Margaret, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. R.I.P. Reposing in Our Lady's Manor Nursing Home Chapel from 7 o'clock this (Sunday) evening with Prayers at 8 o'clock followed by Removal to St. Patrick's Church, Ardpatrick. Requiem Mass tomorrow (Monday) at 12 o'clock. Burial afterwards in Kiltinan Cemetery. Donations to Mildred Hospice please in lieu of flowers. "Ar dheis Dé go raibh a nam dílis"

DEATHS

O'REILLY (nee Byrne), (Dublin) — July 16, 2011 (peacefully) in her 101st year, in the loving tender care of the staff at St. Mary's Nursing Home Pembroke Park, Christine (Christie), (Rathfriland and late of Rathland Road), beloved wife of the late Thomas (Tucker) O'Reilly; sadly missed by her loving daughters, sons-in-law Willie, Raj and Terry, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives and many friends, especially Birdie; Reposing at home. Funeral tomorrow (Monday) after 12 o'clock. Mass in Church of St. Paul of the Cross, Mount Argus, Co. Moun. Jerome Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to St. Mary's Nursing Home, Pembroke Park. Enquiries to Brian McElroy Funeral Directors, Crumlin Village. Tel 4559101

REID, (nee Mahony) Jenny (Kiltoran) — July 15, 2011 (suddenly) at St. Luke's Hospital, Mullingar. R.I.P. she will be sadly missed by her loving sons Sean, Tomás, and brother Dick, sisters Kathleen, Livvy, Bridget and Maureen, daughter-in-law Anne, son-in-law Peter, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, relatives and friends. Rest in Peace. Reposing at Hehins Funeral Home with Funeral Prayers this (Sunday) evening at 6.30 o'clock followed by Removal to St. Martin's Church, Ballyhale at 12 o'clock. Burial tomorrow (Monday) after 12 o'clock. Requiem Mass to the adjoining Cemetery.

REYNOLDS, (Ballinacorr, Bay Lodge, Lunnagh, Carrigrohane, Co. Galway and formerly of Blessington, Co. Wicklow) — July 15, 2011 (peacefully) at home, deeply regretted by his loving wife Kathleen, daughter Tanya, sons Mark, Paul and Karl, grandchildren, son-in-law John, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. R.I.P. Reposing at home from 9 o'clock this (Sunday) evening from 4 o'clock. Burial tomorrow (Monday) at 12 o'clock. Burial afterwards in the adjoining cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Longford Hospice Home Care. House private please.

DEATHS

ROCHE, (nee Dempsey), (Corona, Ballina, Co. Mayo) — July 16, 2011 (peacefully) at home surrounded by her loving family, aged 96 years, Margaret, beloved wife of the late Patrick (Chris), (Rathfriland and late of Rathland Road), beloved wife of the late Thomas (Tucker) O'Reilly; sadly missed by her loving daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives, neighbours and friends. May she rest in peace. Reposing at McGowan's Funeral Home, Ballina this (Sunday) evening from 6 o'clock. Burial at 8 o'clock in St. Muredach's Cathedral, Ballina. Requiem Mass tomorrow (Monday) morning at 11 o'clock. Burial afterwards to Louisa Cemetery, Ballina.

SWEETMAN — July 15, 2011, (Thornfield, Lusk and formerly of Fern Lodge, Noel, (peacefully) at home, surrounded by his family, predeceased by his son Anthony and his wife Margaret, Barrie and Kieran; he will be sadly missed by his loving family, his wife, sons, daughters, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, his 12 grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, nephews, relatives and a large circle of friends. May he rest in peace. Reposing at his residence today (Sunday) evening from 6 o'clock. Removal tomorrow (Monday) to St. MacCullins Church, Lusk, arriving at 10 o'clock. Mass, Funeral immediately afterwards to the adjoining cemetery. All enquiries to Massey Brothers, Ph: 01 677 8800

TIERNEY, Elizabeth (Lil) (nee Brophy) (Portlaoise, Finglas East) — July 16, 2011, in her 95th year, (peacefully) after a short illness, the loving care of all the staff at Seanchara Community Unit, Glasnevin, Dublin, late of her family, the Brophy from Roskelton, Mayo. Burial at home, beloved wife of the late Thomas; sadly missed by her children Judith, Mary, Elizabeth, Graine and Martin, sister-in-law, brothers-in-law, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews, extended family and friends. May she rest in Peace. Removal tomorrow (Monday) morning to the Church of Our Mother of Divine Grace, Ballygall arriving at 10.45 o'clock. Burial at 11 o'clock, followed by Burial at St. Peter and Paul's Cemetery, Portlaoise. No flowers please, if desired donations to the Seanchara Community Unit, Glasnevin, Dublin 11.

