



# ICA News

Irish Countrywomen's Association ~ Bantracht na Tuaithe April/May 2019

Dear Fellow Members,

Spring is well and truly here. I have had a busy past few months, and a very busy schedule ahead up to our AGM on May 26th.

May I extend Congratulations to our recent National Winners of Gem Pack, Table Quiz, Drama, Creative Writing. Well done and many thanks to Longford Federation who did a wonderful job in their Organisation of the Competitions.


I was delighted to launch our "Warmth for winter" Socks appeal (Details within this newsletter). Our target is 1000 pairs. I am confident we will surpass that figure.

I have recently attended the AGM of Our Friends the WI in Belfast, and this week I will lead a group to the European Parliament, which will include a COFACE Meeting, as a follow up on their recent visit with us in Dublin.

Also included in this mailing, you will find the Final Agenda for the National AGM, a voting card for every Guild, Standing Orders, amendments to the EGM and 2 books of raffle tickets for An Grianán Garden Party raffle which will take place on 28th June. Your support will be very much appreciated by An Grianán,

So with a "Spring in my Step" I will go forward.

Yours in friendship and fellowship,

  
Josephine Helly.  
National President ICA



# Diary of our National President

- COFACE Meeting Families European
- Gathering of Rural Communities, and voluntary organisations
- AGM of the WI
- Northern Ireland Tourism Meeting
- International Women's Day
- Meeting with Gill MC Millan re Cookbook
- Meeting with ALDI re Brown bread Competition

- ◇ Interview
- ◇ Press Releases
- ◇ Print Media, Radio
- ◇ Press Release RE Nurses Strike
- ◇ Press Release RE Cervical Cancer Crisis
- ◇ Press Release RE Proposed VAT of 25% on Food Supplements
- ◇ Message of Sympathy with Families of Cookstown Co. Tyrone Tragedy
- ◇ Country File, interview with Mairead Lavery Farmers Journal

Europe House Dublin

Dundalk Co Louth

Belfast

An Grianán

Europe House Dublin

Central Office

Central Office



*The President of the Women's Institutes, Lady Hamilton and Josephine Helly, national President of ICA at the W.I. AGM in Belfast .*



*Frances Fitzgerald Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Josephine Helly National President of ICA, and Maria Walsh entrepreneur and former Rose of Tralee*



## WARM WINTER SOCKS

As you will be aware, the Winter Socks Appeal was recently launched by Josephine Helly and we are asking for your publicity to encourage as many members as possible to gather NEW WARM WINTER SOCKS for the Homeless children, women and men.

The target is to collect 1,000 pairs of socks before The Ploughing.

The socks will then be donated to the Fr Peter McVerry trust and the Capuchin Day Centre for the Homeless.

Collection points:

- ◇ Guild meeting
- ◇ Federation meeting
- ◇ An Grianán
- ◇ Central Office
- ◇ The National AGM 26th May



Many thanks for your help in publicising this very worth-while cause.

*Carmel Dawson, National PRO*

# National Competitions 2019

The National Competitions are well under way at this time with the results of the Gempack Baking, Creative writing and Comórtas Gael Linn already published.

## Results for the 2019 Gempack Competition are:

1st Place :  
Helen Cunningham, Kilkenny Federation  
2nd Place:  
Mella Winters, Wexford Federation  
3rd Place :  
Joan Mullen, Clare Federation

## Results for the 2019 Creative Writing Competition are:

1st Place: Kathleen Leahy, Mainistir na Feile Guild, Limerick  
2nd Place:  
Kay Smyth, Lanesboro Guild, Longford  
3rd Place :  
Angie Toher, Sixmilebridge Guild, Clare

## Comortas Gael Linn Results:

1st Place : Josephine O'Callaghan Rathkeevin Guild Tipperary  
2nd Place :  
Rita Ui Shamhrain Corlough Guild Cavan  
3rd Place :  
Nola Farrell Gorey Guild Wexford.

Congratulations to the winners and to all entrants, the standard was very high across all the competitions. Thank you to all the supporters who travelled to An Grianán to support the entrants. The Competitions Committee thank everyone who made this Gem Pack sponsored Competition weekend such a success in An Grianán. Congratulations to all the winners in the Oxford Lunch baking and the Creative writing competitions.

