

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION IRELAND



Annual Report

For the period ended 30th April 2018

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Company information

DIRECTORS

Aideen Magee
Ann Greene
Emma Higgs
June Stanley (appointed on 12.12.17)
Michael Gunn (appointed on 9.1.18)
Pat Nolan

COMPANY NUMBER

555237

CHARITY NUMBER

20991

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER

20142551

REGISTERED OFFICE

10 High Meadows,
Duleek,
Co Meath, Ireland
Tel: +353 (0)41 9880663

ACCOUNTANTS

Upton Ryan Chartered Accountants
Fourth Floor, North Block, Rockfield Central, Dundrum,
Dublin 16, Ireland
Tel: +353 (0)1-4780044

Chairman's Report

The main object for which Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland was established is to:

- support, extend and improve wildlife rehabilitation resources in Ireland;
- promote awareness and education about Irish wildlife for the general public and for professionals working in this and adjacent fields;
- take any other action that will improve wildlife welfare and conservation in Ireland

These aims were successfully worked towards during 2017 and early 2018 under various strategies as described below:

1. Hospital & Visitor Centre
2. The Community of Rehabilitators
3. Ongoing Education Programme
4. Building awareness and action against Wildlife Crime
5. Strategic partners, alliances, bodies, stakeholders etc
6. Media and Communications
7. Networking
8. Charity personnel – Patrons & Directors
9. Websites
10. Finances, Governance and Reporting

Hospital and Visitor Centre



Currently our main objective is to get a Wildlife Hospital built to save the lives of thousands of injured wild animals, whilst promoting public respect and love for nature, & providing educational opportunities and therapeutic benefits to people who visit and work at the wildlife hospital.

This was the start of a very exciting time for us as it is absolutely vital that this facility is built as soon as possible to relieve the pressure on back-garden wildlife rehabilitators who, for lack of money and resources, are unable to care for all the wildlife casualties that are brought to them.

- Support for the project was investigated and we were kindly supplied with letters of endorsement from a variety of sources including, veterinary surgeons, UCD's Veterinary Teaching Hospital and various wildlife welfare and conservation organisations. (<http://www.wri.ie/hospital/pages/About.html>)
- Two possible sites identified – Kells through Meath County Council (MCC) and Donabate through Fingal County Council (FCC)
- First meeting held with Fingal County Council (FCC), on the 1st of January 2017, on the proposed site near Donabate.
- 21st January site visit with MCC on the proposed site near Kells.
- Following these site visits, and further discussion, we decided to pursue the project with FCC.
- A Wildlife Hospital Steering Group was formed, and met quarterly, to guide us through the beginning of a project of this scale.
- High level requirements agreed for hospital and for a visitor centre.
- FCC sent out a tender for provision of Consultancy Services to undertake a Feasibility Study on the project on 27th March 2018.
- New Wildlife Rehabilitation Hospital Project agreed as top priority for 2018/2019 – by WRI's Board.
- Site visit on the 9th July with Fingal Co Co and Wildlife and Wetland Trust (WWT) consultants who won the tender.

The Community of Rehabilitators



- As of the 30th April there are roughly 30 rehabilitators nationwide.
- An estimate of aprox 5,000 animals have been rehabilitated throughout the year.
- WRI worked with rehabilitators to create educational materials and liaised with them re best practice procedures.
- Ongoing support for them through subsidising the cost of transport for injured wildlife and providing advice on good governance for their organisations.

Ongoing Education Programme



Wildlife Rehabilitation Course

- Every year except 2017 we have run wildlife courses or conferences, however, this year we spent time recruiting new Instructors with impressive wildlife treatment experience and qualifications in order to deliver the highest quality courses.
- Instead of teaching this year, we progressed with a major project; creating our own Irish Wildlife Course (to date we have been franchising the IWRC's Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation Course).



Wildlife in University College Dublin Veterinary Hospital

- In 2017 WRI availed of three Irish vets to teach wildlife first aid and care, for 3 days in UCD's veterinary hospital to a total of 60 veterinary and vet nursing students.
- This is the 3rd year we have been teaching students in UCD, and we're delighted each you to be asked back. Wildlife treatment and first aid is an essential part of veterinary education due to the inevitability of wildlife casualties being brought into practices nationwide.
- We look forward to seeing the next year of students in Autumn 2018.

