

*West Cork*

A P L A C E A P A R T



# A PLACE APART West Cork



## AREA MAP

- |   |                                |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
|  | N71                            |  | Sheeps Head Way                      |
|  | R586                           |  | Fuchsia Approved Products & Services |
|  | R600 - West Cork Coastal Route |  | Blue Flag Beach                      |
|  | Sheeps Head Drive              |  | Rivers                               |
|  | Mizen Head Drive               |  | Lake                                 |
|  | Secondary Roads                |  | Airport                              |
|  | Tertiary Roads                 |   |                                      |





# Landscape

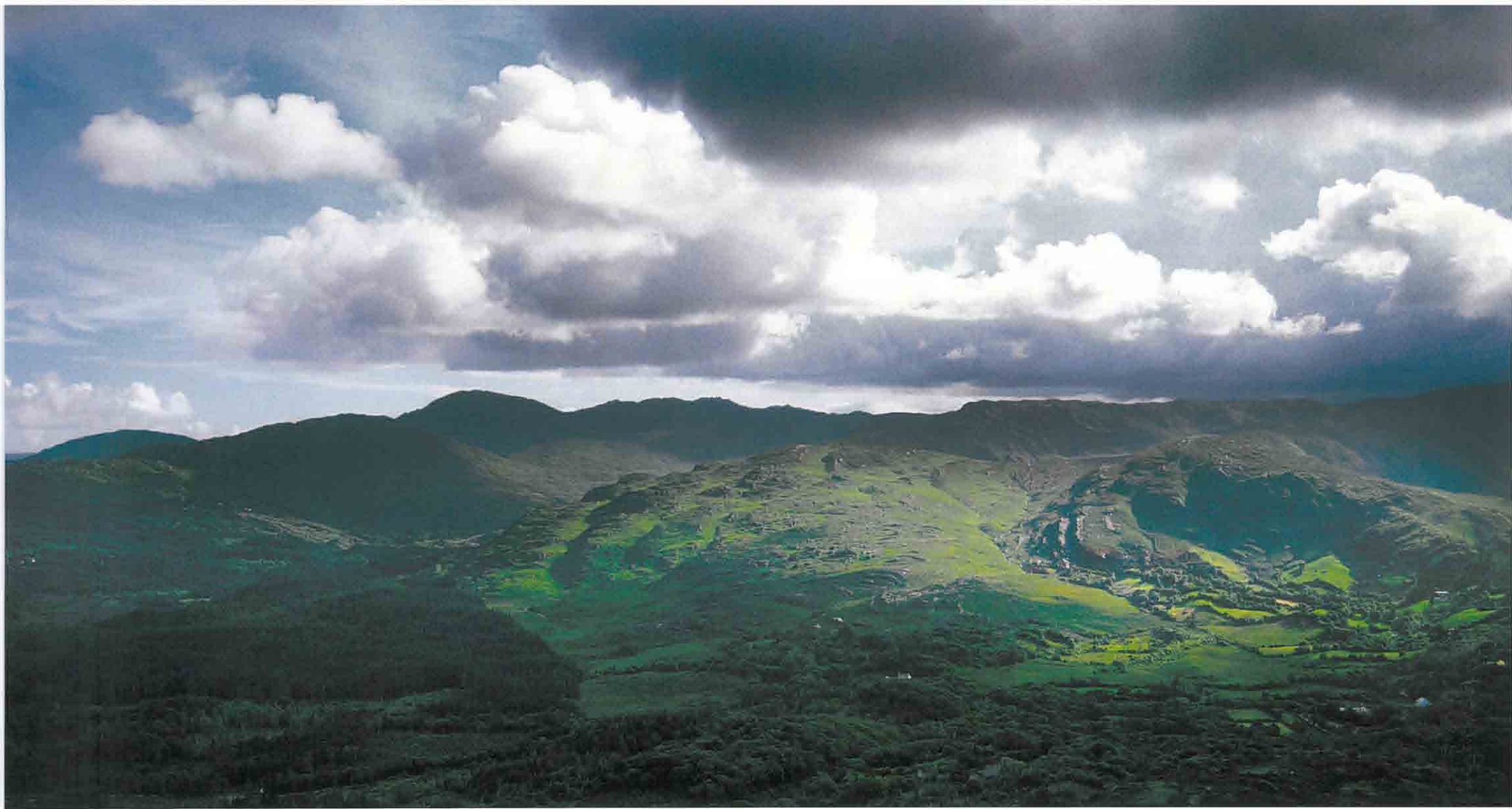
*"We passed by and over many pretty streams, running bright through brilliant emerald meadows; and I saw a thousand charming pictures, which want as yet an Irish Berghem. A bright road winding up a hill; the before-mentioned emerald pastures and silver rivers in the foreground; a noble sweep of hills rising up from them, and contrasting their magnificent purple with the green; in the extreme distance the clear cold outline of some far-off mountains, and the white clouds tumbled about in the blue sky overhead.*

