

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION IRELAND



Annual Report

For the period ended 30th April 2019

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Company information

DIRECTORS

Emma Higgs
Ann Greene
Aideen Magee
Pat Nolan
June Stanley
Michael Gunn
Heidi Bedell (Appointed 27 March 2019)

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 2018 and early 2019 under various strategies as described below:

1. Hospital and Visitor Centre
2. The Community of Rehabilitators
3. Ongoing Education Programme
4. Wildlife Crime
5. Strategic partners, alliances, bodies, stakeholders etc
6. Communications and Media
8. Governance
9. Finances
10. Grants and Acknowledgements

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.

The large number of newly trained wildlife rehabilitators now increases the urgency for us to work on bringing this facility to fruition to relieve the pressure on back-garden wildlife rehabilitators who, for lack of money and resources, are unable to care for the increase in numbers of wildlife casualties that are brought to them.

- First meeting held with Fingal County Council (FCC), on the 1st of January 2017, on the proposed site near Donabate.
- FCC sent out a tender for provision of Consultancy Services to undertake a Feasibility Study on the project on 27th March 2018.
- Site visit on the 9th July with Wildlife and Wetland Trust (WWT) consultants who won the tender. Site approximately 7 acres.
- Stakeholders meeting on 10th July facilitated by WWT.
- WRI provided input and feedback to the consultants working on the Feasibility Study for a Nature Education Centre and Wildlife Teaching Hospital.
- WRI attended 2 Wildlife Hospital site visits, 5 meetings with Fingal County Council between July and Dec, 6 meetings with the WWT consultants; one of which was a visit to the architect in London in Sept.
- The costs will be €4-5 ml – i.e. €2 ml for hospital and €2 ml for the visitor centre.

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.
- Ongoing support provided via subsidising the cost of transport for injured wildlife and providing advice on good governance for their organisations, and facility design ideas.
- Communications with NPWS regarding pilot project of Annual Rehabilitation licenses for rehabilitators treating hundreds of casualties every year.

Ongoing Education Programme



WRI Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation course



UCD Students



Liz Mullineaux UCD Lecture

Wildlife Rehabilitation Course

Launched our own 'Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation' course and brought over International Instructors to run 5 WRI 'Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation' Courses for 100 delegates.

- 21st & 22nd July 2018 'Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation' Course. UK Instructor Vicki Baldrey
- Meeting in Sept 2018 with Jo Hedley in London for her to review our amended 'Advanced Wildlife Veterinary Treatment' course
- 13th & 14th Oct 2018 'Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation' Course. UK Instructor Vicki Baldrey
- 28th Oct 2018 Ran our second 'Advanced Wildlife Veterinary Treatment' Course for 20 veterinary professionals. Instructors Kieran Corry and UK Instructor David Couper
- 10th & 11th Nov 2018 'Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation' Course. Instructor Kieran Corry
- 23rd & 24th Feb 2019 'Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation' Course. UK Instructor Jo Hedley
- 6th & 7th Apr 2019 'Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation' Course. UK Instructor Mark Naguib

The enthusiasm with which our courses have been greeted means that we will continue to offer as many teaching opportunities as possible every year.

Wildlife in University College Dublin Veterinary Hospital

This is the 4th year we have been teaching students in UCD's veterinary hospital, and we're delighted each year to be asked to return. Wildlife treatment and first aid is an essential part of veterinary education due to the inevitability of wildlife casualties being brought into practices nationwide.

- 21st Sept 2018 'Introduction to Wildlife First Aid' course to 20 1st year veterinary students. UK Instructor Bev Panto
- 24th Sept 2018 'Introduction to Wildlife First Aid' course to 20 veterinary nurse students. UK Instructor Bev Panto
- 12th Nov 2018 'Introduction to Wildlife First Aid' course to 20 4th year veterinary nurse students. Instructor Kieran Corry
- 5th June 2018 in partnership with UCD veterinary hospital, WRI organised a Wildlife First Aid lecture by UK wildlife specialist Liz Mullineaux

WRI Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference 2018



27th October 2018 we ran a Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference in Rock Farm in Slane, Co Meath, for 70 people.

