

The Safe-Home Programme

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St. Brendan's Village,

Mulranny, Co. Mayo

Co. Mayo

Tel: 00353 98 36036 Fax: 00353 98 36037

e-mail: SafeHomeireland@eircom.net – web: www.SafeHomeireland.com

From the Chairman's Desk

Greetings,

As we celebrate Sweden's win in Eurovision for the 6th time with their song, 'Heroes', Ireland can be proud to have won this prestigious song contest on seven occasions. Ireland is a global trendsetter in other ways also, being the first country in the world to bring in same-sex marriage by popular vote.

Indeed, Fianna Fáil leader, Micheál Martin, as health minister, set a trend 11 years ago to make Ireland become the first country in the world to ban smoking in the workplace, saving thousands of lives. Micheál Martin is smiling again as his candidate Bobby Aylward, has just won the Carlow-Kilkenny by-election, with Fine Gael, Sinn Féin, Renua, and Labour trailing behind.

In the referendum which made international headlines, 62.1% of voters, amounting to over 1.2 million Irish citizens, voted 'Yes', while 37.9% voted 'No'. Emigration ravaged Roscommon-South Leitrim was the only constituency in the State to reject the referendum by voting 51.4% 'No'.

All in all, it has been an interesting few days in politics, with the defeat of the other referendum on the age of the presidential candidates to be lowered to 21 years; 73% of voters rejected it and only 27% in favour. It just goes to show that the Irish electorate are well capable of making up their own minds when they get the opportunity.

The other startling news recently was the reporting of the finding of two badly decomposing bodies by a Limerick gang of robbers who were forced to flee the scene in panic. Their motive for alerting the Gardaí was a wish not to be blamed for the tragic deaths of the two apparent suicide victims they had inadvertently stumbled upon. I wonder if this was a first for the burglary trade who are naturally very shy of reporting their nefarious activities!

Finally, and most importantly, I am delighted to welcome Ms. Karen McHugh who has taken up her position as CEO of Safe Home. All of us board members, staff and volunteers wish Karen every success and we pledge our full support to her in her new undertaking.

Best wishes for now, **Dr. Jerry Cowley – Chairman, Safe Home**

My English Tongue, My Irish Heart

This production is a powerful and moving new drama that tells the story of Irish emigration to England through the generations, exploring the perplexities of living with, and between, two worlds.

Interspersed with song, humour, sadness and a little fancy foot work , this is a thought provoking production with a modern day love story at its centre. It has been touring throughout Ireland since the beginning of May.

The tour concludes at the London Irish Centre in Camden.

Get your tickets while you still can!

Tel: 0208 916 2222

London Dates:

Friday 29th, Sat 30th & Sunday 31st May: London Irish Centre, Camden

Moving Home from USA and interested in sharing your story?

If you or someone you know is returning from the US Midwest to Ireland this year, and would be interested in participating in a radio documentary for RTE;

Contact Julie via email: juliekirbysmyth@gmail.com.

European Neighbours Day

The EU Neighbours Day has been running for a number of years now and is due to take place on the last Friday in May.

There are events being organised in various countries and cities all across the EU. It is an ideal day to remember our more vulnerable and elderly neighbours who may need someone to run a quick errand or would just welcome a short visit for a chat or cup of tea.

Of course some people are already ahead of the posse!

It was interesting to see that the **Irish Elderly Advice Network**, 50-52 Camden Square, London, NW1 9XB already operate a Good Neighbour Scheme.

For more information on this and other welfare & advice services offered, contact:

Irish Elderly Advice Network

Tel: 0207 428 0471

www.irisheldersadvice.org.uk

Immigrant Counselling & Psychotherapy – Extending their range of services in Birminham:

The West Midlands branch of the Immigrant Counselling & Psychotherapy (ICAP) service recently launched a new outreach initiative in conjunction with the Birmingham Irish Association.

They hope to help members of the Irish community overcome barriers that stop them seeking mental health care, by targeting people with “surface” issues such as anxiety and depression.

The service will be based at the Birmingham Irish Association offices where it is hoped to offer up to 6 free counseling sessions to assist people who are struggling with day to day emotional and mental health issues.

