



NOTEBOOK

This weekend we're...

PICNICKING...

...with the best of them at City Soul Picnic (today and tomorrow from 12pm to 6pm), a little piece of magic in the heart of Dublin.

It's all part of Laya Healthcare's City Spectacular. Entry to the picnic-style music event is free, but don't forget to make a donation, because this is a vital fundraiser for children's charity the Musical Youth Foundation, which runs inspiring music education programmes.



SNEAKING...

... off to Bellinter House to enjoy the summer specials that run until the end of August.

Don't spread the word because we don't want too many people knowing about the one-night B&B plus 45-minute spa treatment for €99pps (available Monday to Thursday). Whatever happens, we'll be there on Sunday, August 3 at 3pm to have a picnic while watching open-air theatre under the ancient weeping beech tree. Tickets €17. See Bellinterhouse.com



SCOPING...

... out the famous great telescope at Birr Castle Gardens in Co Offaly and paying a visit to the science gallery, which opened yesterday.

The gallery charts the fascinating history of the castle and the telescope, which was the largest in the world when built in 1840 (and for some 70 years after that). If that's not your thing, there's always the tree house and the Castle Courtyard Café. See Birrcastle.com



PUTTING...

...our best foot forward in the Wicklow mountains to celebrate the first-ever walking festival on St James's Day tomorrow.

CaminoWays.com is inviting Camino fans, walking enthusiasts and families to enjoy a range of walking trails (from 4km to 14km). And there's more — a treasure hunt, competitions and some atmosphere-enhancing Spanish paella. Tickets are €10 for adults and €5 for children. See Caminoways.com



COMING...

...up smelling of roses with some fabulous florals from Belle Femme lingerie boutique on Kieran Street in Kilkenny. And we'll be getting a little help from boutique owner Bridget Kearney, who offers a unique fitting service — no humiliating measuring tapes — and stocks some of our favourites (Fauve, Panache, Charnos and Huit). See bellefemmelingerie.ie

