**Wellbeing of the over-50s**

The publication this week of an independent report into the health and social status of the over-50s represents the first feedback from the most comprehensive study of its kind ever undertaken in the state. The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing is a 15,000-person cohort representing the economic, demographic circumstances of a representative sample of 4,000 families from 18 counties. The study has completed the first wave of data collection in 2012 and will continue to provide policymakers and service providers with in-depth analysis of the wellbeing of older people and the future needs of older people.

While the initial results show the majority of older people consider themselves healthy and are enjoying life, objective measures of health parameters by residence, health services utilisation, and prevalence of blood pressure problems, for example, increases with age. The report states that 25% of older people are being treated for hypertension, with 50% of cases in women not being identified.

The report suggests that a significant number of older people who use health services at a lesser degree are not qualified to be in poor health, at least in the aggregate, and that 25% of older people with hypertension may not be considered unwell.

**Clarify on pension funds**

**Morgan Kelly and the bailout**

**Cheering on Jeopardy**

**Good times and bad**

**Thinking Anew**

**An Irishman’s Diary**