

Caherslee News Tralee Times

May 2009

www.traleetimes.com

**Election 2009
Special Edition**

**VOTE on June 5th next.
Your vote does count**

Vote No. 1

**Leonard
O'Donnell**

FINE GAEL 

Caherslee - Mounthawk

The Caherslee-Mounthawk area of Tralee, from Balloonagh Cross to Mounthawk round-about has at least **1100 houses**.

Allowing for vacant and one person homes the population of the entire area is approx. 3,000 people.

This figure represents approx. 12% of the population of Tralee town. That is 12% of people who for **30 years** have not had a local person to represent them on Tralee Town Council.

Ensure that you have a voice on Tralee Town Council. Ensure that this area of Tralee has a representative on Tralee Town Council, who lives in the area and who has a very strong, proven interest in this area.

It has been proven in the past that without a representative from this area it has been difficult and sometime impossible to ensure that the wishes, concerns, issues and needs of residents are listen to and acted upon.

Councilors from other areas do not have the same interest in this area of Tralee, and this has been proven over and over again.

If elected I will ensure that the issues and concerns of all residents in the Caherslee-Mounthawk area are listen to, noticed and are acted upon.

Your Security

I have included on my website: www.leonardodonnell.com some very useful **Security** issues that all home owners might need to be aware of. The information is from an **Garda Siochana** and is therefore relevant and useful.

Forum for All Residents

If elected to Tralee Town Council in June 2009 I will propose that residents groups in all areas of Tralee should appoint representatives to a **Tralee Residents Forum**.

The purpose of such a Forum would be to meet regularly and discuss the issues that affect them, share their experiences and expertise..

This Forum would meet with Tralee Town Council twice or three times a year to outline, discuss and formulate plans in relation to the issues and concerns of residents.

Your views in this regard are of significant importance to me.

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Weather Statistics 2009 from Valentia Observatory

In 2007 and 2008 the total rainfall in Valentia for the month of April was about 50mm. This year however it is at least three times that. Proof if it is required that weather in Ireland is at best unpredictable. Furthermore in February of this year rainfall total was a third of the average total for February 2008 and 2007.

Total rainfall to date is $\frac{1}{3}$ of the average yearly total for Valentia. The next three or four months will probably be drier but expect (maybe!) autumn-winter rains based on more recent trends.

Temperature average for January 2009 was the coldest since 2003 and February 2009 was the coldest since 2001, however March at 8.8 average was the highest since 2005. Further proof of the now traditional unpredictability of Irish and Kerry weather patterns.

For further information see www.met.ie and <http://www.traleetimes.com/files/weatherdetails.html>.

NOTE: While Valentia Observatory is the Met Eireann recording facility in Co. Kerry from which these figures are taken it does not give as accurate a reading of the weather conditions in Tralee and environs as one would hope—too far away and somewhat different topographical and maritime influences.

Identity Theft—Should I be worried?

What is Identity Theft? Wikipedia refers to Identity theft as a term used to refer to Fraud that involves stealing money or getting other benefits by pretending to be someone else. The term is relatively new and is actually a misnomer, since it is not inherently possible to steal an identity, only to use it. This is not a new form of Fraud, it has actually been around for quite some time.

Identity Theft—Warning Signs to be on the lookout for include (list is not exhaustive):

- You receive letters from Solicitors or Debt Collectors for debts that aren't yours
- You receive bills or invoices for goods or services you haven't ordered
- You are refused a financial service (such as a Credit Card or a Loan) despite having a good credit history
- You are billed for a mobile phone contract (or similar) that has been set up in your name without your knowledge

Identity Theft—Advice Again the following list is not exhaustive:

- Lock all valuable documents in a secure place
- Destroy unwanted documents (e.g. old Utility bills, Credit Card receipts etc.), preferably using a shredder
- Check bank statements as soon as they arrive. If any unfamiliar transactions are listed, contact your bank immediately
- Cancel lost or stolen Credit or Debit Cards immediately
- Inform all service providers promptly when moving address
- Set up a mail forwarding arrangement with An Post
- PIN, never release this to anyone. Your Bank will never ask you to disclose it
- Password, for Online banking, email, PC access, etc. must never be disclosed to anyone
- Anti-virus software on your PC should be kept fully up to date
- Emails seeking personal (or Banking) details should not be responded to
- Credit Reference: Seek a copy of your Credit Reference file from your national Credit Reference Agency (in Ireland this is the Irish Credit Bureau) to ensure all entries are in order. A fee may be payable.

Refer anything unusual to the Gardai / Police and to your relevant bank / financial institution / service provider. (This information is from one of the principal banks in Ireland)

How do thieves steal your identity?

Identity theft starts with the misuse of your personally identifying information such as your name and PPS number, credit card numbers, or other financial account information. For identity thieves, this information is as good as gold. >> [next page](#) >>

Your comments are welcome: info@leonardodonnell.com

Visit my website: www.leonardodonnell.com

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Skilled identity thieves may use a variety of methods to get hold of your information, including:

1. **Rubbish Bin Diving.** They rummage through garbage looking for bills or other paper with your personal information on it.
2. **Skimming.** They steal credit/debit card numbers by using a special storage device when processing your card.
3. **Phishing.** They pretend to be financial institutions or companies and send spam or pop-up messages to get you to reveal your personal information.
4. **Changing Your Address.** They divert your billing statements to another location by completing a change of address form.
5. **Old-Fashioned Stealing.** They steal wallets and purses; post, including bank and credit card statements; pre-approved credit offers; and new cheques or tax information. They steal personnel records, or bribe employees who have access.
6. **Pre-texting.** They use false pretenses to obtain your personal information from financial institutions, telephone companies, and other sources.

