



## From the Chairman's Desk

Greetings,

Sunday last, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2016 marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Easter Rising of 1916 with an official State ceremony in Arbour Hill where 14 of the executed leaders are buried. This was followed by a special commemorative event of dance, song and poetry at Croke Park after the National Football League finals attended by tens of thousands of people. In New York thousands gathered also for the official US commemoration of the centenary of the 1916 rising.

It's fascinating to look back and surmise at how it all came about. There's much discussion now about the leaders of the uprising and particularly the part played by the central figures. Padraig Pearse was born in 1879 which was not long after the Great Famine. In fact his mother, Margaret, fled County Meath for Dublin after her family were affected by the Great Hunger in 1846 and met James Pearse who was a church stonemason. It's not hard to imagine how deep feelings ran concerning the great upheaval that was forced on our nation as millions emigrated to populate the world and one million of our citizens died.

All during this time free trade continued with export of Irish grain to the UK while millions starved. Unscrupulous landlords used the opportunity to clear the land by evicting their poor starving tenants from their tumbledown dwellings forcing them to seek assistance under the Poor Law enacted in 1838. People died on the open roads in a desperate attempt to feed themselves and their starving families. It was no wonder then that nationalism grew in the face of relative indifference by the occupier to a starving people. Ironically Padraig Pearse and the sixteen other rebels who were executed are now remembered and celebrated all over Ireland and abroad and highly revered as patriots. At the time of the Rising there was no great support for them. Contrast that now with major streets all over Ireland and sport stadiums carrying their names with pride.

It was a bad week for those who were pushing the agenda for Britain to leave the EU. The EU referendum campaign or "Brexit" was given a body blow which could be fatal. The leader of the Free World President, Barack Obama, did not put a tooth in saying that it would not be in Britain's interest to give up membership of the EU. He declared that Britain would end up at the "back of the queue" for a trade deal if it voted to leave the EU. This is "music to our ears" also as it would be equally disastrous for this State to have our nearest neighbour and biggest trading partner outside the EU.

As a people twice plundered by powerful interests let us hope that we learn from history and fare better in the future.

So long for now,  
Dr Jerry Cowley,  
Chairman Safe Home.

### CONTACT US:

Safe Home Ireland  
St Brendan's Village  
Mulranny, Westport  
Co. Mayo, Ireland.

**Tel:** 098 36036

(from Ireland)

00 353 98 36036 (UK)

0113 53 98 36036 (USA)

**Fax:** 098 36037

### Website:

[www.safehomeireland.com](http://www.safehomeireland.com)

### Email:

[info@safehomeireland.com](mailto:info@safehomeireland.com)



### Safe Home office hours:

Monday–Thursday:  
9am-5pm

Friday: 9am-4pm

## Possibility of a holiday in Kerry ..... Please read on!

The Kerry Emigrant Support Group (KES) and London Irish Centre is offering older Irish people the chance to take part in an all expenses paid trip to Ballybunion in Co. Kerry from **June 4<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> 2016**.

Transport will be via coach and ferry from Camden Square in London and all participants will be required to share a room. There is a full itinerary of outings for the holiday and people are also encouraged/aided to see their family if they would like to and if possible.

The criteria for this year's trip are as follows:

- Born in Ireland or Irish National
- Over the age of 55
- Have not visited Ireland or been on a previous KES Kerry trip in the last 3 years
- Low to moderate support needs and/or financially unable to make a trip to Ireland

The closing date for applications is **28<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

For more information please contact: Sarah Goodall/ Margaret Kiely

The London Irish Centre, 50-52 Camden Square, NW1 9XB

Email: [sarahgoodall@londonirishcentre.org](mailto:sarahgoodall@londonirishcentre.org) Telephone: **0207 428 2088**



Radharc na Cille, Carrigart



### Housing opportunity – Co. Donegal

Cluid Housing Association has two 2 bedroom ground floor apartments available in their scheme in Carrigart, Co. Donegal.

Carrigart village is set in the North West of the county (approx 23 miles from Letterkenny).

While preference will be given to people originally from/with strong family connections in Donegal, applicants from other counties will also be considered.

Applicants must be registered and approved by Donegal County Council.

**Please contact the Safe Home office for additional information.**

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### Can I get access to Dialysis treatment if I holiday in Ireland or move there in the future?

The first thing you will need to do is to consult with your medical team where you live.

If coming on holiday from an EU country, you can use your European Health Insurance Card and the dialysis services will then be available free of charge. If coming from a non EU country/state, you will have to pay. Contact the agencies below for additional information on costs.

