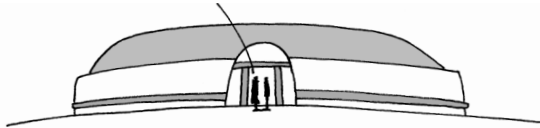


10000 – 2000 BC

Prehistoric Times

✿ Before our land bridge to Scotland sank, stone age people had legged it across and started farming the land. There was no European Union to pay them for doing nothing at the time, so they quickly dumped that idea and started using their stone axes to kill and sacrifice each other. Evidence of their axes and many

WHY COULDN'T YOU BE HAPPY WITH A HEADSTONE
LIKE EVERYONE ELSE?



other weapons have been found in Limerick, which explains a lot when you think about it. It was during this period (about 3000 BC) that the amazing Newgrange passage tomb was built, in which the small central chamber is illuminated by sunlight at dawn on the winter solstice – when there isn't a downpour outside – an event which only happens approximately every 1,000 years!




Bogmen

In recent years the well-preserved bodies of two men were discovered in an Irish bog. They'd been sacrificed during prehistoric times. But the most fascinating discovery was that one had perfectly manicured nails and the other wore a type of hair gel made from vegetable oil. This, presumably, was intended to increase his attractiveness to girls. Sadly, all it attracted was an axe into the poor gobshite's skull.



2000 – 500 BC

The Bronze Age

 This was when the Celtic peoples first set foot in Ireland through Gaul and Britain, though it may surprise many to know that they weren't wearing green-hooped soccer shirts with 'Nakemura' written across

the back. Because the soccer season hadn't started, they took up mining, found copper and tin, and – *Zut*



Alors! – or whatever they say in French – had bronze. These Celts were a very musical lot – Ireland boasts almost half the bronze-age musical instruments in the world, mainly horns and bells, on which they gave a stirring rendition of 'The Fields of Athenry'. This was also the time when Ireland's dolmen tombs were constructed, comprising three upright stones supporting a giant capstone weighing up to 100 tons. Most of the construction was done by Polish labourers as the Irish lot were down the road doing a nixer.