*Some way beyond Dunmanway the road takes us through a noble savage country of rocks and heath. Nor must the painter forget long black tracts of bog here and there, and the water glistening brightly at the places where the turf has been cut away. Add to this, and chiefly by the banks of rivers, a ruined old castle or two.*

*We had only opportunity to see a part of the astonishing beauty of the country. What sends picturesque tourists to the Rhine and Saxon Switzerland? within five miles round the pretty inn of Glengarriff there is a country of the magnificence of which no pen can give an idea. I would like to be a great prince, and bring a train of painters over to make, if they could, and according to their several capabilities, a set of pictures of the place.*

*Rock, wood, and sea stretch around the traveller – a thousand delightful pictures: the landscape is at first wild without being fierce, immense woods and plantations enriching the valleys – beautiful streams to be seen everywhere." (From the Irish Sketch Book by William Makepeace Thackeray, 1842)*





A P L A C E A P A R T





A PLACE APART

*West Coast*

# Shorescape

*"But lo! The sky has cleared after a furious fall of rain and a car is waiting to carry us to Loughine. Before the traveller, almost all the way, is a huge pile of purple mountain, on which, as one comes nearer, one perceives numberless waves and breaks, as you see small waves on a willow in the sea; then clambering up a hill, we look down upon a bright green flat of land, with the lake beyond it, girt round by grey melancholy hills. The water may be a mile in extent.*

*I felt not sorry to have seen this lonely lake. There it lies with crags all round it, in the midst of desolate plains: it escapes somewhere to the sea: its waters are salt: half-a-dozen boats lie here and there upon its banks, and we saw a small crew of boys plashing about and swimming in it, laughing and yelling."*

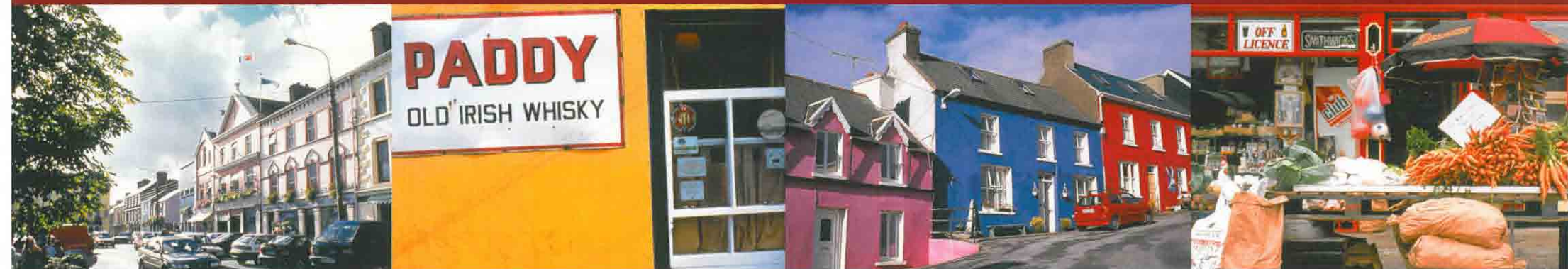
*"We see the water before us, and turning to the right by the handsome little park of Lord Bearhaven, enter Bantry. The harbour is beautiful. Small mountains in green undulations rising on the opposite side; great grey ones farther back; a pretty island in the midst of the water, which is wonderfully bright and calm. A handsome yacht, and two or three vessels with their Sunday colours out, were lying in the bay. It looked like a seaport scene at a theatre, gay, cheerful, neat, and picturesque. At a little distance the town, too, is very pretty."* (From the Irish Sketch Book by William Makepeace Thackeray, 1842)





