

possible.
It would be a great country if people would cooperate with the gardai. Anybody with children, I want to say to them 'teach your children how to respect the gardai'.

My son died recently and the gardai came to my door and addressed me with such dignity.

I was in awe of the way the gardai delivered the news. The way they came in and addressed me, asked me if I wanted a cup of tea. It should have been me asking them if they wanted a cup of tea. Only for that I am forever grateful. And I would say that my son Paul would give them a salute.

what's going on across the board. That is her duty. I have addressed the minister with this issue, and I should be getting a reply from her, no doubt.

CATHERINE MCGUIRE
PATRICKSWELL

Coursing gives no benefit to animals

UK police are clamping down hard on hare coursing, confiscating dogs and using drones in their bid to crack down on the culprits who think of setting pairs of greyhounds on hares as "sport". A special text messaging service has been devised to enable anyone who spots a hare coursing session to report this immediately.

Here in Ireland, the hare coursing season has just begun. Far from being a criminal offence, as it is in many other jurisdictions, it has the blessing of our government and quite a few opposition politicians, and the only police in evidence at a coursing event over the next five months will be gardai directing traffic.

As the weather worsens the hares will run for their lives in mud sodden, water logged, rain-lashed, or ice-covered fields.

The Irish Coursing Club claims that the muzzling of greyhound has elimin-

coursing fans themselves, and posted on YouTube, shows hares being battered and tossed about at Irish coursing events.

The conservationist excuse has no basis in reality. Coursing clubs concentrate hares in certain areas known as preserves. The locations of these clusters of hares are well-known, easily accessible, and especially vulnerable to poaching and hunting activities.

Hare density throughout Ireland is so low that poachers would normally catch or kill very few of the animals, but the preserves offer ready made killing grounds for these unscrupulous gangs.

Apart from this unintended consequence of their self-appointed "conservationist" role, I would remind Irish hare baiters that the Arctic Hare is thriving, despite the complete absence of coursing clubs in that part of our world.

The sturdy creature manages to survive in the bitterest climatic conditions and ward off deadly predators. It gets along just fine without the attention of people who would place them in wired enclosures to be chased by salivating greyhounds. Or maybe I've got it wrong. Could it be that our furry friends in the northern regions of the Arctic Circle are missing out on all the fun and games that Irish Hares get to experience thanks to our animal loving coursing clubs?

JOHN FITZGERALD
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HAVE YOUR SAY

If you've got a view on a local topic we'd love to hear from you.

EMAIL: letters@limerickleader.ie
WRITE: Letters to the Editor, Limerick Leader, 54 O'Connell Street, Limerick

Please supply full contact details. In some cases a name may be withheld at the discretion of the editor but contact details must be included.
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FROM THE ARCHIVES

1963



A rare photo of the Woolworth building (where Marco Polo and the Jasmine Palace restaurants are today) pictured in 1963

EX: LIMERICK LEADER
8TH OCTOBER 2016
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