



Fit for a king: Crowns and a sandwich castle Elephant theme: With 'E' cut into a Babybel Out of this world: An alien made from apple Right track: Bread train and carrot wheels

Mum who's a packed lunch Picasso

By David Wilkes



Yummy, mummy: Mrs Hall and son

HER six-year-old son turned his nose up at sandwiches and sticks of carrot. So Grace Hall transformed them into aliens, elephants and superheroes.

Now he cannot wait to open his packed lunch every day and tuck into his favourite characters.

With the help of a few cutters and moulds, former accountant Mrs Hall has turned sandwiches into Spiderman, hard-boiled eggs into sheep and melons into Easter chicks... while making hundreds of healthy lunches.

Her blog, showing photographs of the culinary creations, is followed by 7,500 other mothers.

Yesterday, 32-year-old Mrs Hall, who lives with her son and husband, said: 'I'd spent a year struggling to come up with interesting packed lunches twice a week for pre-school.'

'I could see years of endless lunch-packing stretching ahead... I also wanted to make sure he was getting a healthy meal every day and putting them into trendy bento-style boxes seemed the perfect solution.'

Mrs Hall asks her son, who now polishes off 'pretty much anything', for ideas. She added: 'I know I've made a good one if he says it's cool.'



Treasure trove: A pirate-themed packed lunch with a cucumber eyepatch and skull and crossbones

Luas line cameras to catch bad drivers

System will gather images of cars breaking red lights

By Eamon Donoghue

DRIVERS could face up to five penalty points if new cameras at Luas junctions catch them breaking red lights.

The cameras are expected to be introduced across Dublin by the end of the year, with gardai reviewing the footage to decide if any action will be taken.

The moves hope to curb the number of Luas accidents: there were 38 collisions last year.

A spokesman for Transport Minister Leo Varadkar said: 'The cameras will be able to send images of vehicles which break red lights at Luas junctions to the gardai so that they can be processed as part of the fixed-charge notice system.' More than 2,000 drivers from Dublin City were assigned penalty points for the offence type 'Failure to Obey Traffic Light' in 2013.

Breaking a red light could mean two penalty points although this rises to five on conviction.

A €80 fine is also levied, which also rises to €120 when unpaid within 28 days.

The Railway Procurement Agency, which is responsible for the development of the service, told the Mail that 'more than half of road traffic



Crashes: The Luas in Dublin was involved in 38 collisions last year

collisions involving Luas involve a car running a red light'.

A spokesman said: 'We expect that within the next few months the first fixed-penalty notices will be issued.'

'From there a decision can be made about installing additional cameras at additional locations.'

He added: 'These collisions are most common on the red Luas line, which runs from west Dublin into

the north inner city. The Green line crosses fewer streets as it was built on the old Harcourt Street railway line.'

'Essentially there will be detectors at junctions which recognise when a car breaks a red light and this triggers a series of photographs which are then fed with relevant data to the gardai's system.'

Labour TD Seán Kenny has welcomed the new system but believes

that there are other improvements that can make the Luas safer.

He said: 'I believe more does need to be done, particularly along the part of the Luas line that runs along Abbey Street, as there has been a string of accidents on this part of the Luas line.'

This introduction of the scheme is likely to be accompanied by a publicity campaign set up by Luas operators Transdev, the RPA, the Department of Transport, Dublin City Council and An Garda Síochána.

The North East Dublin TD added: 'I hope that reports of the new system being highlighted by a cross-group publicity campaign are correct, as there does need to be more awareness of the dangers that people need to be aware of around the Luas line.'

'The Luas operator and the other relevant authorities must make sure that pedestrians are also protected from collisions, or from cars mounting the footpath along the Luas lines where accidents involving Luas trams are known to occur.'

'I think it might be best if these footpaths were fully segregated, except at pedestrian crossings, to ensure some protection for those who are moving about the city on foot.'

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Never mind the million, I just want to meet Marty!

By Alison O'Riordan

THE country's latest millionaire has only thing on her mind - meeting Winning Streak presenter Marty Whelan.

The married woman, who received her ticket as a Mother's Day gift from her daughter, is excited at the prospect of meeting the show host.

Speaking about the man behind the Easter Millionaire Raffle Draw who brought her such good luck, she said: 'I never thought I'd be sitting here, drinking Champagne, an overnight millionaire... I'm definitely going to make it my business to meet Marty Whelan in person.'

'I've been a lifelong fan of his,' said the winner who collected her cheque for €1,000,000 yesterday morning.

She did not want to reveal her identity.

Marty Whelan currently hosts RTÉ Lyric FM's Marty In The Morning show. The ticket was bought at Kenny's Centra store in Kimmage, Dublin, and the winner plans to repay the good fortune bestowed on her by her daughter - she plans to pay off the girl's mortgage this week, as well as setting up a savings fund for her.

'I'm planning to go on holiday to Dubai,' the winner said.

She added: 'I'm also going to buy my husband a Polo car and make a private donation to Our Lady's Hospice, because they do such worthwhile work.'

'But first things first. I'll be heading to the Shelbourne Hotel for afternoon tea.'

'Isn't that what wealthy people do?' she smiled as she left National Lottery offices, million euro cheque in hand.