# Streetscape

*Bustling market towns and extravagantly coloured villages are threaded throughout West Cork and form a great part of the region's appeal. While evolving on sites of much earlier settlements, the physical fabric generally dates from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. No two towns or villages are alike, each reflecting its own history, social traditions, local building materials and craftsmanship. Traditional rural activity centred on agriculture and mercantile trade have left a fine legacy of vernacular buildings, interesting in design and in their relationship to each other and to the landscape, context and topography. These influences as well as a strong sense of identity, community and propriety have resulted in streetscapes of great charm and character. It therefore comes as no surprise to see many West Cork towns and villages feature prominently in the National Tidy Towns competition - a fitting acknowledgement to a keen sense of endeavour and community spirit.*





A P L A C E A P A R T

*West Bank*



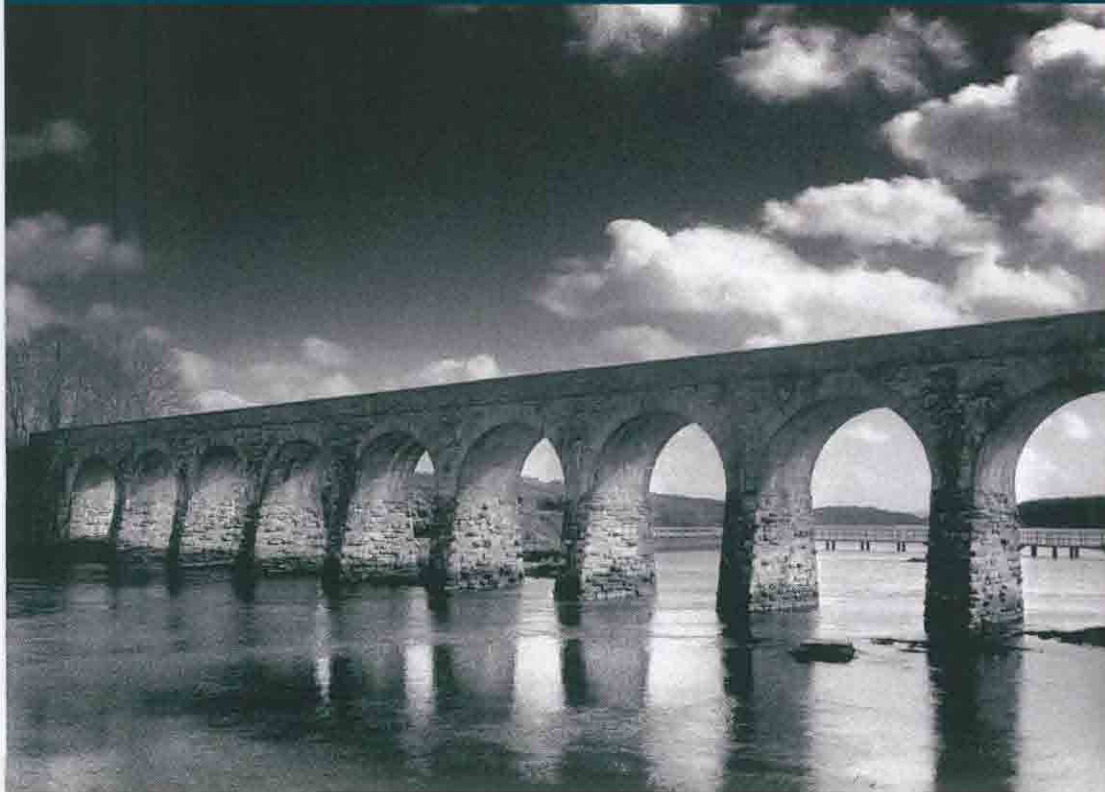


A PLACE APART

# Heritage

*Blessed with an outstanding natural, built and cultural environment, West Cork can lay claim to a culture and heritage rich in diversity and antiquity. Its landscape, archaeology, vernacular traditions, habitats, folklore, flora and fauna have long held appeal for visitors. The weight of history hangs heavy here, with the deeds of historic figures and personalities celebrated in song, stone and story. Your travels throughout the region will not only reveal a landscape influenced by time and history, but one with a vibrant living culture shaped by its people and their traditions, values and memories.*

*Take time to explore the highways and byways and let each reveal its many charms, secrets and stories. Heritage and culture gives meaning to West Cork's past, makes relevant its' present and ultimately shapes the future. It provides an understanding of the history, the environment and the people as well as the influences and traditions that combine to make West Cork – A Place Apart.*







A PLACE APART  
*West Coast*