Drama Along the silk road

Roisin Cross Silks is like an Aladdin's Cave of sumptuous fabrics in an array of colours, says **Lucinda O'Sullivan**

THERE is more than a touch of drama at Judith O'Sullivan's stunning atelier, Roisin Cross Silks. Not only has it supplied the silks for the magnificent costumes of Henry VIII, as played by Jonathan Rhys Myers, and the rest of the cast of *The Tudors*, but also for Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* recently at the Gate Theatre with American actress Stockard Channing as Lady Bracknell suitably garbed in magnificently heavily embroidered peacock silk. Resident McAleese also wore Roisin Cross Silks in the striking outfits designed for her by Deborah Veale on the occasion of Queen Elizabeth's recent visit to Ireland.

However, the drama at Judith's atelier is not only for state occasions and theatrical productions. Roisin Cross Silks has also supplied magnificent silks for the participants in many of those weddings and red carpet occasions you have read about through the years.

"It's like an Aladdin's cave," I exclaimed to Judith as we stood in her showroom, a high-ceilinged room in a Georgian building which also houses *Image* magazine, overlooking the Dun Laoghaire seafront. The elegant room was a perfect

backdrop for the 966 varieties of magnificent silks, chiffon, dupions, laces, organzas, silk velvets and brocades in glorious colours and patterns.

There is something reminiscent of the television series *The House of Elliott*, in which Edwardian ladies called on sisters Beatrice and Evangeline Elliott for their bespoke finery, for this is the type of personal service and attention to detail you get at Roisin Cross Silks from owner Judith O'Sullivan and designer and couturiere Anne Flavin, and all at a very attractive price. Silk is the ultimate natural fabric, created from threads spun from the cocoons of silkworms. It was once the prerogative of the aristocracy and uber-rich but is now totally accessible.

Judith O'Sullivan is a very highly organised nurse by profession whose involvement with the legendary Roisin Cross Silks began when, as a young girl, she used help out Mrs Cross, a friend of her mother's, looking after the business for her in her absence on buying trips to the Far East. "This was in the late Eighties, it was very simple then. I would pop over for three weeks, it was in Mrs Cross's house in Clonskeagh, there were no emails, it was mail

order, it was pleasantly chaotic. It was run from one sitting room, where there was a beautiful array of silks, but I suppose at that time the business would mainly have been very geared towards the bridal end. I absolutely loved it."

Judith left school and studied nursing followed by intensive care nursing so couldn't fill in at RCS but they were always in touch. "After about 15 years, I asked Roisin one day as to what colours were in vogue that year, where she was travelling to, and so on, and she said she was thinking of retiring and selling the business. I was very happy doing what I was doing in hospital life — and I like to think I bring a lot of that to here — but I couldn't help think too of what I could, and would love to, do with the business. I knew her silks were magnificent, the Roisin Cross Silks name was very strong. I loved the simplicity of a good product and good name. This was November 2006 and there wasn't any sign of a downturn. Up to that point, the business of RCS purely sold the fabrics and would recommend a number of top dress designers to suit people's requirements, but regarded Anne Flavin as one of the finest in the country."

Having taken over in late

2007 and relaunched the business in Dun Laoghaire, Judith realised that everyone coming in wanted to know where to go next with the fabric, so she asked Anne Flavin to move her workrooms in with her.

"Every year I brought an increasingly more beautiful collection of silks home. However, within six months of taking over RCS, the writing was on the wall re the recession so the business plan had to be changed radically. I was still just bringing in silks, I had increased the collection and the range, Anne was here, and it was a lovely integrated service which seemed to be working. Then quickly, maybe late 2008, I realised that teaching would be a natural evolution from just having a service and a product. Phone calls were coming in from people about patterns, asking could we teach them how to sew, so we introduced the dressmaking and sewing classes, including classes for transition year students and children, all of which are a huge success. The teaching is done by Sarah Foy, formerly of the Grafton Academy, and who also has her own design practice in Clontarf. She is just superb and gets the dynamics right with both adults and children, which is as important as the

teaching itself," said Judith.