For example, a pre-texter may call, claim he's from a research firm, and ask you for your name, address, birth date, and PPS number. When the pre-texter has the information he wants, he uses it to call your financial institution. He pretends to be you or someone with authorised access to your account. He might claim that he's forgotten his cheque-book and needs information about his account. In this way, the pre-texter may be able to obtain other personal information about you such as your bank and credit card account numbers, information in your credit report, and the existence and size of your savings and investment portfolios.

NOTE: While distributing **Caherslee News / Tralee Times** since 2005 I have on occasion found that post has been left inside patio doors which are unlocked. This is, in the context of the above, disturbing in the least as it allows access to your post e.g. bank statements etc. to those who may have identity theft in mind. I suggest that all patio doors need to be locked and or that one could consider a wall attached post box.

ESRI Research Bulletin—April 2009

School Leavers

In 2006 over half of all male school leavers in full-time employment were found in the industry sector, and the majority of these (60 per cent) were working in the construction sector.

Climate Change

Climate change is a real problem. The impact of climate change on Ireland is moderate. The effect of greenhouse gas emission reduction in Ireland on climate change is minor. Nonetheless, as a responsible nation, Ireland should make a constructive contribution to international climate. The costs of climate policy are real and immediate. The Irish exchequer has reserved €270 million for the period 2008-12 to finance greenhouse gas emission reduction abroad.

Work Well Done

I wish to applaud and congratulate some of the more recent actions and work done by various residents in many areas who have put time and effort into pursuing issues in their locality and also to those who have taken it upon themselves to improve the areas where they live.

OECD - Paris, 28 April 2009

Schools must do more to motivate

tomorrow's scientists, OECD study shows
Across OECD countries, close to 40% of high-school students who come top in science subjects have no interest in pursuing a science-related career, while almost 45% do not want to continue studying science, according to a new OECD report.

2009 County Council Tralee Electoral Election—**VOTE FINE GAEL**—Finucane Jim and McCarthy Pat

OECD Unemployment Rates—Percentage of labour force—IRELAND

YEAR	2006	2007	2008	Jan 2009	Feb 2009
Ireland %	4.5	4.6	6.3	9.3	10.0
European Union %	8.2	7.1	7.0	7.7	7.9

*from
Tralee,
for Tralee
Tralee Town
Council*

**VOTE No. 1
Leonard
O' Donnell**

**VOTE FOR OTHER FINE GAEL CANDIDATES
IN ORDER OF YOUR PREFERENCE
YOUR CHOICE FOR CHANGE IN TRALEE TOWN COUNCIL 2009**

Health Care

In health, delayed treatment can lead to pain, complications and even death. More than 150,000 people are currently waiting for an outpatient appointment, some for up to 8 years, and 40,000 people are on the inpatient waiting list. Each day, an average of approximately 120,000 patients per day attend their GP. By contrast, only 3,700 patients per day attend A&E. If we could increase the number of patients attending their GP by just 350 or .3% by switching them from A&E to the primary sector, we could reduce A&E numbers by almost 10%.

More than 300 people have long-term waits on trolleys. These delays are unfair and some may well prove fatal.

The 2008 Euro Health Consumer Index (EHCI) report suggests that the Netherlands is the most successful health system in Europe. It is number 1 for quality, ahead of Denmark. **Ireland is only number 15.** The Netherlands is in second place for value for money, while **Ireland is ranked 24.**

The above notes are taken from: *FairCare which is the Fine Gael Proposal to reform the health service and introduce universal health insurance.* See also: <http://www.finegae.ie/PubUploads/FairCare.pdf>

Gas prices will be reduced by 12% from 1st May, 2009—internationally gas prices have fallen by 33%.

Customers in Ireland are being ripped-off and the Commission on Energy Regulation approves this rip-off!

EU funding is available for water conservation work such as repairing leaks and upgrading the water system and for the installation of energy-efficient public lighting. It is essential that funds are being requested by local authorities for this work.

The Government rip-off of families continues with CSO figures showing the cost of Irish health, communications and education rising three times faster than the Euro-zone.

Since September 2008 the cost of living has fallen by almost 4½ per cent. For the first time in many, many years, Ireland has the lowest inflation rate in the EU. Extra tax burdens in 2009 will cost the average family €2,500. This burden will hamper economic recovery.

Cuts in Local Roads Maintenance Funding

Government plans to slash local roads maintenance budgets by €150 million. Road maintenance is an essential service, and if road funding isn't ring-fenced and maintained on a sustainable basis, then clearly roads that continue to deteriorate will ultimately and progressively put lives at even greater risk. Our local road network is vital in ensuring that normal everyday economic and social activity can take place, most especially in 'rural' Ireland.

Undocumented Irish in the United States

The Obama administration plans to initiate a debate on how to legalise the 50,000 undocumented Irish in the US this year. Chairman of the Immigration Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator Charles E. Schumer, has called for the US immigration matter to be solved for once and for all.

Sen. Schumer says he will be contacting Foreign Affairs Minister Micheál Martin shortly to ask whether he has noted his comments, and to determine whether he will be offering to assist the US administration in this regard.

Last year former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern ruled out trying to agree a special deal for the undocumented Irish.

Don't let others decide for YOU!
Friday, 5th June 2009
You can decide, otherwise someone else decides for You!

VOTE No. 1 Leonard O' Donnell your Local Candidate who has a proven interest in The Issues and Concerns of People

Since January 2005, I have published *Tralee Times*

I have highlighted and dealt with many issues through this publication. However, unless new people are elected to Tralee Town Council in 2009, many of the outstanding issues in your area are unlikely to be resolved satisfactorily.

Your Chance To Change—VOTE No. 1

Leonard O' Donnell

Vote for Change 2009
Tralee Town Council