

drop in the next few months, this is exactly the reason why. It's unlikely there will be too many bottles of champagne popped in Leinster House any time soon. Not only do Fianna Fail now face a massive task in finding jobs for the thousands of unemployed, they have to find an incentive to make Irish people return home to help map our future.

And just when Brian Cowen thought his job couldn't get any tougher, it probably just has.

Nevin loses

MURDEROUS Catherine Nevin finally found out what it was like to be cleared by a court of law yesterday.

But it's hardly likely to see her do a dance through the car park of the Four Courts.

The judge may have dismissed mobile phone charges against her but it'll be some years before she breathes free air.

The Black Widow is staying where she belongs for the foreseeable future so little wonder she made no reaction to yesterday's decision.

Nevin was behind one of the most high profile Irish killings of our time and should serve every minute of her life sentence.

Spur-fect day

AFTER his four-goal haul for Spurs last Saturday, the blues was the last thing Robbie Keane was singing as he partied later.

He saved his real FRONTman of the match performance for team-mate Jermaine Jenas's engagement party.

After the 5-0 win over Burnley, there's no doubt the karaoke king was belting out Spur-fect Day.



More than 63% of Irish newsprint was recycled in 2006
Help make good news - recycle your old newspapers

HOT, RICH AND JUST LIKE LA



Tropical... summer will sizzle and Molly Malone, right, could look odd as Dublin turns into LA. Below, the book

IRELAND in 2009 isn't an entirely happy place — but is Ireland of the future going to be a paradise? New book Ireland in 2050 reveals the good, bad and ugly of our country in 40 years time.

Economist Stephen Kinsella has used his expertise to predict the type of place we'll be living in by then.

And while you'll be glad to know our money worries will be over and the sun will shine during the summer, we'll have issues other than Nama and Lisbon to worry about.

HELEN MORROGH takes a look into Ireland's crystal ball.

SUNNY IRELAND

Ireland will finally see long hot summers in 2050 — but unfortunately that's all because of climate change.

Summer days will average at 25°C — whereas winters will be mild, but wetter.

In fact, it will be so hot that places such as Dublin could even suffer from droughts. It's likely that by 2050 we'll want to go on holidays in cooler countries like Iceland.

MEDICAL TOURISM

Irish people already travel abroad for dental care and advanced medical procedures.

But by 2050, medical tourism will be common practice as we seek the best medical in the world to treat us.

However, our sunnier summers combined with Irish medical expertise may also bring medical tourists here.

POPULATION

There may be more than seven million people alive in Ireland by 2050 — a figure not

seen here since the 1840s. However, as less children are born, this population will eventually begin to plummet.

LESS CHILDREN

One in ten people will be over 80 years of age in 2050, and one in four over 65. The rising cost of having children

combined with the number of babies born to single parents will limit the number born.

DUBLIN — THE NEW LA

Dublin will be the size Los Angeles is now, with a corresponding population density and similar average living

standards. Expect to see the ban on constructing buildings that are 30-plus storeys high disappear.

Middle class areas will transform as they will be saturated with housing, light industry and services.

RISE OF MIDDLE CLASS
Expect your grandchildren to be at least twice as wealthy as you are now.

Because the country will be larger and richer, more people will be middle class and there will be more of them.

And those who were previously poor will see their standards of living rise.

DISEASE

In addition to the current Aids pandemic, there is reason to worry about other pandemics and global diseases.

As the world becomes more connected, germs and pathogens will travel to new sites.

We can expect to see a global pandemic of various strains of African diseases — including the Ebola virus.

PRIVACY

As the digital era advances, almost everything you do will be tracked.

The children of today share so much private information online so as they replace us in work, privacy restrictions will be relaxed.

As technology will be such an integral part of society then, privacy will mean isolating yourself from the world.

RETIREMENT

Retirement may be further away than you think as the retirement age could rise to 75 even by 2040.

Better nutrition, health care and working conditions will allow workers to be productive for longer.

The government won't want to dish out pensions so moving the retirement goalposts is a perfect solution.

● **Will Be Living** by Stephen Kinsella, published by Liberties Press, is out now and costs €14.99.
helen.morrogh@the-sun.ie