# Food

*Influenced by a temperate climate, proud farming traditions and an abundant supply of fresh raw materials, West Cork is long renowned at home and abroad for its excellent produce. The variety and quality of this produce not only reflects the vision, skill and commitment of our local food producers, but also speaks of a unique place, people and heritage. It comes as little surprise to learn that West Cork and many of our award winning producers are the vanguard of Ireland's culinary revolution.*

*No visit to West Cork can be considered complete without sampling this wonderful local produce. The Fuchsia Brand initiative seeks to present high quality, distinctive, traditional or speciality products, all of which are listed as follows. You will find all these products available throughout the region; in supermarkets, independent and speciality stores, local markets and in some cases, online or direct from the producer. The products also feature widely on menus in local hotels, restaurants and cafes. Ask for them – you won't be disappointed.*

*Give the reputation that many of our producers enjoy, you will undoubtedly be familiar with some of the products and will attest to their quality. Others, though no less excellent or rewarding, will be less familiar. Whatever your tastes, we invite to seek out an authentic Taste of West Cork. Let us know how you get on!*





# Crafts

*West Cork has a wealth of creative talent and is home to many of Ireland's finest craftspeople. Creative energy abounds, with over one hundred professional craft workers living, working and finding inspiration in West Cork's renowned pace and quality of life. This vibrant community of practitioners, with its formal and informal networks, is an invaluable support to individuals dedicated to reaching ever-higher standards in their chosen skill. The region's outstanding natural and cultural environment further heightens skills and creativity and finds physical expression in a fine range of handwork.*

*The range of crafted produce found throughout West Cork is as varied as it is rich. Fine ceramic art, delicate glasswork and exquisite jewellery and wood, turned or carved, sits alongside traditional crafts such as sculpture, furniture, knitwear, textiles, pottery, basketry, metalwork, lace and leatherwork. A rich seam of creativity and innovation, abundant local natural materials, a wealth of traditional skills and a singular creative vision combine to forge an intimate and enduring link between place and product.*





A PLACE APART  
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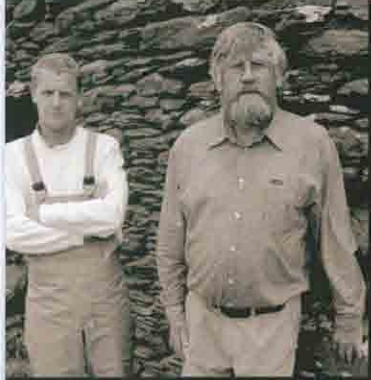
# Expression