The new initiative will run in addition to the regular service offered at ICAP’s office in Birmingham – which provides counselling therapy to those with mental health needs, those facing emotional challenges and difficulties and institutional abuse survivors among the Irish community in the West Midlands.

If you feel this service would be of benefit to you or someone you know, do get in touch with ICAP for more information:

ICAP – West Midlands: 72 Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DH **Mon-Fri: 9 – 5pm**

Tel: 0121 666 7707

Email: info@icapbirmingham.org.uk

Housing Opportunity: St. Dominick’s Housing Association in **Newport, Co. Mayo** has a 2 bedroom bungalow available. While priority will be given to people originally from Co. Mayo, they will also consider applicants from other counties.

Please contact the Safe Home office for additional information on this development.



Bringing your pets to Ireland:

In our last newsletter we mentioned that the new owner of Ashford Castle had her two dachshunds flown into Shannon by private jet. They were then transported from the Airport to the Castle in Co. Mayo by chauffeur. Of course this mode of transportation is not an option that is open to everyone!

We had a call recently from James in Essex who is planning to move back to Kerry over the coming months. James has a 9yr old Labrador (Jess) and was wondering what the procedure is from bringing Jess home with him.

Bringing your pet from an EU member state:

If you want to bring your cat or dog into Ireland from any EU member state including the UK, the pet animal must have an **EU Pet Passport**:

The Passport which is standard for all EU members certifies that:

- The pet is travelling from an eligible country.
- The pet is identified by an implanted microchip.
- The pet has been vaccinated against rabies subsequently at least 21 days before travel
- Dogs coming from countries other than the UK, Finland or Malta have been treated against tapeworm between 24 and 120 hours before travel. The time and date of treatment are entered on the passport. Treatment for ticks is not compulsory but it is advisable to get it at the same time as the tapeworm treatment.

If there are more than 5 animals, a veterinary health certificate showing that animals have been clinically examined within 48 hours of departure is also required unless the owner can show proof that the animals are being brought to compete in a sporting event or other competition.

Bringing pets from outside the EU

If you want to import a cat or dog into Ireland from a country outside the EU, there are 2 categories of these countries:

(i) qualifying lower-risk countries and (ii) non-qualifying high-risk countries. You can check which category your country of origin falls into on:

www.agriculture.gov.ie/pets

Pets from qualifying non-EU countries:

A cat or dog from a (i) qualifying lower-risk non-EU country must undergo the following in **this order**:

- Be identified by a microchip
- Be vaccinated for rabies subsequently
- Have a veterinary health certificate in the form of Annex IV to Commission Implementing Decision 577/2013 to certify that it is currently immunised against rabies and dogs must be treated against tapeworm between 24 and 120 hours before arriving in Ireland. Treatment for ticks is not compulsory but it is advisable to get it at the same time as the tapeworm treatment.

(ii) Non-qualifying high-risk countries:

If you are coming from a non-qualifying high-risk country your pet must:

- Be microchipped (this must be done before anything else)
- Be vaccinated for rabies subsequently
- Have a blood test after the rabies vaccination at least 3 months before entry
- Have a veterinary health certificate in the form of Annex IV to Commission Implementing Decision 577/2013 to certify that it is currently immunised against rabies and dogs must be treated against tapeworm not more than 120 hours and not less than 24 hours before arriving in Ireland. Treatment for ticks is not compulsory but it is advisable to get it at the same time as the tapeworm treatment.

The information above is not just for the owners of cats and dogs. It also relates to people who may be thinking about bringing their pet Ferret (Frankie) home with them.

Birds, Rabbits and Rodents:

If you are moving to live in Ireland or coming here on holiday, you may be able to bring your pet bird, rabbit or rodent with you, provided you meet certain requirements. Contact the Dept of Agriculture, Food and the Marine for more info.

Transporting your pet from A-B:

The operator of the airline or ferry company is legally obliged under the Pet Passport (No2) Regulations 2014 to notify the arrival of the animals to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine by **email** at least 24 hours in advance to:
petmove@agriculture.gov.ie.

Coming from the EU:

Airlines registered with the Department may choose to carry pets complying with the above regulations. Compliant pets may travel on any ferry. The pet must travel with its owner or with a person acting on behalf of the owner (unaccompanied pets cannot travel to Ireland under the EU Pet Passport System).