- We had 5 International speakers; Elizabeth Mullineaux, David Couper, Emma Keeble, Pauline Kidner, Joanna Hedley, and Irish speakers; Kieran Corry, Pete Wedderburn, and WRI patron Mary Reynolds.
- Topics included: Primary assessment, triage and first aid of wildlife casualties, Rescue and rehabilitation of seals, How to assess, treat and care for avian casualties, Care and rearing of neonates, Wildlife release considerations, and Wildlife casualty case study discussions.



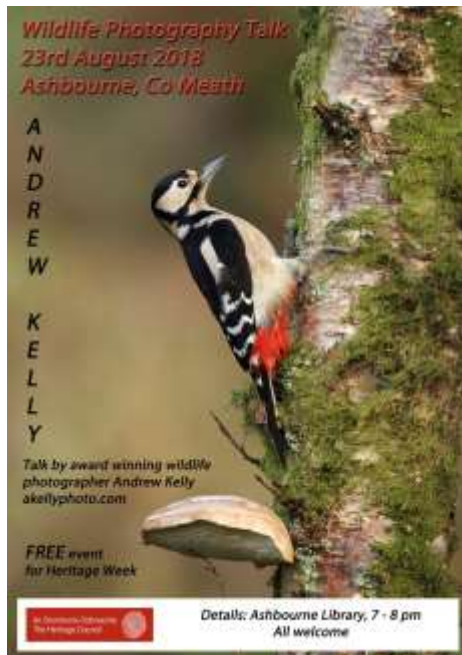
WRI Wild Event



- 25th November 2018 we ran a Wildlife Information and Learning Day 'WILD' in Brigit's Garden in Galway with our patrons Mary Reynolds and Sharon Shannon where we launched our Wildlife Hospital campaign.
- TG4 kindly came to cover the event and publicise our mission to build Ireland's first National Wildlife Rehabilitation and Teaching Hospital on Nuacht that evening.
- Launched fundraising initiative of Blueleaf Redtree graphic design services - WRI *acorn boxes* as promotional items which, thanks to Mary Reynolds and Glen Hansard's manager - Claire Leadbitter, were subsequently also sold at gigs on Glen Hansard's tour.
- Oct 2019 - They're on the move... Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland Acorn boxes are now on the way to Barcelona with Glen Hansard and team on his EU tour in support of our wildlife hospital campaign. #littleacornsWRI

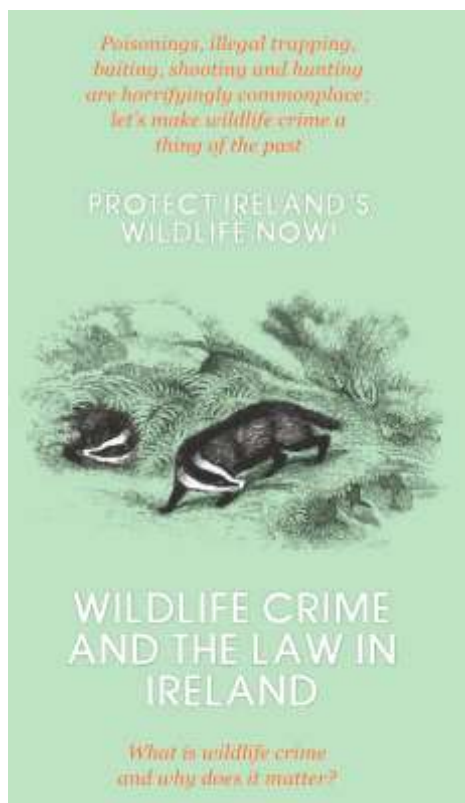


Heritage Week



- 23rd August 2018 WRI invited one of Ireland's foremost wildlife photographers Andrew Kelly, to provide a Wildlife Photography Talk for the general public in Ashbourne Library, Co Meath, for Heritage Week.
- Andrew shared his experiences of photographing wildlife, in particular native Irish wildlife. This was a wonderful opportunity for people who are interested in wildlife or photography or both to come and learn from an expert. The talk lasted approximately one hour, and Andrew was available to answer questions and chat afterwards to people about where to watch wildlife and more about the techniques involved in wildlife photography.
- Andrew's wildlife photographs give close up images that show the true beauty of our native wildlife.
- WRI were on hand to give advice to people as to who they can contact should they find any injured wildlife.