If you are moving permanently to Ireland and returning from an EU country, you will have to pay for the first 10 days of dialysis at a rate of €75 per day, but only up to a maximum of €750 in any year. If you qualify for a Medical Card thereafter, there is no charge for dialysis

If coming from a Non EU country, you will have to satisfy the conditions of residency and visa requirements. You will need to pay for dialysis, as above, until such a time as you can be deemed 'ordinarily resident in the State' and qualify for a Medical Card.

If you are planning a permanent move to Ireland and are currently approved on a transplant list abroad, this is something you will need to consider carefully. Waiting times can vary considerably from country to country.

### For more information or to discuss booking dialysis sessions, please contact:

The Irish Kidney Association - **Tel:** 353-1-6205306    **Email:** [deborah@ika.ie](mailto:deborah@ika.ie)    **website:** [www.ika.ie](http://www.ika.ie)

Or the National Renal Office, Health Service Executive    **Email:** [nro@hse.ie](mailto:nro@hse.ie)

### Can I pay my Irish Motor Tax at the Post Office in Ireland? No.

Motor tax is collected by local authorities. You can make payments online via: [www.motortax.ie](http://www.motortax.ie) or contact the local authority (Council) in the area where you live. They will provide you with details of the Motor Taxation Office for the region. You can then visit the office and make your payment in person.

The amount of motor tax you pay for a vehicle registered before July 2008 is proportionate to the size of your vehicle's engine - in other words, the more powerful your vehicle, the higher the cost of your motor tax. For new cars registered since July 2008, motor tax charges are determined on the basis of CO2 emission bands with lower emissions resulting in lower charges.

### Telephone support line for older people in Leeds

Leeds Irish Health & Homes, in association with Catholic Care & the Ciaran Bingham Foundation recently launched **The Hand of Friendship Line**, a new telephone support service for older people.

It is a **free and confidential** chat line for lonely people over the age of 50. If you would like to ring up for a chat, avail of a friendly listening ear, or find out about social events in the area, **Tel: 0800 090 2253**    **Open:** Monday – Friday 8am -10pm

### Paws for thought!

As you may have noticed from back issues of the newsletter, questions about bringing pets to Ireland come up on a regular basis. Many people could not even contemplate moving without bringing their beloved pet with them. Sadly for some, this means that tough decisions often have to be made; Safe Home housing applicants may already be aware that many of the Housing Associations that we have access to, particularly in apartment developments in towns & cities, operate a NO PETS policy.

#### Some more news on man's best friend:

Since the end of March 2016, by law, all dogs in Ireland must be microchipped. Owners must also ensure that the correct data for their microchipped dog is registered on an approved database. This mandatory registration and certification will vastly improve the recovery of lost, found and stolen dogs and increase the likelihood of a dog being returned to his/her owner. It will also help to identify whether you are getting a puppy from a reputable breeder and reduce the number of dogs being destroyed unnecessarily in pounds.

You can expect to pay €20-€50 to have your pet microchipped at the vet. Alternatively you may want to contact your Local Authority Dog Warden for information on any available local microchipping schemes. Local authorities, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Gardaí will be responsible for enforcing the law. Owners of dogs found without a chip after April 2016 could face a fine of up to €5,000.

If you are thinking of bringing your dog to Ireland, speak to your local vet.

**For additional information on where you can avail of microchipping in Ireland, you can contact; Veterinary Ireland:** Tel: 01 457 7976 Email: [HQ@vetireland.ie](mailto:HQ@vetireland.ie)

See also: [www.agriculture.ie](http://www.agriculture.ie)      [www.dogstrust.ie](http://www.dogstrust.ie)

**Dog Licence:** As well as having their dog microchipped and registered, dog owners must also have a licence for their pet. An individual dog licence costs €20 and is valid for one year from the date of issue of the licence – it can be bought at any post office. Alternatively, dog owners can buy a "Lifetime of Dog" licence from their relevant local authority. This is valid for the dog's lifetime and costs €140. This licence is non-refundable and non-transferrable. A general dog licence is a licence allowing a person to keep an unspecified number of dogs at one designated premises. These licences are also available via the Local Authority and cost €400.



Here at Safe Home, we are always looking at ways of developing and improving the range of services that we offer.

Whether you are involved in an agency abroad, a client of Safe Home or just someone with an interest in the work that we do, we are asking that you get in touch with us to give your opinion and feedback; What do you feel we do well, what can we do even better? Your input may help others in the future.

Some of our readers will already have received short feedback surveys from us – a gentle reminder to complete and return those to us please!

Safe Home is supported by the Emigrant Support Programme via: