

# *The Safe-Home Programme*

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AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA AGUS TRÁDÁLA NA hÉIREANN  
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OF IRELAND

## **From the Chairman's Desk**

Greetings,

Thanks to modern media communications we are constantly being updated on every unfolding situation no matter where in the world it happens. Whether the tragedy is in Mecca or Syria or Hungary or elsewhere we can view it on our living room TV. The civil war in Syria has resulted in more than 11 million people being displaced from their homes. Many of these refugees are on the move to escape the bombing which has destroyed their houses and killed family members. They get to Turkey only to further risk their lives in their hundreds of thousands trying to get from there to Greece across the Mediterranean sea.

The sight of a dead refugee child washed up on a beach brings the reality of their suffering home to us. The world is no stranger to refugees and the UN refugee conventions of 1951 and the 1957 Protocol relating to the status of refugees are thankfully already there for countries to follow. The UN predicts there could be over four million Syrian refugees by December 15. The 4,000 or so refugees that this country has promised to take is the tip of the iceberg. Perhaps they could help repopulate rural Ireland and help us reopen our schools? This would be better and more useful than so called reception centres, and more humane also.

History repeats itself and one war or another will tragically always be with us. In this country our population was not fleeing from war like modern day refugees but trying to improve their economic situation and of those left behind. Before that we are only too familiar with how this small country populated the world in the aftermath of the great famine.

Our people are scattered far and wide and that brings us to what Safe Home is about. Indeed as mentioned in our August Newsletter, Safe Home owes a great debt of thanks to one of our own, a Mayo man from near Knock, who relocated to Manchester in 2004. Dr Liam Harte is a senior lecturer in Irish and Modern Literature at the University of Manchester, and the author of "Irish in Britain: Autobiography and Memoir, 1725 - 2001(2009)." This important book is a critical survey of the autobiographies and memoirs of writers of Irish birth or background who lived and worked in Britain from 1725 to now. Dr Harte got the idea to turn his scholarly study into a dramatic piece of work for the stage featuring the Irish emigrant experience.

And so it was that in collaboration with a Belfast playwright the highly acclaimed play "My English tongue, My Irish Heart " written and directed by Martin Lynch, began its successful tour to packed venues in areas most associated with emigration, places like Mayo and Leitrim, then finishing up in cities closely associated with the Diaspora, London and Manchester.

It tells the story of Irish emigration to England through the generations, exploring the perplexities of living with, and between two worlds. The proceeds of the very successful tour were divided between Safe Home and the Aisling project. Thank you Dr. Liam Harte. Safe Home and those we serve are forever grateful to you and wish you every success in the future.

So long for now,

**Dr Jerry Cowley, Chairman - Safe Home.**

### **Are you involved in a community organisation based in Britain and planning to organise an even to commemorate 1916?**

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Charlie Flanagan T.D recently announced a fund that may be of interest to you. Community organisations in Britain are invited to submit proposals for projects to form part of the international programme to commemorate the 1916 Easter Rising.

Proposed events should fall within the framework of the overall Ireland 2016 programme and be aligned with one or more of the five themes: Remember; Reconcile; Present; Imagine and Celebrate. Taking the 1916 Rising as a starting point, projects with a community, commemorative, cultural, academic or educational focus will all be eligible for funding.

The Embassy of Ireland in London will manage the small fund accessible to community organisations in Britain who wish to submit proposals. Funding awarded will be in the region of £500 - £2,000 per project. Organisations must complete a separate application form for each project proposal.

The deadline for submission of proposals is 1st October 2015. For more details on the fund and to download the application form, see the DFAT website: **[www.dfa.ie](http://www.dfa.ie)**

### **TV programme about the experiences of returning emigrants - Interested in getting involved?**

I am a television producer/director mostly working on projects for RTE and TG4. I am currently putting together a programme about returning emigrants to Ireland. I'm personally someone who moved to Ireland from abroad and know that it can have a large effect on one's life. I am asking anyone who might be interested in talking about their experience on a tv programme as a returning emigrant to contact me directly.

Many thanks - **Tomás Seoighe**

Tel: **087 7520549**

**Going Strong 100 years on..... this sounds lovely!**  
**Older Than Ireland** by Friends of the Elderly Ireland

OLDER THAN IRELAND is a landmark documentary that tells the story of a hundred years of a life as seen through the eyes of thirty Irish centenarians. It features thirty men and women aged 100 years and over. Often funny and at times poignant, the film explores each centenarian's journey, from their birth at the dawn of Irish independence to their life as a centenarian in modern day Ireland.

Reflecting on such key events as the day they got their first pair of shoes, the thrill of their first kiss, from the magic of their wedding day to the tragic loss of their loved ones, these centenarians have lived through it all. Having witnessed a century of immense social, political and technological change each centenarian has a unique perspective on life and its true meaning.

"From the oldest Irish person ever on record, 113-year-old Kathleen Snively to Ireland's oldest man, 108-year-old Luke Dolan we meet a colourful cast of characters from all walks of life from the four corners of Ireland. These centenarians truly are OLDER THAN IRELAND, they are our living history and these are their extraordinary stories".

**Keep an eye out for this** – at the moment it is only being released in selected cinemas in Ireland (from Sept 25<sup>th</sup>).

### **Water Conservation Grant - Ireland**

After much confusion and debate, it has now been agreed that the Department of Social Protection (DSP) will administer a €100 per annum water conservation grant on behalf of the Department of the Environment.

The grant will be available to all householders (not just pensioners or those on low income) who have fully completed the registration process with Irish Water. **It will only be available to the applicant's principal private residence** (main home, NOT holiday home).

The DSP is currently making direct contact with those who have registered with Irish Water. A website has been set up to make it easy for you to apply for the grant. You may apply online at: **[www.watergrant.ie](http://www.watergrant.ie)**.

If you do not have internet access or a bank account, please contact the Water Conservation Grant Support Team on 0761 087 890/1890 100 043 (within Ireland) between 9a and 5pm Monday to Friday. The closing date for applications is **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015.**

### **Housing opportunities:**

A Housing Association in **Ballymacarbry, Co. Waterford** has a 2 bedroom property available. While priority will be given to Safe Home applicants originally from Waterford or those with strong family links in the area, they may also consider applicants from surrounding counties.



Oak Grove, Ballaghaderreen

A Housing Association in **Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon** has a number of one bedroom bungalows available. Priority will be given to Safe Home applicants originally from Roscommon or those with strong family ties in the area. However, applicants from surrounding counties may also apply.

### **For Mayo/Roscommon applicants:**

There is a two bedroom property available at **St. Michael's Estate in Kilmovee** (Kilmovee is a small village on the Mayo/Roscommon borders - approx 6 miles to Ballaghaderreen and 8 miles to Ireland West Airport in Knock)



For additional information on any of these options, **contact the Safe Home office.**

### **Please Note! Importance of completing paperwork**

In general Safe Home applicants can technically be offered a Housing Association property without being registered and approved by the relevant Council. However, if they may need to apply for assistance with their rent on return home, applicants must be assessed and approved by the Council.

If you are interested in any of the housing options here or contacted about possibilities in the future, please bear in mind that there may be additional paperwork involved to complete this process. **Please do not be put off by any of this!** Safe Home staff will be on hand to assist you every step of the way.

### **Did you know? The Irish link**

- **'The Voice of Racing'**, Sir Peter O'Sullivan passed away at the end of July, aged 97. Sir Peter was born in Co. Kerry in 1918 but was reared by his maternal grand-parents in Surrey. He was widely acclaimed as one of the best sporting commentators of this generation.
- An Irish man was the first to discover and explain **why the sky is blue** (too much time on his hands some might say!). John Tyndall, a physicist who was born in Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow in 1820 proved that the sky's blue colour resulted from the scattering of the Sun's rays by molecules in the atmosphere (known as the Tyndall Effect).
- It was an Irish man, Patrick "Paddy" Hannan, who set off the **gold rush in Kalgoorlie, Australia** in 1893. Paddy was originally from Quin, Co. Clare. Today, Kalgoorlie's main street is Hannan Street, The railway station is Hannan Station, there is a Hannan Hotel and in the local pub you can drink a pint of Hannan lager. The moral of this story would appear to be ..... if you want to be remembered long after you have departed this earth, unearth a few nuggets!

Thank you to **James, in Nottingham**, for contacting us with these interesting snippets.

### **National Car Test Ireland - Exemptions from the NCT**

Did you know that vehicles registered before January 1980 are not required to be tested?

And

For those who may be planning to return to an Island that is not connected to the mainland by road, cars permanently based on these islands do not have to be tested.

### **Charges for accident and emergency/casualty and out-patient services**

If you use accident and emergency services **without** being referred there by a GP, there is a charge of €100. The charge applies to the following **public** facilities:

- Emergency departments
- Accident and emergency departments
- Casualty departments
- Minor injury units
- Urgent care centres
- Local injury units
- Any other facility providing similar services

**There is no charge if you are referred by a GP** (bring your referral letter with you) OR for certain groups listed below:

### **The charge of €100 does not apply to the following groups:**

- Medical card holders
- People who are admitted to hospital as an in-patient as a result of attending the casualty department (you will then be subject to in-patient charges)
- People receiving treatment for prescribed infectious diseases
- Children up to 6 weeks of age
- Children who have certain diseases and disabilities
- Children referred for treatment from child health clinics and school health examinations
- People who are entitled to hospital services because of EU Regulations
- Women receiving maternity services
- People with Hepatitis C who have a Health Amendment Act Card

**Note!** European Union rules: If you have an entitlement to healthcare in another EU/EEA member State or Switzerland, you may have an entitlement to healthcare in Ireland under EU rules. If you are **visiting Ireland temporarily** you can apply for a European Health Insurance Card which covers medical care if you become ill or have an accident. You should bring your European Health Insurance Card with you when you are travelling to Ireland. **If you living in the UK and holidaying here, you can bring evidence of UK residence instead** of evidence of a European Health Ins Card.

The A & E charge applies to the first visit in relation to an illness or accident. If you have to return for further visits to an out-patient clinic in relation to the same illness or accident, you should not have to pay the charge again.

### **As always if you wish to contact us:**

Tel: 098 36036

Tel: 00 353 98 36036 (UK)

Tel: 011353 98 36036 (USA)

Email: [safehomeireland@eircom.net](mailto:safehomeireland@eircom.net)

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

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