Building awareness and action against Wildlife Crime



- Raising awareness and action against wildlife crime continues to be a priority for WRI.
- With the aid of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), we have been preparing for a launch of a wildlife crime awareness campaign – a mailshot to over 1,600 individuals/organisations.
- WRI is grateful to the NPWS and An Garda Síochána (AGS) for giving some of the proceeds of fines as a donation to WRI. These donations are used by WRI to cover the costs of awareness raising of wildlife crime to the general public, e.g. the printing and distribution of the Wildlife Crime leaflet fod as a link from the Wildlife Crime Ireland website.

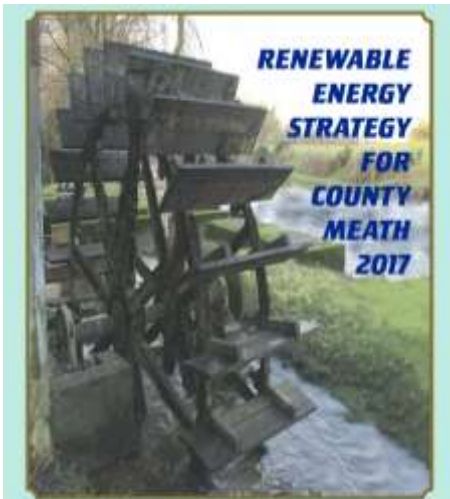
Strategic partners, alliances, bodies, stakeholders etc



The WRI continues to work with key government and local communities to promote the welfare and rehabilitation of wildlife.

Public Participation Network

- For the past 3 years WRI have been a member of the Meath Environment Network (MEN) Group of the Public Participation Network (PPN).
- The PPN allows local authorities to connect with community groups around the country. It is the “go to” for all local authorities who wish to benefit from community and voluntary expertise in their area.
- In 2017, Meath Environmental Network, a consortium of diverse groups with a common interest in the natural environment, worked together on the proposal to provide a Renewable Energy Strategy for County Meath.



Irish Environmental Network

- As of November 2017, WRI became a member of the Irish Environmental Network (IEN), this body is made up of nationally active Irish Environmental NGOs. The group represent a broad range of environmental issues including everything from wildlife conservation to climate change.



Fingal County Council

- Ongoing relationship building with FCC - working closely with them on developing full proposal for the Wildlife Teaching Hospital.
- Good progress made with tender out on 27th March 2018 - for the provision of Consultancy Services to undertake a Feasibility Study for a Nature Education Centre and Wildlife Teaching Hospital in Donabate, Co. Dublin.
- This partner/stakeholder will continue as the top priority partner over the next few years as the Hospital plans are progressed 2018/2019.



Media & Communications



Media

- 6 interviews on LMFMs radio show 'Late Lunch with Gerry Kelly'.
- 1 newspaper article for The Irish Examiner (interview).
- 1 slot on Mooney Goes Wild – discussing release of birds of prey and corvids
- 1 interview on Newstalk re. wildlife rehabilitation



Communications: WRI e-newsletter

Communication with rehabilitators and subscribers continues to be a priority for WRI.

- During this 12 month period we sent out 6 e-newsletters.
- As of April 2018, we have over 800 subscribers.
- All newsletters are GDPR compliant – with small changes planned for website and databases next year.

Networking



Conferences

Priority for 2018-2021 will be fundraising.

- One of our Directors attended a 2-day Fundraising Conference 'Ask Direct Fundraising Summer School' which provided great insight and direction.
- The **Northern Ireland Bat Group**, Bat Conservation Ireland and Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland teamed up to deliver a one day training session focusing on basic bat care on the 21st April 2018 in Athlone. '**Introduction to Bat Care**' was open to bat ambulance drivers, veterinary surgeons, veterinary nurses and experienced bat workers interested in bat care.

Charity Personnel – Patrons & Directors



Patrons

- As previously reported; to boost the profile of WRI and our Wildlife Hospital project, we welcomed our first patron, Mary Reynolds in April 2017.
- In August 2017, we were delighted to welcome widely respected and talented Irish musician Sharon Shannon as our second patron.
- These likeminded, creative, individuals have declared their support and enthusiasm for the creation of such a facility.
- WRI continue to seek other patrons as means for building awareness and promoting the brand and the work.



