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THE | INFORM INSPIRE INDULGE NOTEBOOK

TIME TO

Holidaying in Ireland is an eye-opener to just how much there is to see and do all over the country. The recently unveiled **Royal Canal Greenway** extends from Maynooth in Kildare to Cloondara in Longford. The towpath route beside the 225-year-old canal passes 90 bridges, numerous harbours and aqueducts, and there are charming

Jewellery lovers don't have to wait until restrictions lift to find their perfect piece. Antique and vintage jewellery store **Courtville** is offering virtual appointments so shoppers can view and learn more about jewellery they are interested in. Jewellery specialist **Matthew Weldon** is a wealth of knowledge and has a passion for connecting people with something different that captures shops, B&Bs and restaurants to discover along the way. **Discover Boyne Valley** recently unveiled a new website, discoverboynevalley.ie, which has lots of ideas to help you plan your trip when restrictions lift. The site is full of itineraries, day trip inspiration and trails in the region to appeal to a broad range of interests.

TOAST TO SUMMER

Bartenders and mixologists across the country are

concocting innovative new drinks that you can have delivered to your door. **Electric Cork** has created a crowd-funding campaign to help support the bar and restaurant as they wait to open their doors. Flavours include PBJ old-fashioned, strawberry moji and pornstar punch. The range of cocktails are available to order nationwide on indiegogo.com, with prices ranging from €25 for a bottle to €100 for a bundle.

Craft Cocktails by 1661 bar in Dublin is a thriving new business developed in lockdown, offering a huge range of popular favourites, from mojitos to a delicious raspberry negroni. Buy individually in small (two serves, €12.50) or large (seven serves, €35) bottles, or order bundles.

Meanwhile, **The Twelve Hotel** in Barna, Co Galway created Brown Bag Cocktails, a specially curated range of indulgent drinks delivered to your door. Subscribe for three months (€240) or order a cocktail bag for two (from €16).

their imagination. Matthew believes it's important that customers feel empowered to make informed decisions and that antique and vintage jewellery should be accessible to discover. The consultations are carried out using Zoom and a high definition camera so all the intricate details are visible.

30-minute digital appointments can be booked online at courtville.ie

CUTTING-EDGE

For those who like to be on the cutting-edge of technology, the new **Samsung Galaxy Z Fold2 5G** is a foldable smart device that's something to behold. With a 6.2-inch cover screen, like a regular

smartphone, which can transition to a cinematic tablet-like 7.6-inch screen, it is a game-changer for anyone who works in creative fields, such as video, design or photography, or needs their tech to be high-performing on-the-go. With excellent audio and camera features, and innovative app displays that allow the user to have more control, it's certainly an investment item for those who want it all (€2,099). shop.samsung.com

STAY EYE FOR

One of our favourite ways to style our homes and discover new brands to love is by seeking out Irish home-ware retailers who have their fingers on the pulse.

Grainne Kavanagh owns **The Coach House** in Dingle, and she is passionate about sourcing beautiful products that add a little luxury to life. The shop stocks luxury brands like **Voyage Maison** as well as a range of Irish makers such as **Mo Muse, La Bougie, and McNutt**. Follow **@thecoachhouse** for lots of inspiration, interiors chats and a cúpla focal as Gaelige too. coachhousedingle.com

The **LNH Edit** is an online only store created by Laura Nolan Horgan. The shop has all you need to tablescap beautifully for the season ahead, with plates, placemats and serveware, plus stunning gift ideas. The aesthetic for LNH Edit will transport you to sunnier climes with lots of gorgeous nautical and floral prints, rattan pieces and pretty table linens. lnhedit.com

Digital literacy has never been more important, as it helps us stay in touch with loved ones and to enrich our lives while stuck at home. **Sky Ireland** has teamed up with **Age Action** to help empower older people to live full lives, and feel more actively engaged through the **Getting Started Kit**. This national programme helps older people to improve

their digital literacy skills so they feel more connected, informed and supported. Through remote learning, participants work through a curriculum of how-to guides, with up to five hours of tutoring by phone to anyone who feels they need support using their smart device. Learners also receive a 40-page learning booklet and are connected with a volunteer tutor who will cover the topics they choose, at their own pace. Call 014756989 or visit ageaction.ie

GET ON TRACK

Many of you have relished the excellent budgeting advice our money mentor **Santis O'Garro** shares in each issue and on Instagram **@the-caribbeandub**. To really get a handle on your finances, Santis has created a **Budget Mindset Planner** (€28) based on her 'four families' budgeting system to help you reach your financial goals. The 12-month undated planner is made of high quality materials so it is a joy to use, and inside you will find meal planning sections, debt-free pay-off trackers and more.

thebudgetmindsetclub.com

As our homes work harder than ever, creating the right environment can make multi-functional spaces feel more harmonious. **The Happy Pod** electronic diffuser from **Max Benjamin** (€100) provides the holistic benefits of aromatherapy, in a sleek porcelain design that will complement any interior. The **Bergamot & Lime** essential oil blend is an uplifting scent for daytime, and the **Lavender & Chamomile** blend is perfect to help unwind in the evening.

Oils (€17 each), maxbenjamin.com



