

ENVIRONMENT

Supply cut to homes in water crisis

By JOHN FALLON

THOUSANDS of houses have been left without water for the past few days in the latest crisis with the supply to hit Galway.

Frustrated householders and businesses in the Moycullen and Barna areas, about 10km west of Galway city, have been without water since before the weekend.

Supply to these areas has been disrupted several times over the past five years, including the 2007 cryptosporidium crisis.

A Galway County Council spokesman said: "The council is liaising with Galway City Council to resolve the situation."

"The council has deployed water tankers to assist in the affected areas."

JUSTICE

Anne Frank tree grafts are thriving

By MIRROR REPORTER

THE tree which comforted Anne Frank while she was in hiding from the Nazis in Amsterdam lives on - despite being toppled in a storm last week.

Saplings from the original 150-year-old Chestnut, which succumbed to the ravages of age and disease, are thriving from London to Durham.

They were planted by children with the help of the Anne Frank Trust UK.

Now the charity has launched a campaign calling on people to plant a tree to honour all children who have been victims of humanity.

Executive director Gillian Walker said: "To make us stop and think as we go about our busy lives."

CRIME
5 suspects quizzed on tiger theft

By PAT FLANAGAN

FIVE suspected gang members were still being quizzed last week over last week's tiger kidnapping.

Armed gardai arrested the men in raids on houses in South and West Dublin on Saturday.

They were being held in connection with Friday's €300,000 theft at the AIB in Clondalkin.

Four men in their 20s were arrested in Killoec, Co Kildare, with a fifth man in his 30s detained in Blanchardstown.

The bank worker and his wife were targeted at their home in Templeogue, West Dublin, early on Friday.

The woman was taken from her home by gunman and her husband was told to carry out the theft.

BROTHERS TURN PROFIT WITH WOOD BUSINESS



The first one was exciting.. we hadn't a clue what we were at

RONAN
MCGARVEY

SUCCESS Ronan, 13, and 10-year-old Conor McGarvey. In their workshop in Loughanure, Co Donegal

Hand-crafted pens are internet hit

By PADDY CLANCY
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TWO young brothers have turned a hobby they learned only a year ago into a recession-busting industry.

Ronan McGarvey, 13, and his 10-year-old brother Conor make wooden pens in their garden shed and sell them in Ireland and the UK as prized gift sets.

Ronan, in second year at Dungloe Community College, Co Donegal, and Conor, in fifth class at his local national school in Loughanure, spend every evening producing the pens from a wide selection of wood.

Mum Marie said: "They were run off their feet during the summer holidays meeting demand."

"Now they are off at eight in the morning to school but they are in the shed each evening at their pens as soon as the homework is done."

Their only imports are the ballpoint-style nibs, which can be refilled with ink when empty, and the golden pocket clips.

The pens market from €15.95 to €17.95 in bog oak, yew, ash, elm, beech, olive, walnut and spalted beech.

They are on sale at a variety of craft centres in Ceredore

and Donegal town and the brothers are already building up new markets elsewhere in Ireland and in Britain.

Their website is also set to market them around the world with a pen made from olive wood from the Holy Land a highlight.

Bishop Dennis Brennan of Ferns has one in pride of place on his desk. His special order included pens made from olive wood imported from Jerusalem. His pen clip is designed as a cross.

The lads also market hand-made wooden bowls for potpourri. They developed an interest in the craft during a weekend away in August last year when they were

given an opportunity to make their own wooden pens on a lathe at a craft fair in Antrim.

They saved birthday money to buy the lathes and other tools and they keep an eye out for trees that have fallen or are being cut down.

Each pen, handmade in their Loughanure workshop, is unique - individually turned, polished, waxed and carefully examined to ensure a high quality.

Ronan said: "When we get the pens turned down so far on the lathe we examine them to be sure everything is looking OK."

"Now and again we will have a slip-up but if we make a mistake then we'll know next time not to."

"The first one we made was exciting as we really didn't have a clue what we were at but it worked out OK."

The brothers, sons of local postman and journalist Eoin McGarvey, use lined presentation boxes and a small card indicates the type of wood used and the process involved.

Visit www.donegalpens.com for more details.

The boys and their Donegal hand-made pens will feature tonight 7pm on RTE's Nationwide.

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GEARED UP Conor McGarvey turning pens in the workshop