Directors

As WRI grows, it needs a broader skill set to guide it.

- Two new Directors appointed:
 - June Stanley (Chartered Internal Auditor, Accountant, Operations Manager)
 - Michael Gunn (Retired Laboratory Director, Veterinary Surgeon)

WRI websites

Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland

www.wri.ie

WRI has developed a website which offers rehabilitation guidelines. It covers standardised wildlife casualty processes, volunteer forms for rehabilitation establishments, wildlife career options, publications and further education - all of which aim to facilitate individuals actively involved in rehabilitation and/or conservation.

Irish Wildlife Matters

www.irishwildlifematters.ie

WRI produced the wildlife first aid website 'Irish Wildlife Matters' (IWM) which was launched in May 2010. Its purpose is to address the lack of easily accessible information on Irish wildlife rescue and first aid. IWM provides an easily accessible, online overview of the rescue methods, medical treatment, rehabilitation and release procedures for the most commonly seen species of Irish wildlife casualties.

Wildlife Crime Ireland

www.wildlifecrime.ie

In 2015 WRI, in association with retired NPWS ranger Val Swan, produced a new wildlife crime website and wildlife crime information brochure that were launched at the Irish Wildlife Crime Conference 2015. This website is a comprehensive site for the general public to get information on what to do and who to call for help in Ireland should a wildlife crime be suspected.



Wildlife Rehabilitation & Teaching Hospital

www.wri.ie/hospital

By April 2017 the Project needed a higher public profile, so WRI's Wildlife Hospital Fundraising website was created to explain the project and its importance to animals, the community, and the country.



Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland

(A company limited by guarantee, without a share capital)

INCOME STATEMENT

for the year ended 30 April 2018

| | Notes | 2018 € | 2017 € |
|--------------------------------|-------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Income | | 5,818 | 14,708 |
| Expenditure | | <u>(14,804)</u> | <u>(10,173)</u> |
| (Deficit)/surplus for the year | 6 | <u><u>(8,986)</u></u> | <u><u>4,535</u></u> |

The company has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the year. The results for the year have been calculated on the historical cost basis. The company's income and expenses all relate to continuing operations.

Approved by the board on 29 January 2019 and signed on its behalf by:

Emma Higgs
Director

Pat Nolan
Director

Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland

(A company limited by guarantee, without a share capital)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at 30 April 2018

| | Notes | 2018 € | 2017 € |
|--|-------|---------------|---------------|
| Current Assets | | | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 21,503 | 25,131 |
| Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year | 5 | (5,358) | - |
| Net Current Assets | | 16,145 | 25,131 |
| Total Assets less Current Liabilities | | 16,145 | 25,131 |
| Reserves | | | |
| Capital reserves and funds | 6 | - | 9,356 |
| Income and expenditure account | 6 | 16,145 | 15,775 |
| Members' Funds | | 16,145 | 25,131 |

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the micro companies' regime.

We as Directors of Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland, state that -

(a) the company is availing itself of the exemption provided for by Chapter 15 of Part 6 of the Companies Act 2014,

(b) the company is availing itself of the exemption on the grounds that the conditions specified in section 358 are satisfied,

(c) the members of the company have not served a notice on the company under section 334(1) in accordance with section 334(2),

(d) we acknowledge the company's obligations under the Companies Act 2014, to keep adequate accounting records and prepare financial statements which give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company at the end of its financial year and of its profit or loss for such a year and to otherwise comply with the provisions of the Companies Act 2014 relating to financial statements so far as they are applicable to the company.

Approved by the board on 29 January 2019 and signed on its behalf by:

Emma Higgs
Director

Pat Nolan

Our full Statutory Accounts are available on our website www.wri.ie

Acknowledgements to WRI funders and supporters

Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland would like to thank all the generous individuals who donated during the year. WRI relies entirely on donations and grants to carry out the work we do, so all support is very gratefully received.

We would especially like to thank the following:

- Dee Collins
- Kieran Corry
- Naomi Clarkin
- Aideen Magee
- Dan Donoher
- Fiona Conlon
- Niamh O'Donoghue
- David Kilroy
- Catherine McCarney
- Jo Hedley
- Olivia Dellow
- Katie Dundon
- Virginia McLoughlin