

# Mary (70) gears up for challenge of completing her 41st Dublin Marathon

By Eoin MacRaghnaill

SEVENTY-YEAR-OLD Arklow woman Mary Hickey Nolan, one of just six active runners who have completed every single Dublin Marathon, is busy gearing herself up for her 41st run this weekend.

The well-known runner is the only woman to have finished all 40 marathons and, at the last official marathon in 2019, she was one of just 13 people who had completed all 39 previous races who were honoured before the event got underway.

Speaking before this weekend's race, Mary said that this is probably her biggest challenge yet, as her preparations have been hampered by recurring Achilles problems.

"This year will be an interesting journey," Mary said. "Look,



Mary Hickey Nolan.

I'm going to the start line and the finish line - I have no time my ambition is just to get to ambition at all. It's just a case of

keeping this mad record I have going, at all costs!

"I have competed in the marathon for the past 42 years. There has been a hiatus for the last couple of years, but we took part in a virtual event instead in 2020, then last year there was a marathon on in Kildare at the same time the Dublin one would've been on. So, at least for me and some other runners I know, we haven't take a break at all.

Mary explained that she had already been running for 12 years before the Dublin Marathon was established in 1980. There were less than 2,000 people that took part in that inaugural marathon, and just 40 of those were women.

"The plan that first year was just to see if I could handle it," Mary said. "When I finished it,

like a lot of people do, I told myself I'd never do it again! But I just kept turning up every year like it was a routine. Even with everything life has thrown at me I somehow managed to get to it and finish - that's the really remarkable thing I suppose.

"I think there are only about six of us left who have finished all the marathons and have plans to compete in this year's event. People drop off through injury and what have you, it's just a part of life."

Asked whether she had any special strategy for staying injury free come marathon season Mary said "Not really to be honest. I've had a lot of injuries over the years, but somehow or another I seem to make it to the start line in Dublin every time. I have pretty good form too. I ran it in sub three hours in the past, where I came in as fourth woman across the finish line.

"I've just been lucky, blessed and fortunate, that's all it is really. Of course, it helps if you keep on top of your fitness, but you can't account for good luck. It's a mad record and, honestly, I don't quite know how I've done it.

Although well known in run-

ning circles, Mary made national headlines in 2018 when she ran a 'Lap of the Map' around Ireland to raise money for the RNLI. Mary started running anti-clockwise around the coast of Ireland on New Year's Day and returned to her hometown of Arklow in April to a hero's welcome.

Mary came up with the ambitious idea to mark her 50th year running, and was joined from time to time by friends and supporters along the way, but for the most part she ran and hiked alone, with only her GPS tracker for company.

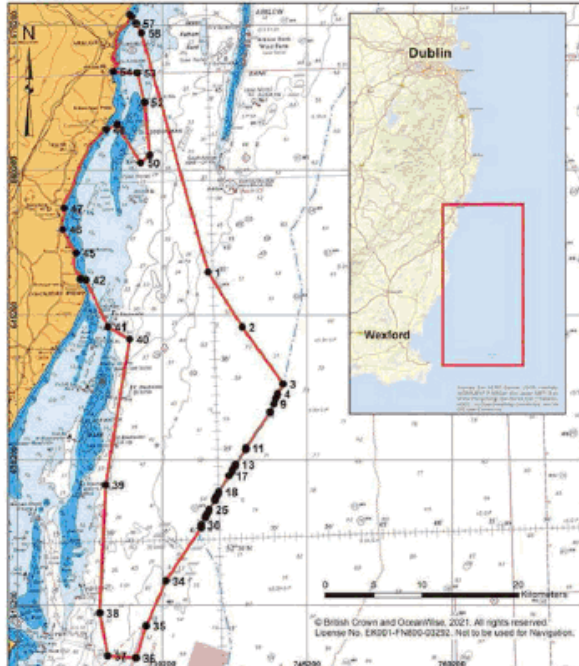
"I'm always trying to see just how far I can push myself," Mary said. "I've competed in some mad events over the years, including the Marathon de Sables, which is a 251k ultra marathon in the searing hot heat of the Sahara.

"But honestly, the Dublin Marathon record is by far the craziest thing I've done. I don't know how much longer I can keep the streak going but, as always, I'll try my best. Hopefully that's good enough to get me across the line this Sunday. Even if they have to carry me over it.