PEOPLE, PLACE AND PRODUCE





*John Minihan's intimate and informal portraits form a unique photo-essay and journey through West Cork capturing the diversity, character and unique personalities that are the cornerstone of West Cork's acclaimed food industry. With a tender complicity between photographer and subject, the masterful portraits tell stories full of meaning, humour and authority. Taken in context, with John Minihan almost a passive observer, the subjects stand proud, assured and confident, each revealing a depth and reflective quality that 'fixes forever the transitory instant'. Diverse in experience and nature, the subjects are however at one in purpose in representing the core values and essence of **A Taste of West Cork**.*







*"I have, I hope with my photographs, captured a sense of simplicity and intimacy. The ordinariness of life is what appeals to me and my camera: people are not presented as curiosities but attract the viewer as might a photograph on a mantelpiece. I have been privileged over the last few years to photograph personalities active in tourism and food production in West Cork – It's a very special place for those of us fortunate to live there."*

*John Minihan*

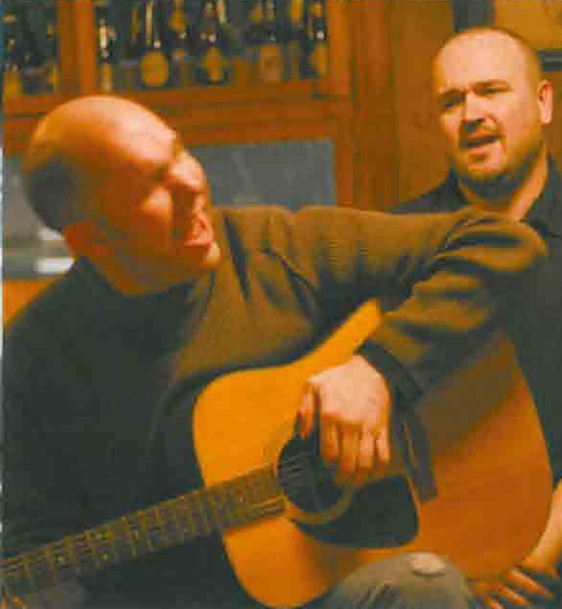




# *Impression*

A WEST CORK WELCOME





A P L A C E A P A R T

*West Coast*



# Amenities

*Long popular with visitors from near and far, West Cork offers a wealth of attractions, activities and amenities. Nestled in the sumptuous scenery and wild, indented shoreline, are a variety of visitor attractions. Doubtless, the Mizen Head Visitor centre, perched amid a rocky outcrop on Ireland's most southwesterly point, Bantry House, Garnish Island, Skibbereen Heritage Centre and The Model Railway Village will feature throughout your visit. All offer fascinating perspectives on West Cork life and history.*

*The warming influence of the gulfstream can be seen to good effect in numerous visitor gardens. Chief amongst these are the Glengarriff Bamboo Park, Lisselan and Kilravock gardens. The great outdoors is also well catered for with waymarked ways and loop walks in both the Sheep's Head and Beara peninsulas. The Seven Heads Walk at Courtmacsherry offers a less taxing, though no less rewarding alternative.*

*Sailing, diving, watersports, sea-angling, boating, coastal cruises, island visits and blue flag beaches are the mainstays of marine tourism. Golf, coarse and game angling, archery and falconry, equestrian sports, castles, museums and churches, heritage sites and antiquities, marine and woodland nature reserves complete a compelling picture of active and passive pursuits for all interests.*





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# West Cork



**Design and Conception:** West Cork LEADER Co-operative Society and Studiotemplebar.com **Photography:** 2cdesign.ie, Ben Russell, Colum and Shane Cronin  
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For further information on the **West Cork Regional Branding Initiative**, please contact Jean O'Sullivan or Ian Dempsey at  
South Square, Clonakilty, West Cork. Tel: 00353 23 34035 Fax: 00353 23 34066 email: [jean@westcorkleader.ie](mailto:jean@westcorkleader.ie)

[www.fuchsiabrands.com](http://www.fuchsiabrands.com)