"There is a huge demand as mothers who are now in their late 30s and 40s didn't have sewing classes in school and are anxious that their children should have the skills they missed out on — this I think applies to cooking. The classes are kept very small so each person gets huge attention and the silks and pattern are included in the price. You can also learn to pattern draft and handbead — all of the skills are taught — whatever you wish," Judith added.

Apart from the sewing classes, the silks and the in-house couturiere, Judith stocks Butterick, McCall and Vogue patterns, so you can also go in and browse the pattern books, which are changed four times a year, keeping up with the seasons and trends. Judith also visits the colleges and gives young designers a "little seminar" on how the silks are created so that they don't buy silks that are too expensive or unsuitable for what they are doing.

"It has been an awful lot of work but our organisational efforts have been paying off and another of the reasons that RCS is successful is that so many other dress designers are very much part of our world. I supply them all with

silks and the 40 designers who support us all received a sample pack holding 950 different silk swatches, all coded, so they can show these to their clients, and just order straight away from us from all over the country. It was a big job, I had 10 people sitting here making up sample packs, but this has also created more business for these designers as they can see how different fabrics work together. They in turn brief me as to the particular type of silks they need — say perhaps in Kildare, fabrics suitable for lots of race meetings. It is in their interest to guide me as to what to buy."

Another aspect of the RCS business is soft furnishings and it did the wonderful cushions and silks for Rasm Indian restaurant in Glaslume. As I departed, Judith was also departing on her buying trip to India two months early so the new collection will arrive this year in September.

Top Limerick-born designer Synan O'Mahony has recently arrived on site and is also operating from his studio at Roisin Cross Silks.

Judith's love of silk is a true affair of the heart, and it shows.

Roisin Cross Silks can be contacted on (01) 284-6282

Electric Picnic crowd will see Polly peaking

Polly Jean Harvey has just released an album that is being hailed as her masterpiece, writes **Barry Egan**

*You're not rid of me
I beg you my darling
Don't leave me, I'm hurting
Lick my legs, I'm on fire
Lick my legs of desire*



DORSET DIVA: Harvey has a truly unique lyrical style

THUS sings Polly Jean Harvey with a certain passion, I think you'll agree, on *Rid Of Me*. She was singing in 1993 about the agonising end of her first major relationship. There can't be too many female artists who sing with such Sylvia Plath skin-flaying pain and Emily Bronte candour about their turbulent romantic life (she allegedly had a nervous breakdown at around the release of *Rid Of Me* due to the pressure of making the album). But then there were never too many female artists like PJ Harvey to begin with.

In 2001, she was awarded the prestigious Mercury Prize for *Stories From The City, Stories From The Sea*, making her the first female winner of that award. In 1995, both *Rolling Stone* and *Spin* magazines named her their 'Artist of the Year' and the *New York Times* rated her *Is This Desire?* album its 'LP of the Year'.

Extra proof, if any were needed, of PJ's fabulousness is surely that she just released a new album, *Let England Shake*, around the theme of the Great War.

"Smile, smile, Bobby," she sings on *The Colour Of Earth* "With your lovely mouth/Pack up your troubles/Let's head out to the fountain of death."

A sombre anti-war record full of images of blood-soaked battlefields and dying soldiers is perhaps just what we need at this time.

The 41-year-old Dorset anti-diva was born on October 9, 1969 and grew up on a sheep farm, where she was brought up by her quarryman father and artist mother.

I love the story that she was the only young woman in a village of 600 people. In

the past she has said that as a child she often longed to be male.

That artistic side to PJ is evident on *Let England Shake* in its lyrical style: sketches of words, Francis Baconesque, with James Joyce and Harold Pinter thrown in. "I'm probably more influenced by filmmakers and painters than I am by songwriters or poets," she has said. "With songs, I almost see the images, see the action, and then all I have to do is describe it."

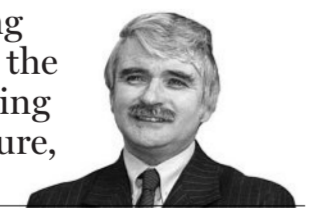
"She comes from an art-school ethos," Paul McGuinness, whose Principle Management have managed Harvey since 1993, told the *Observer* recently. "Had she not got a record deal, she would have gone on to do fine art at St Martin's. She did get a deal, but in a way she's been at art school ever since. She's extremely independent. She makes a plan, then methodically carries it out."

"Her lyrical perfectionism is the chief reason why *Let England Shake* has been widely hailed as her masterpiece," wrote the *Observer's* Dorian Lynskey in April, "quite an achievement for someone 20 years and eight albums into her career, at a stage when most songwriters are leaning on their back catalogue."

PJ Harvey headlines Electric Picnic, which runs from September 2 to 4, with Arcade Fire, Pulp, The Chemical Brothers, Interpol and Beirut

Enda's continuing uncertainty making things worse

Rather than restoring national confidence, the Government is creating more fear for the future, writes **Willie O'Dea**



THOUGH Enda Kenny's poor performance over the whole sorry Roscommon Hospital saga may have reawakened a lot of question over his leadership, it has also highlighted an entirely different aspect of this Government's approach.

Since it came to power in a blaze of confidence, the Government has been seen to falter. To make use of footballing

parlance, while it has not yet clearly dropped the ball, it has been fumbling it.

The net effect is that a Government which came into office to try to restore national confidence is succeeding only in stirring up national uncertainty.

It is hard to tell if this is a core strategy or unintended consequence — although either way the effect is much

the same. We now risk returning to where we were in 2008/9 — not having a clue where we are going or what is going to happen.

Uncertainty has been the hallmark of the approach and the defining characteristic of the results of most of the Government's major actions.

It describes its handling of the EU bailout interest reduction. We were told that it was the Government's absolute top priority on their taking office. Four months later, it is still saying how vital it still is — though it may take the fear of collapse in Spain and Italy to achieve it.

Either way, the benefit has already been halved as the rate reduction won't apply

to money already drawn down.

Uncertainty is the main outcome of the announced 0.6 per cent pension levy. This charge on capital has plunged an already tough pension market into great uncertainty, with increasing stories about ordinary people moving their savings offshore as they are uncertain that these savings will not be the next target.

All this uncertainty was exacerbated when Michael Noonan signalled that the correction in this year's budget will be €4bn, not €3.6bn.

This can only lead to increased savings and decreased consumer activity; the precise opposite of what we urgently need right now.

Last week's movements in Brussels only add to this uncertainty.

The whole Roscommon Hospital debacle has been marked by uncertainty. Enda is uncertain as to the difference between a personal commitment and a commitment made in person.

The health minister was uncertain as to what he knew in January or February, and is even more uncertain now as to what he would put in place of Roscommon Accident & Emergency. He seems even less certain as to what he will do in Malloy, Bantry, Navan, or St John's Limerick. No one in Government is certain as to why they are reversing specific pledges given only last

February. Is it on safety grounds or cost-cutting?

When it comes to the JLCs, the whole Government has created an unbelievable and unforgivable level of uncertainty for more than 200,000 low-paid workers. Rather than accepting the Duffy/Walsh Report and just implementing it, the Government allowed itself to be sidetracked by Enterprise Minister Richard Bruton's desire to portray himself as the employers' best friend forever.

The Government knew there was a high court case pending, it must have considered the possibility of losing it — yet when the decision is given, the minister is uncertain of what specific meas-

ures he can or will take to protect those covered by the JLCs. The net impact is that we will have to wait until after the summer to be certain what this uncertain minister will put in place permanently to protect low-paid workers.

There are many other areas where a variety of ministers have whipped up uncertainty: the future of the regional airports, the Croke Park agreement, Dail reform.

People need certainty: that is why they unceremoniously tufred out the last government.

Having some certainty about the future allows people to make plans. When they have certainty, the domestic

economy will be able to adjust and people will return to spending within whatever new limits they feel comfortable.

The Government must return after the summer with its nerve intact and its plans thought through. The country needs a road map for the next three to four years.

If not, then this continuing uncertainty that Enda Kenny and co are creating will compound the worsening effects of the recession and lead us to back beyond 2008 to the truly awful days of the Eighties.

No one wants that.

Willie O'Dea is a Fiamna Fail TD for Limerick City