

PRISON: OAP GETS ONE MONTH

JAIL OVER WING MIRROR DAMAGE

BLAME IT ON THE BUGGY

FEAR: Masked locals
Virus has towns on lockdown

BY NEIL FETHERSTON
A DOZEN northern Italian towns were subject to stringent measures yesterday after Covid-19 claimed two lives and sickened an increasing number of people who had no direct links to the origin of the virus.
The secondary contagions prompted local authorities in towns in Lombardy and Veneto to order schools, businesses and restaurants closed, and to cancel sporting events and Masses. The mayor of Milan, the business capital of Italy, shut down public offices.
Hundreds of residents and workers who came into contact with an estimated 54 people confirmed infected in Italy were in isolation pending test results.

VIRUS
Civil protection crews set up a tent camp outside a closed hospital in Veneto to screen medical staff for the virus.
In hard-hit Codogno, where the first patient of the northern cluster to fall ill was in critical condition, the main street was practically a ghost town Saturday, with supermarkets, restaurants and businesses closed.
The president of Lombardy, Attilio Fontana, said there were 39 confirmed cases in the region, where 10 towns had orders to suspend non-essential activities and services.
The Veneto region reported 12 people with the virus, including a 78-year-old man who died on Friday.

BAN: Empty streets



BATTLER: Peter tells our man O'Connell that he will appeal the sentence

Pensioner, 73, guilty of damaging cars parked on footpath in mobility scooter

EXCLUSIVE BY PATRICK O'CONNELL
MEET the 73-year-old who has been sentenced to a month in jail for damaging the wing mirrors of cars with his mobility scooter.
While serious criminals can be seen getting suspended sentences every week in Irish courts, Peter Doran was given jail time in Carlow District Court this week.
His crime was deliberately damaging the wing mirrors of cars parked on footpaths near his home. When approached by the *Sunday World*, outraged pensioner Peter, from Bultinglass, Co. Wicklow, says he rang gardai more than 30 times to complain about cars parked on the footpath outside his former home in the Parkmore estate.
But now it is Peter who faces a month in the clink for causing criminal damage to two side-view mirrors.
"I'll do the jail time if I have to," Peter told the *Sunday World* as he sat in his scooter with his nine-year-old collie-cross Jess.
"I don't have the money to pay the fines handed down but I am appealing it."

OUTRAGE
"What I want to know is why the gardai don't prosecute people parking on footpaths? It's not fair to people who have to use frames and scooters."
Peter's outrage over cars parking on paths saw him arrested and charged with criminal damage over two incidents, in which wing mirrors were damaged, which occurred at the Parkmore estate in February and September of 2017.
He pleaded not guilty to the offences.
Despite Peter's rage against the vehicles, in evidence heard by Carlow District Court, gardai said that cars could not park entirely on the road in the estate as they would impede emergency vehicles.
The court was told how on September 20, 2017, David Kernaghan observed the defendant accelerate his mobile scooter into the wing mirror of Mr Kernaghan's Dacia Duster, causing €45 worth of damage.
And on February 18, 2017, Mr Kernaghan's wing mirror on his Volkswagen Beetle was damaged to the extent of €165.
The court was told that Garda Fergal Whelan had called to Mr Kernaghan's house at around 7.30pm that evening.
He told Mr Kernaghan that the defendant Mr Doran had called the gardai about his car as he claimed he could not get by.
The court was told that Mr Doran had contacted the gardai repeatedly over a period of time about this matter and there were ongoing difficulties in the housing estate.
In his statement to gardai, Mr Kernaghan said: "I left my house and walked out to my car."
"Peter Doran was standing by the side of my car."
The wing mirror had been turned towards the bonnet as the defendant stood by with a zimmerframe aid.
"I said to Peter Doran: 'What have