Building awareness and action against Wildlife Crime



Raising awareness and action against wildlife crime continues to be a priority for WRI.

- March 2018 - over 15,000 wildlife crime brochures were printed with financial assistance from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), and a mailshot with various wildlife crime related information was sent out to over 1,600 individuals/organisations.
- Attended 3 wildlife crime court cases taken by the NPWS (Section 40 of the Wildlife Acts - offences relating to the destruction of vegetation growing in a hedge during the bird nesting season and the wilful destruction of birds' nests) to publish details on our Wildlife Crime website wildlifecrime.ie and raise awareness that these offences are taken seriously, and to therefore hopefully encourage reporting of wildlife crimes.
 - 22nd Feb 2019 Navan District Court
 - 7th Mar 2019 Carlow District Court
 - 8th Mar 2019 Navan District Court

Strategic partners, alliances, bodies, stakeholders etc



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

Public Participation Network

WRI have been a member of the Meath Environment Network (MEN) Group of the Public Participation Network (PPN) since 2014.

- 2nd Sept 2018 WRI had a stall and gave a presentation on 'Wildlife rescue and first aid' at the MEN Environment Tent at the Royal Meath Show, Trim.
- As a member, WRI attended 9 meetings of the Meath Environment Network during the past 12 months.



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.

- 30th June 2018 WRI met with IEN staff to discuss WRI's Policy Statement on Wildlife Crime Prevention in Ireland document that had been endorsed by several IEN member groups.

Fingal County Council

Ongoing relationship with FCC - working closely with them on the Nature Education Centre and Wildlife Teaching Hospital project.



- 27th March 2018 - Nature Education Centre and Wildlife Teaching Hospital Feasibility Study tender launched. July 2018 the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust (WWT Consulting) secured the tender.
- WRI provided input and feedback to the WWT consultants; attended 2 Wildlife Hospital site visits, 5 meetings with Fingal County Council, 6 meetings with the WWT; one of which was a visit to the architect in London.

Strategic partners, alliances, bodies, stakeholders etc cont.



Veterinary Ireland

- August 2018 meeting with Veterinary Ireland in UCD regarding their Policy Document on Captive Wild Animals to suggest collaboration with WRI to push NPWS to introduce formal rehabilitation licencing conditions.



An Roinn
Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta
Department of
Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Public Consultation DCHG

- Feb 2019 WRI made a submission to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Heritage Ireland's 2030 public consultation.



The Wheel

- The Wheel is Ireland's national association of community and voluntary organisations, charities and social enterprises. It is a representative voice and a supportive resource that offers advice, training, influence and advocacy for the sector. WRI has been a member of The Wheel since 2016.
- WRI has availed of the skills and experience offered by The Wheel, and in 2018 participated in one of The Wheel's webinars: governance / role of trustees.

WRI Communications: 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.

WRI Communications cont.



Communications: WRI e-newsletter

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

- Sent out 12 e-newsletters to a constantly growing mailing list, to-date 1000 subscribers.

Media



BBC Wildlife

- Sept 2018 BBC Wildlife ran a fantastic Education Guide in issue 457.
- This was a huge opportunity to discuss all conservation efforts going on at the moment and how recruitment of students into courses such as Biology, Zoology, Ecology and Wildlife Conservation is vital for our planet and its environment.
- WRI submitted a quarter page advert for this Education Edition.

WILD 2018

- 25th Nov 2018 - together with patrons, Mary Reynolds and Sharon Shannon, we launched our hospital campaign at our inaugural charity day *WILD* in the Gaeltacht in Galway. TG4 kindly came to cover the event and publicise our mission to build Ireland's first National Wildlife Rehabilitation and Teaching Hospital on Nuacht that evening.
- Nov 2018 interview on @WicklowHour Featuring Wild 2018 Event - 25th November | Brigit's Garden, Galway #WicklowHour #wildWRI



WRI Governance



Governance Code

- During the last year the Board has focused on new legislation e.g. GDPR and preparation for new Charities Governance Code. The Board has been reviewing the guidance material provided by the Charities Regulator and using this as a platform to further develop procedures and practices in WRI. Work on the self-assessment process is underway.
- The AGM was held on 30th August 2018 in Ashbourne.
- WRI held regular monthly Board meetings.