## PUBLIC NOTICE INVITATION FOR PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS OR OBSERVATIONS ON APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 42(13) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended, of an application for a foreshore licence submitted by Shelmalere Offshore Wind Farm Ltd. in relation to an offshore wind farm under development off the coast of counties Wicklow and Wexford, reference number FS007261.

This application is for site investigation works required to inform the engineering and design of a potential offshore wind farm, Shelmalere Offshore Wind Farm, and associated export cable route. The objective of the site investigations is to gather sufficient geophysical, geotechnical, environmental, archaeological and ecological information to inform development of a potential offshore wind farm and export cable route within the Foreshore Licence Application Area. The Foreshore Licence Application Area is shown on the map below.



The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is responsible for making a decision on the application and the Minister may either grant, approve or consent to the application with or without covenants, conditions or agreements, where applicable, or refuse the application.

The Minister has determined, in accordance with Regulation 42(6) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, that an Appropriate Assessment is required in respect of the proposed plan or project. A copy of the Screening for Appropriate Assessment is available at:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/foreshore-notice/a43ef-shelmalere-offshore-wind-farm-site-investigations-off-counties-wexford-and-wicklow/>

The Minister will make a determination as to whether or not the proposed plan or project would adversely affect the integrity of a European site in accordance with Regulation 42(11) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 and, in doing so, shall have regard to the matters in Regulation 42(12).

In this regard, in accordance with Regulation 42(13), any person may make a submission or observation to the Minister concerning the proposed project within 30 days of the date of this notice. The Minister shall have regard to any submissions or observations received during the public consultation.

A copy of the application, map of the proposed project, the determination that an Appropriate Assessment is required in respect of the project, the Natura Impact Statement, and the other information and documentation relevant to the application, are available for inspection for 30 calendar days, between 1 November 2022 and 30 November 2022, free of charge at:

- Wexford County Council, County Hall, Carricklawn, Wexford, Y35WY93. Open 9am-1pm & 2-5pm Mon to Fri.
- Arklow Municipal District Council, Castle Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, Y14FX63. Open 9am-4pm Mon to Fri.
- Wexford Garda Station, Mulgannon, Wexford, Y14H392. Open 24/7.
- Courtown Harbour Garda Station, Ballinray Lower, Courtown Harbour, Co. Wexford, Y25P239. Open 10am-1pm Mon to Fri & 10am-1pm Sat & Sun.
- Rosslare Garda Station, Station Road, Rosslare, Wexford, Y35AY79. Open 10am-6pm Mon to Sun.

This documentation and information is also available on the Department's website, at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/foreshore-notice/a43ef-shelmalere-offshore-wind-farm-site-investigations-off-counties-wexford-and-wicklow/>

Members of the public who wish to make a submission or observation in writing concerning the proposed project may do so between 1 November 2022 and 30 November 2022 (quoting ref: FS007261) to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Foreshore Section, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Newtown Road, Wexford, Co. Wexford or foreshoreORE@housing.gov.ie. The closing date for submissions is close of business (17.30) on 30 November 2022.

Take notice that material to which the Minister shall have regard in making the Appropriate Assessment determination will be published on the Department's website. In this regard, the Department wishes to draw attention to its policy on defamatory material that may be contained in submissions it receives, which may be found at:

<http://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/foreshore/public-participation-foreshore-consent-process>

Dated this 1 November 2022



Anyone who has made bookings for Glenroe Farm have been contacted and refunded.

## Glenroe Farm cancels Halloween bookings to close until March

GLENROE Farm will close due to "unforeseen circumstances" for the rest of the year and won't be reopening again until March of next year.

Their Halloween event has been cancelled and all bookings have been contacted and refunded.

Glenroe Farm is based in Kilcoole and offers fun activities for the whole family, with offerings including a pet farm, playgrounds, nature walk, fairy garden and Ireland's only Maize maze.

Glenroe Farm posted a notice on their Facebook Page on Thursday which read: "Due to unforeseen circumstances, Glenroe Farm will be closed for the remainder of this year and, unfortunately, we will not be holding our Halloween Event this year.

"All bookings have been contacted and refunded. If you had booked a visit for the farm for this weekend or the bank holiday weekend, please check your email for further details.

"We look forward to our reopening in March 2023."