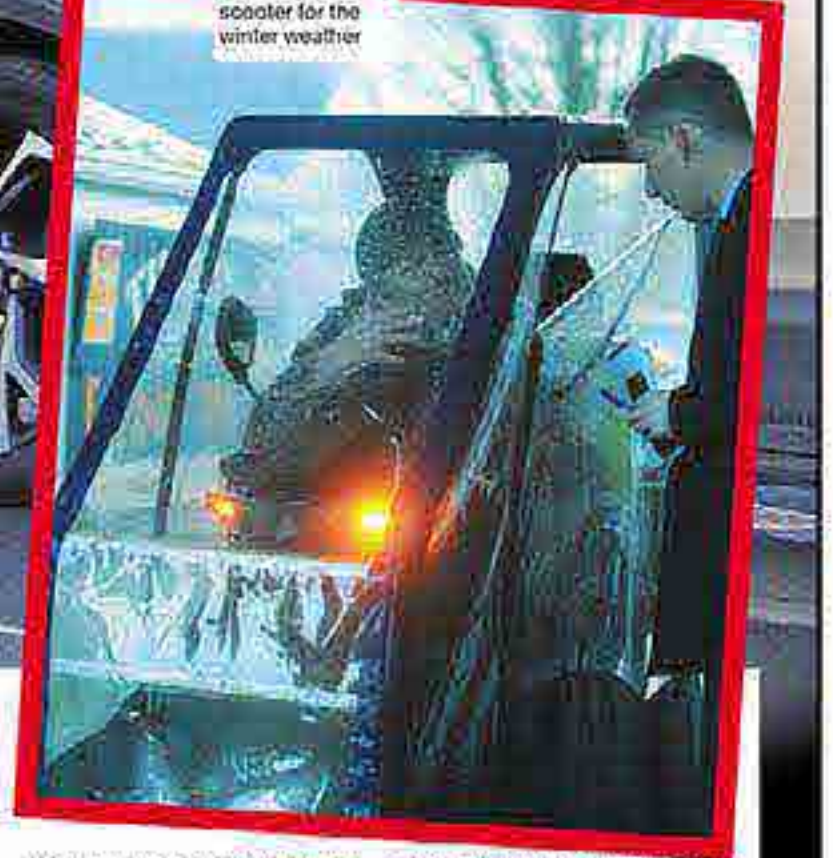
"I want to know is why do the gardai not then prosecute people who park on the pavement"



ON THE ROAD: OAP Peter needs his mobility scooter to get around



PROTECTED: Elderly Peter has adapted his scooter for the winter weather



you done? And he just grunted."
Garda Whelan said Mr Doran made no admission to the gardai.
When he was charged and cautioned he replied: "Not guilty."
SWERVED
Asked why he was standing beside a broken wing mirror, Mr Doran said: "I did not know it was damaged. I could not get by on the road. That's why I was stationary."
But witness denied that he could not get by Mr Kernaghan's vehicle.
"You would not be flying but you would manage to navigate it," said Garda Brian Flavin.
Mr Doran also contested charges of careless driving, driving without insurance and a driving licence and failing to produce driving documents on February 19 at Parkmore, Bultinglass.
Witness Sarah Redmond said she was with her husband Christy in her car leaving the estate when Mr Doran turned his tractor into Parkmore.
"He was on the left hand side and came straight for me," she said. "He swerved into me. I had to brake."
"He really frightened me. We were face to face."
Gardai were called following the incident and it was found the defendant had no licence and his insurance policy was invalidated as a result.
Mr Doran told the court that he handed in his licence to gardai 10 years ago and it was never returned.
He claimed his neighbours made his life a "misery" and that gardai had been abusive to him and taken

his dog away on a previous occasion.
A separate public order charge related to an outburst by Mr Doran at O'Reilly's Service Station in Bultinglass on June 28 of last year.
Staff members told the court Mr Doran became aggressive after being told dogs weren't allowed into the shop.
HASSLE
The defendant left and returned a while later to apologise and was shouting at his dog to stay outside.
"We told him it was OK, we didn't want any more hassle," said staff member Chloe Kehoe (29).
But she said this prompted Mr Doran to become aggressive again and he told the staff they were "pissing him off".

Defence solicitor Chris Hogan sought dismissal on all charges claiming there was limited to no evidence that his client had committed the criminal damage.
Mr Hogan said that his client's behaviour did not meet the threshold for a public order offence and that the prosecution of the road traffic offences was flawed.
Judge Geraldine Carthy rejected the application.
She imposed a three-month sentence with two suspended on one criminal damage charge and a fully suspended three-month sentence on the second criminal damage charge.
Two-month sentences were imposed each on the public order charges and she imposed a one-year driving ban and a €300 fine on the careless driving charge.
A two-year ban and a €300 fine were imposed on the insurance offence.
Recognisances were fixed in the event of an appeal which Peter took up a short time later.