

## CORK FUEL SUPPLIER PLANS RAPID EXPANSION

CORK-based fuel supplier, GreatGas, is celebrating the opening of its landmark fiftieth forecourt in Parnell Road, Harold's Cross, Dublin 6 and plans to add another 15 outlets over the next 12 months.

GreatGas, whose headquarters are in Churchtown, Co. Cork, currently has 14 forecourts across Cork city and county.

An Irish owned fuel company, GreatGas has experienced rapid nationwide expansion since its launch in 2006. As well as supplying 50 fully branded GreatGas outlets, the company also supplies fuel to a fur-

ther 30 independent forecourts around the country.

GreatGas has invested €2m in the rollout of the 50 fully branded GreatGas forecourts nationwide, 15 of which opened only in the past year, and the company is planning to invest a further €1m over the next 12 months in further branding and on-site developments.

GreatGas has a proven record in increasing its customers' fuel and retail turnover. Forecourt owners who have re-branded with GreatGas have seen an average of a 22 per cent increase in shop turnover while some outlets have in-

creased fuel turnover by as much as 195 per cent.

Ray O' Sullivan, Managing Director of GreatGas, says the opening of GreatGas's fiftieth forecourt in is a landmark event for the company.

"Since our establishment in 2006 we have grown substantially and now have GreatGas forecourts in each of the four provinces. GreatGas is growing so quickly that forecourt owners have noticed us and are now seeking us out." GreatGas is operated by Great Gas Petroleum (Ireland) Ltd, with headquarters located in Churchtown, Co Cork. It's

Cork outlets are located in Mallow, Timoleague, Cobh, Rosscarbery, Castletownbere, Coachford, Skibberene, Ballyhea, Charleville, Bantry, Aghada, Youghal, Bandon and Mayfield.

## DEGREE ALONE ISN'T ENOUGH TO WORK ABROAD - ACCA

THE ASSOCIATION of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) is advising that a degree is no longer enough for many people hoping to seek work abroad. According to the group, a postgraduate qualification and some experience is now the minimum demanded by most international employers. Liz Hughes, Head of ACCA Ireland, said: "Emigration seems to have become a reality once again in Ireland. However it can be seen as a positive career enhancing and life positive move. The current recession has brought a fresh wave of emigration from these shores. Forty years ago many Irish people emigrated with only manual labour skills, 20 years ago people emigrated with a degree, now employers want potential recruits to hold a post graduate qualification. But you need to make sure that the post graduate qualification is recognised internationally."

Recent surveys from organisations such as the Higher Education Authority highlight the issue of graduate unemployment in Ireland. The ACCA is encouraging such graduates to make sure that they have the best skills to secure employment and a post graduate qualification and some international experience is now the benchmark.

Hughes said: "A period abroad is an excellent addition to a CV, I would en-

courage our youngest and brightest to spend some time abroad, find out how business is done in Canada or Australia and then come back to Ireland with these skills. The last time that there was mass emigration, it was the skill and application shown by Irish people abroad that encouraged so many foreign firms to locate their new factories and facilities in Ireland. Our latest crop of graduates and more importantly post graduate qualified people, are the best ambassadors that Ireland could ever have."

Some graduates may decide to become accountants and the ACCA itself offers a very flexible route to an internationally recognised accounting qualification. ACCA exams may be taken in Ireland, the Bahamas, New Zealand or in over 120 countries; while HETAC has assigned the ACCA qualification to Level 9 of the Irish National Qualifications Framework (NQF). Level 9 holds Irish postgraduate qualifications, such as post-graduate diplomas and masters degrees.

According to Hughes, accountants will be the business leaders and drivers of tomorrow; but international experience is essential. "I would hope that the brightest and best will return, they will bring their newly acquired skills with them to shape and drive Ireland's economy," Hughes concluded.

## Money Matters

A series of weekly articles by Quintas Experts

Written By  
David O'Shea  
Director - Investments



## IS MODERN LIFE RUBBISH?

"The family takes its air-conditioned, power-steered and power-braked automobile out for a tour, passes through cities that are badly paved, made hideous by litter, blighted buildings and posts for wires that should long since have been put underground. They pass on into the countryside and they picnic on exquisitely packaged food from a portable icebox by a polluted stream." These caustic words were written by the economist JK Galbraith in 1958 to describe how post-war Americans were living their lives.

Though the observation is more than 50 years old, it could be a moral for Ireland today. We leave our beautiful homes in air conditioned cars. We travel through uneven and littered streets. We drop kids to schools whose teachers rail against inadequate funding and facilities. We might pass by closed down or under-threat hospitals. After work we return home through those same littered streets to pristine homes and widescreen TVs. Our economic focus is concentrated on the accumulation of personal possessions. Our concern for the roads, schools, hospitals and environment (public goods) is of secondary importance.

Since the Second World War the global economy has grown by promoting the supply and demand of private goods. While many countries were lifted out of poverty, one of the side effects has been the relegation of public goods and the public sector to second rate status. Not only does the provision of public goods suffer from the dominant focus on private goods but it faces the charge that it spends money badly. And it is fair to say that reform is needed in the public sector, which is bloated by needless bureaucracy and inadequate policing.

Yet the common assumption is that the private sector is more efficient. As we continue to pour money into Anglo and other banks while hospitals close, should we not question the efficiency of the private sector spending public funds, given its own very recent poor history?

Public goods such as roads, hospitals, and the environment are available to all and are for the betterment of society as a whole. If our schools and hospitals were privatised would it result in better services? Perhaps. But more likely the services would become scarce. Scarcity of any good results in a price, usually a high one. If the private sector operates public services such as roads and hospitals it is likely they will keep supply at a minimum with prices and profits high. While we could levy many criticisms against the current public sector, profit making is most definitely not one of them.

JK Galbraith finished his description of American family life with the question "is this the American genius?" Perhaps it is time we asked ourselves the same question and considered if we have allowed our society to become subordinated to markets.

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### Website of the week - www.anvilstudios.ie

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Comments: A pleasure to engage with, this website is designed with the visitor in mind. A convenient tab running across the top of the page shows you the various options available without affecting the look and feel of the site. Good layout delivers a great sense of space and the home page offers a great introduction to the team at Anvil Studios and what the husband and wife team, Con and Barbara have to offer. Another feature of the website are the galleries where you can see exactly what Anvil Studios can do.

Overall a very good website that uses images and space to create a page that's easy to navigate.

- Appearance: 5/5
- User-friendliness: 5/5
- Usefulness: 4/5
- Rating: 14/15



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Briefing meetings to explain all the programmes will  
be held in the following locations commencing at 7.00pm

Thursday September 9th - Hayfield Manor Hotel, Perrott Avenue, College Road, Cork City  
Thursday September 9th - The Metropole Street, MacCurtin Street, Cork City

For further details please contact us.

The National Counselling and Psychotherapy Institute of Ireland, Walton House, Lonsdale Road,  
National Technology Park, Castletroy, Limerick. Tel: 061 - 216288

Email: info@ncpii.ie Web: www.ncpii.ie

Association of Professional Counsellors and Psychotherapists in Ireland, Park House, Plassey Park  
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