Executive Gift

Employees, colleagues, customers, clients and friends all appreciate a festive gift. Kathleen O'Callaghan provides some pointers

DYNAMIC CERAMICS

Nicholas Mosse's salad bowls (€136) and large Lawn Green jugs (€204) are tasteful presentation gifts, as is Louis Mulcahy's Shouldered Vase (€60), Stephen Pearce's Barrel Lamp (€88) and, for the merry tippler, **Shanagarry** Wine Coolers (€71) — all at the Kilkenny Shop.

Sarah McKenna's framed tiles (€90) make a smart gift, with their inscribed, uplifting messages. Paul Costelloe offers elegant giftware – framed sketches, table lamps and sumptuous cushions - or choose from his pottery pieces, like the Ana or Carolina vases in teal and blush pink (€20). And snap up Carolyn Donnelly's Eclectic range of rugs, throws and mirrors (from €30), or check out the Considered collection by Helen James. Available at DunnesStores.com.



CLASSIC GLASS AND CRYSTAL

The Irish Handmade Glass Company's Wild Atlantic Way collection reflects the Irish seascape, and its Wild Heather jugs, centrepiece bowls, table lamps and whiskey tumblers are priced from €20 to €140. Tipperary Crystal's Oceans 12-inch vase is €200 and the Spiral Tree version is €190, while Galway Crystal's champagne flutes are €15 at Blarney Woollen Mills. If your budget stretches further, check out Alva Gallagher's incredible glass sculptures (pictured), or commission your own work of art via AlvaGallagher.com.

LOVE FOR LEATHER

Holden Leathergoods of Dingle offers a sophisticated

laptop case for €115, and a black leather Book of Kells wallet (€40). Holden's chestnut cross-body bag (€585) will appeal to hipsters, while the Holden executive briefcase (€920) will suit the more mature business mogul.

Paula Rowan's Veronique Rex (€595) or Montserrat gloves (€295) are ideal for the female high-flyer. Also, the amazing **Ana** Faye bags (pictured) unite fashion with designer styles. Gionni leather bags (€65), at Shaw's, are perfect for work.

Kildare company CarveOn.com offers unique office accessories like travel notebooks, desk diaries and tablet and phone covers, all made from vegetable-tanned leather. Add brand engraving for a personalised client gift; prices range from €15 to €250.

KNITERATI AND GLITTERATI

Designer throws, blankets and scarves are always welcome and the perfect gift is Avoca's lambswool picnic blanket (€195) or herringbone throw (€180). For keeping warm and snug, the iconic Aran sweater is a firm favourite

and also the craft knitwear of **Edel MacBride** (€350), who uses Donegal yarns. The Celtic gold torc pendant (€375) by Claddagh Design, in solid gold and engraved with Celtic knotwork, is a talisman to treasure, while the beautiful Anam Cara Ogham pendant (pictured) is a gift that will last a lifetime (€195).







LINENS AND LACE

Try out some table-scaping with a Blasket crochet tablecloth (\in 50), a Colm linen tablecloth (\in 340), or an embroidered linen table runner (\in 29), all from **Blarney.com**. There are sustainable linen place mats, serviettes and coasters from

Ferguson's Irish Linen, as well as stunning woollen blankets from Cushendale Woollen Mills – check out the chestnut Corrán throw (€130) or the Foxglove Mooneen mohair throw (€165). To cherish from Magee, there are Liffey Donegal tweed jackets (€385), Grey Eske Donegal tweed capes (€225), Glen Check pashminas (€199) and Grey Clogher tweed gloves (€75).

LOTIONS AND POTIONS

Pamper sets packed with scents and skin solutions provide a balm for the weary worker and include **Clarins'** Men's Hydration Collection (€64). Crème de la Mer is a special

buy for the martyred mná na hÉireann. The Energise and Replenish Collection (€190) at Brown Thomas or Clinique's Night Repair Serum (€69) are both options. The **Voya** Organic Overnight Facial Set (€79) captures 'the caviar of the seas', as does its Body Indulgent Gift Set (€85) from Arnotts. **Green Angel's** Body Hydration Gift Set (€40) is good value, along with Clarins' Spa at Home (€55).