Policy Docs

- A draft *Euthanasia Policy and the Use (or misuse) of Wild Animals in Education and Media* document was produced for discussion.
- Current and future guidelines/policies are to be developed with input from the ISPCA, RSPCA and general international best practice.

WRI Personnel – Directors



Directors

As WRI grows, it needs an ever-broader skill set to guide it. Recruitment of new Directors is open and transparent and focused on creating a diverse and effective team who oversee the operations and contribute to the strategic direction of the charity.

- Nov 2018 WRI attended Boardmatch Ireland speed dating event
- One new Director appointed bringing the total to seven:
 - Heidi Bedell (Community Centre Manager) joined us as Chairperson in April 2019.

**Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland
INCOME STATEMENT**

for the year ended 30 April 2019

	Notes	2019 €	2018 €
Income	3	48,123	5,818
Expenditure		(30,937)	(14,804)
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	7	17,186	(8,986)

The company has no recognised gains or losses other than the surplus 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 14 November 2019 and signed on its behalf by:

**Emma Higgs
Director**

**Pat Nolan
Director**

**Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

as at 30 April 2019

	Notes	2019 €	2018 €
Current Assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		35,811	21,503
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	5	(2,480)	(5,358)
Net Current Assets		33,331	16,145
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		33,331	16,145
Reserves			
Income and expenditure account	7	33,331	16,145
Members' Funds		33,331	16,145

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 14 November 2019 and signed on its behalf by:

**Emma Higgs
Director**

**Pat Nolan
Director**

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

WRI Grants to Rehabilitators



SWWR 2019 Conference
Caring for British Wildlife
9th and 10th February 2019 hosted by Secret World
Register via our website www.secretworld.org/events
Our wildlife in Britain is under constant pressure from environmental impacts, human behaviours, changes in legislation and attempts to control disease in livestock. As a result, wildlife casualty animals are frequently brought into captivity, where their assessment and care must be carefully considered in order to avoid further suffering.

Given by WRI

- WRI offered grants of up to €1000 to rehabilitators to further their wildlife rescue/rehabilitation efforts.
- Seal Rescue Ireland have applied for a grant to produce a leaflet. The Hogsprickle applied for a grant for a climate control unit. Kildare Animal Foundation Wildlife Unit are looking for costs to cover a pre-release cage for otters.
- Three rehabilitators were also supported by WRI to attend a wildlife conference in the UK.

Acknowledgements to conference funders and supporters



Grants Received

WRI would like to thank all the generous individuals who donated their time and or money during the year. WRI relies entirely on donations and grants to carry out the work we do, so your support is very gratefully received. We would especially like to thank the following:

- April 2018 - Meath County Council under the 'Community Heritage Grants Scheme 2018'. Amount €1,000 for the Irish Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference 2018
- June 2018 - WRI is a member of the Irish Environmental Network (IEN) and through the IEN receives core funding from the Department of Communication Climate Action and Environment. Amount €12,868.25
- April 2019 - Meath County Council under the 'Community Grants Scheme 2019' Application Category: Festival & Events - Grant No 2060. Amount €400 for Wild 2019
- April 2019 - Meath County Council 'Community Grants Scheme 2019' Application Category: Festival & Events - Grant No 2043 Amount €400 for 'Treatment of Wildlife Casualties' Course
- April 2019 - Meath County Council 'Carranstown Environmental Projects Grants Scheme 2019' Grant No CEPGS/2018/39 Amount €1,000 for Wildlife Awareness publicity and advertisement

Additionally (in no particular order)

Kieran Corry, Dan Donoher, Aideen Magee, Jo Hedley, Virginia McLoughlin, Maxi Zoo, Caroline Keohoe, Vicki Baldrey, Mark Naguib, Bev Panto, Elizabeth Mullineaux, David Couper, Emma Keeble, Pauline Kidner, Joanna Hedley, Pete Wedderburn, Sharon Shannon, Mary Reynolds, Claire Leadbitter, Glen Hansard, Patrick Bridgett, Andrew Kelly photography