Coming from outside the EU

The animal must be transported by air to Ireland on an approved airline or pet cargo carrier. You must provide evidence to the airline in advance that your pet is travelling with you for non-commercial purposes.

Entry to Ireland is by airline into Dublin airport where the pet is checked to see if it is compliant with the entry requirements.

Non-compliant pets: If the pet does not meet the entry requirements it will be returned to the country of origin at the owner's expense.

Additional Information: If there is anything you are unclear about, your vet should be able to advise you

Or **Contact:** Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Animal Health Section, Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, Ireland

Tel: 00353 1 607 2827

www.agriculture.gov.ie/pets

Email: pets@agriculture.gov.ie

No Pets Policy:

Many Safe Home applicants have a much loved cat or dog - they could not even consider coming home without their beloved companion. Unfortunately, some Housing Associations that we deal with operate a strict No Pets Policy.

This usually applies to schemes of apartments in urban areas, rather than houses in the countryside.

However, if you have a pet and are considering returning to a particular scheme, it's always worth making enquiries first to confirm the situation for you & your trusty companion.

Contributions History and Entitlement to State Pension:

- We recently provided support to James in Galway, who had moved back from Birmingham. In discussions with our outreach worker, James mentioned that he had lived and worked in the USA for about 10 years.
- Our outreach worker advised that it might be worthwhile for James to find out if he had any entitlement to a part-Contributory U.S Pension. He contacted the relevant office via the U.S Embassy and was delighted to learn that he did indeed qualify for some pension based on his contributions. It transpired that his wife would also receive something too.
- For pensioners may have lived and worked in other EU Member States, Australia or the USA during the course of their working lives; **check out your situation.**
- If you have paid into the system in another jurisdiction and fulfill all other criteria, you may well be in for a little windfall of your own!
- Contact your nearest Irish Welfare & Advice Centre, they will be happy to make enquiries on your behalf.

Access to Public Healthcare, if visiting Ireland:

- Visitors from EU Member States: are entitled to urgent medical treatment here without charge provided they present the European Health Insurance Card.
- Visitors from the United Kingdom: do not require the European Health Insurance Card. Evidence of residence in the United Kingdom may be required e.g. social security documentation or driving licence.
- Visitors from Australia: are entitled to urgent medical treatment here on the same basis as non-medical card holders, i.e., they are subject to hospital charges. Visitors will, on presentation of suitable identification (passport/evidence of residence in Australia) be entitled to hospital services as a public patient and will be invoiced for the relevant hospital charge.
- Visitors from countries outside the EU: may be charged the full economic cost for any treatment provided here.

A nice day out! Here is something that may be of interest to anyone living or holidaying in the Mulranny area over the bank holiday week-end;

'A Famine Love Story'

Starting at 2.30pm on Sunday 31st May at Mulranny Pier, we hope to perform to the best of our ability a story that has been handed down to us by word of mouth from famine times.

At the time of the famine a lot of the islands of Clew Bay were inhabited and when a person died from hunger they rowed them to the mainland to be buried. On one occasion, weakened by malnutrition, the oarsmen didn't have the strength to bury the body so they left her on the shoreline.

Local people came on the body and when they were burying her, they found her to be still alive. One of the men took her back to his hovel and nursed her back to life. In appreciation of what he had done for her the young woman knitted him an Aran jumper.

Wearing the Aran jumper he went to the fair and the pattern of the jumper was recognized by one of the islanders who happened to be at the same fair. Asked who knitted him the jumper he told them he didn't know her name as she was dumb. The old man told him he thinks it could be his daughter as the pattern was the family pattern and when he'd get home if he removed a silver pin from the back of her neck she would speak.

That is just the bones of the story and because it's a story unique to our area, by performing it, we hope to keep it alive especially among the younger generation. All are welcome to attend and admission is free.

Michael Joe Ginnelly

As always if you wish to contact us:

Tel: 098 36036

Tel: 00353 9836036 (UK)

Tel: 0113539836036 (USA)

Email: safehomeireland@eircom.net

Write to: The Safe-Home Programme, St Brendan's Village, Mulranny, Co Mayo, Ireland.

Dr. Cowley, Karen, Mary Ann, Brenda & Noreen

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AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA AGUS TRÁDÁLA NA hÉIREANN
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