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HIGH SPIRITS AND **BUBBLY BREWS**

Bottles of bubbly, craft whiskeys and gins are festive favourites for rewarding business connections, gratefully received by the connoisseur. One good example is the Irish Cheese & Wine Hamper (€60) at Hampersandco.com, packed with Cooleeney Camembert, Cashel Blue and Horgan's Vintage Cheddar, plus Merlot wine. Erin Hampers are filled with champagne and chocolates for €75. From Jameson, the Personalised Distillery Edition (€65), with your own name on the label, and engraved hip flask (€25) are options, or how about a Midleton Rare Barry Crockett legacy whiskey for €265?





EDITION @

Bean Delivered coffee gift box (€54-€119) comes with a brewer of choice, a tasting notebook, a measuring spoon and tin, plus a beautiful eight-ounce KeepCup - everything to give the caffeine-fuelled executive a shot of adrenalin!

CURATE SOME ARTISANAL GOODIES

You can put together your own gift box of Irish craft food products if you shop around, even in supermarkets. At Aldi you'll find Burren Balsamics' Vinegar in Blackberry & Thyme. Vanilla Bean Patisserie in Cavan makes Passion Fruit Curd, Fig Tree Dressings in Kilkenny makes Honey & Cayenne Dressing, while Le Paysan Chicken Liver Pâté is made in

Wicklow. To wash it all down, Wild About in Wexford makes Sparkling Fennel Drink.



HAPPY HAMPERS

For a jam-packed pressie, the hamper provides super-essential festive products and luxury items. From the Green Grocer's Daughter, run by the Fitzpatrick catering sisters, the Cistin Luxury Hamper (€140) includes Baileys Irish Cream, sea salts, olives, jams, oil, and Irish brown-bread mix.

One of Musgrave's newest options is the Curragh hamper (€52), presented in a glamorous hatbox. Musgrave MarketPlace also offers a prosecco and chocolate hamper for €17.



Butlers Irish Chocolates are sheer indulgence - chomp through the Platinum Selection (€15) - as is **Skelligs'** handmade chocolate hamper (€100), bumperpacked with truffles and treats. Bean and Goose is on our wish list, especially its Frosty Walks slab (€35), a 500g bar of Ecuadorian chocolate topped with seasonal fruits and nuts. It comes with a wooden hammer, for a 'smashing' Christmas!

SMELLS LIKE BEAN SPIRIT

Put a pep in the boss's step with a Bosch Tassimo coffee pod machine (€48), a luxury De'Longhi Autentica Cappuccino (€669) from Currys.ie, or a Nespresso machine with 200 free capsules (€239) from Harvey Norman. A set of Aynsley Fairisle mugs is €45 from Belleek.com, and Judge's double-wall latte glasses, from Home Store + More, are €15. Each





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UPGRADE YOUR ZOOM

Remote working and interminable Teams and Zoom meet-ups look like they're here to stay. What's great about the Poly Studio P21 is that, at 6.8 kilos, you can lug it around anywhere in the home and plug and yack. The 21-inch screen has built-in camera, speakers, microphone and adjustable ambient lighting. The screen base also serves as a wireless mobile phone charger, and the price point is c.€665 plus VAT.

ESSENTIAL FOR INFLUENCERS

Like cameras, camcorders have largely been displaced by mobile phones, however, with influencers an expanding tribe, Sony has put much thought into the ZV-E10. The camera is



aimed at anyone who's serious about producing video content for social media, citizen journalists, and even happy couples on their city breaks.

The ZV-E10's image sensor is about ten times the size of the image sensor on a smartphone, so the video quality is much better. With the Product Showcase setting, the camera will shift focus from your face to a product held in front of the camera.

An optional attachment for selfies and shooting from high or low angles has controls to start and stop recording and handle zoom operations. The ZV-E10 is an interchangeable lens camera, and there are scores of Sony lens options, all of them pricey. Expect to pay around €900 out of the box, with starter lens included.

SOUNDING OFF

Noise-cancelling is the big trend in headphones, and Sony claims that its WH-1000XM4 has two microphones on each earcup, capturing ambient noise and passing the data to a noise-cancelling processor. A useful feature is being able to adjust ambient sound with Sony's Headphones

Connect app, so that essential sounds like transport announcements won't be blocked out when you're listening on the move. Expect to pay around €329.

COULD YOU STAND A SCOOTER?

Legislation to legalise the use of electric scooters on Irish roads is expected to be enacted by the end of the year. E-scooters will be categorised like bicycles, allowing them to be used in public places without a driving license, tax or insurance.

Currys stocks a range of models from brands such as Xiaomi, Segway and Zinc. Prices start at €249, and the retailer's top-of-the-range models are the Segway Ninebot Air T15E folding scooter (€649) and the Xiaomi Mi Pro 2 (€629).

LIGHT A PENNY **CANDLE**

Rathbornes' candles are sure to light up the season, with the Dublin Tea Rose, Oud and Patchouli (€40) and Cedar, Cloves & Ambergris (€50) versions

available at the Kilkenny Shop. Max Benjamin's electronic Happy Pod diffuser kit (€124), in porcelain, is available from Arnotts and Carraig Donn. Uplift the executive mood with **Neom Organics'** pod diffuser (€60), also at Arnotts. Wild Fern Ireland offers super Christmas candles (€10) from CarrollsIrishGifts.com - ideal for those little pressies.

continued on page 68





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CENTENARY CONCERTS

Live entertainment is back in the National Concert Hall, and the Christmas programme caters for all musical tastes. Highlights include family favourite This Way To Christmas!, the Irish Chamber Orchestra performing Mozart's final symphonies, and concerts marking the centenary of the Anglo-Irish Treaty.

Contemporary folk fans are looking forward to the Ye Vagabonds performance on 28 November, while chamber music enthusiasts are catered for by the Ficino Quartet on the afternoon of Sunday 12 December. Also in the busy seasonal programme is a screening of family classic The Snowman, with Howard Blake's score performed live by the NCH Christmas Orchestra. nch.ie



ONE4ALL TREATS

Employers can give up to €500 in a once-off payment per employee per annum. While the country is gradually opening up again, economically, there is still an element of doubt over the annual Christmas party, or seeing employees in person, to gift bonuses. Instead, employers can express their gratitude using the One4all Gift Card. It can be loaded in amounts from €15 to €150 and spent in over 11,000 participating retailers nationwide and online, one4allrewards.ie

With the One4all Digital Gift Card personalisation feature, a video or photo can be uploaded and sent instantly via email or text. Due to new EU regulations, there is a limit of €50 per transaction online using anonymous gift cards. However, the One4all Chip & PIN can be loaded from €150 to €500, and a simple photo ID verification activates the gift card, allowing online shopping without limitations.

COUNTRY HOUSE BREAKS

Ireland's Blue Book is a romantic collection of 59 Irish country house hotels, manor houses, castles and restaurants located throughout the island of Ireland. As corporate gifts, Ireland's Blue Book vouchers are ideal for rewarding staff and clients. Vouchers can be purchased for any amount over €100 and are presented in an impressive gift wallet that includes a free copy of the Blue Book brochure. The vouchers can be used for overnight stays, meals or treatments in hotel spas, and Ireland's Blue Book now offers electronic gift vouchers, which can be sent and received instantly. irelandsbluebook.com



continued on page 70







National Concert Hall presents

THIS WAY TO CHRISTMAS!

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DEFINITIVE DIRECTORY

Ireland - A Directory 2022 is generally regarded as Ireland's most comprehensive database, with details in the 2021 edition on c.9,000 organisations, covering both the private and public sectors. Besides being a comprehensive reference source for anyone who does business in Ireland, the publication also serves as a beautifully bound diary, reflecting a heritage that stretches back 55 years.

The IPA also produces a computer-friendly version, which can be purchased online from IPA.ie, and a phone app version that can be purchased from the Google Store or Apple App Store. These digital versions have a powerful search capability and enable adding bookmarks. ipa.ie



BRANDED GIFTS

Gift options that are practical and beneficial in keeping your brand in your customer's hand can be sourced through Tara Slevin Group. The Dublin business has a huge selection of branded promotional products to choose as gifts, from pens and notebooks to mugs, umbrellas, clothing and much more.

Tara Slevin also has a range of higher-quality gifts, the most popular of which include the Cross and Parker ranges of pens, Tara Deluxe Diaries, stainless-steel travel mugs, and water bottles. taraslevingroup.ie

REWARDS AND RECOGNITION

In a typical company, only 30% of the employees are actively engaged with the business. That means that most staff are usually just going through the motions, and with the new blended model



for working, it's harder than ever to keep all staff engaged. Allgo works with 2,000 Irish businesses of all sizes to provide rewards and recognition for employees.

The Allgo Mastercard Gift Card is the use-anywhere gift card that is tax-free up to €500 on the Small Benefit Scheme. Alternatively, the AllGifts multi-retailer digital voucher can be branded, personalised, and sent instantly. Allgo also runs the hugely popular gifting website, AllGifts.ie, from which there is a huge selection of gifts, vouchers and experiences to choose. allgo.ie and allgifts.ie

SHARP JOURNALS

Nolki in London designs and produces a range of planners, journals, notebooks and notepads to help organise your time and maximise productivity. They are distinguished by their multicoloured covers and the highquality paper inside, for writing on, all sourced in the EU. The company offers free shipping to Ireland for orders over €25. Sample journal products include the Three-Year Journal, Life Book and Bucket List, all €19. nolki.com



ABSOLUTELY SPA-BULOUS

We all adore luxury vouchers for hideaways like the Spa at Galgorm for body-and-soul treatments. The Rasul room soothes the mind, boosts circulation and eases muscle tension. Add cleansing mud baths, nourishing hair masks and steam chambers, to detoxify and rejuvenate. Immerse yourself in the Thermal Spa Village before a lunch in Elements spa-cafe (€80 per person, €99 for the Christmas Treat package, or two-night retreat for €1,000).

continued on page 72









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GREAT GIFTS FROM IRISH CRAFT MAKERS

Design & Crafts Council Ireland's Made Local initiative offers a centralised list of Irish craft makers and retailers offering unique and high-quality crafted items from all over Ireland.

The MadeLocal.ie directory lists over 1,000 makers and 342 retail outlets with information on where you can find them, both in studio and online. Buying locally comes with the reassurance of fast delivery, no hidden costs or duties, and ease of contact with the seller.

From goblets to gloves, cashmere to candles, and prints to pendants, there is something to inspire everybody at every price point. Some ideas include the beautifully crafted Robin Redbreast Bauble (€20, pictured), by The Irish Handmade Glass Company, and Etaoin O'Reilly's Malibu Blue Geo Mug (€22), which is completely handcrafted and will brighten up any dining table.

Other gift ideas include Adkot Boards (€26-€250), for serving and displaying; Paul Coyne Jewellery, for Cobble Cufflinks (€145); and The Tweed Project, for handmade coats, shirts, bags and tweeds, complemented by modern tailoring (€101-€250). For the corporate client, consider the Donegal Tweed Notebook (€30, pictured) from Orwell & Browne; Thin Line's Coastal Wall Art

Maps (€270), made from layers of birch wood; the Pazazz Bog Oak Pen (€45) from **Roy** Humphreys; and the **Dublin Scenes 2022** Calendar (€20) from Sarah Rossney, featuring Dublin's city and sea views.

For the times that we live in, there's Home by Notions' Porto Foldable Desk (€260); the Linen Wrap and Mask set (€75) from Urban Aran; and - if blackouts materialise - Glint's Hurricane Lamp (€45), made

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WHISKIES FROM THE LIBERTIES

Dublin Liberties Distillery is offering a free personalised message with its Dublin Liberties Oak Devil (\in 45), a five-year-old blend of malt and grain. The distillery, established

in 2019, in the heart of Dublin, is housed in a 400-year-old building that was once a mill and a tannery.

Other fine tipples to consider are the 10-year-old Copper Alley (€55), matured in bourbon casks and finished in 30-year-old



oloroso casks. The cleverly named Murder Lane brand (€140) is a 13-year-old single malt — also ex-bourbon casked and finished in Hungarian Tokay casks — limited to 400 bottles on the Irish market.

For the whiskey connoisseur in your life, there's Keepers Coin (€240). This 16-year-old single malt, finished in Pedro Ximénez casks, is limited to just 200 bottles in Ireland and recently won a gold medal at the Irish Whiskey Awards. Online orders include free delivery around Ireland. thedld.com





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