Sincere thanks to Sponsors Gem Pack Foods. Sincere thanks also to Judge Edward Hayden who gave us the most informative cookery demonstration and entertaining to boot to a packed house. Everyone enjoyed it so much. We also acknowledge the great work of our Creative Writing and Comórtas judges who did an excellent job. Thank you to all the competitors who travelled to take part, without you there would be no competition. Keep taking part, there's always next year! also to National President Madam Josephine Helly who was present to present all winners with their respective prizes. And what can we say about Manager Niamh and all the Staff at An Grianán who looked after us all so well. We really appreciate it. Last but not least the Competitions co-ordinators Ursula, Angela, Anne, Helen, Margo and May, dedicated members of ICA who strive for perfection.

See you all back in An Grianán on the 30th March for the Drama, Quiz, Set Dancing and Choirs.

*Sent by May Campbell, Reginal President*





# Competitions Weekend in An Grianán

## March 30th –31st

“Congratulations to **winners of our National Table Quiz** held in An Grianán on Saturday 30th March 2019

- Winners Minaun Guild Waterford Federation
- 2nd place..Renmore Guild Galway Federation
- 3rd place .... Blackrock Guild Louth Federation

Congratulations to all the winners and to all the participating Federations in our National Table Quiz 2019. 26 out of 27 Federations took part.

Well done. The Kellogg Hall was full to capacity. “



*Ashford Guild Wicklow....winners of the Baumann Shield for music*

“We danced and we sang to our hearts content to day in An Grianán and it just proves what a variety of activities that you can become involved in when you are a member of ICA. Below are the Results of the Competitions held today

### **Patsy Lawlor Shield for Set Dancing...Half Set**

- 1st Prize ...Ardcath Guild Co Meath
- 2nd Prize....Dunderry Guild Co Meath
- 3rd Prize .... HOrace Plunkett Guild Co Meath

### **Patsy Lawlor Cup for Set Dancing ...Full Set**

- 1st Prize ...Dunderry Guild Co Meath
- 2nd Prize ...Killanure Guild Co Laois

Congratulations to all the Set Dancers.

You were all brilliant.”



*Bonniconlon Guild Choir winners of the Eleanora Gibbon Shield*

“Following the Set Dancing the Choirs filled the Kellogg Hall with song

at An Grianán. The Baumann Shield for Music Competition set was to sing 2 songs, one with the name of a County and one written/co-written by Phil Coulter. What a rendition of beautiful songs the Choirs sang. Full compliments to all the Choirs for the time and effort put into this competition. Below are the **Results of the Baumann Shield for Music**

### **Winners ; Ashford Guild Wicklow Federation**

Runners up in no particular order and all sharing second place

- Portmarnock Guild Dublin Federation
- Bonniconlon Guild Mayo Federation
- Tallaght Guild Dublin Federation
- Kiltale Guild Meath Federation

### **Results of the Eleanora Gibbon Shield for Music (as Gaeilge)**

- Winners : Bonniconlon Guild Mayo Federation

Runners up in no particular order and all sharing second place

- Tallaght Guild Dublin Federation
- Portmarnock Guild Dublin Federation
- Ashford Guild Wicklow Federation”

“Winners of the Eleanora Gibbon Cup for Drama 2019 were

- Cappamore Guild, Limerick Federation.

Runners up were

- Violet Hill Guild, Roscommon Federation

Congratulations to both guilds who were highly entertaining with their "School around the corner" sketches.

Well done.”



*Cappamore Guild, Limerick Federation winners of the Eleanora Gibbon Cup for Drama*

Source:





# National Table Quiz



***"What a wonderful entry!***  
**26 Federations were**  
**represented at the Na-**  
**tional Table Quiz. Thank**  
**you all for your support"**





The collage consists of 18 individual photographs arranged in a grid-like fashion. The photos capture various moments from the ICA An Grianán activities:

- Top Left:** A group of women in white blouses and dark skirts performing a traditional dance on a stage.
- Top Center:** A group of women in white blouses and dark skirts performing a traditional dance on a stage.
- Top Right:** A group of women in white blouses and dark skirts performing a traditional dance on a stage.
- Middle Left:** A group of women in white blouses and dark skirts performing a traditional dance on a stage.
- Middle Center:** A group of women in white blouses and dark skirts performing a traditional dance on a stage.
- Middle Right:** A group of women in white blouses and dark skirts performing a traditional dance on a stage.
- Bottom Left:** A group of women in white blouses and dark skirts performing a traditional dance on a stage.
- Bottom Center:** A group of women in white blouses and dark skirts performing a traditional dance on a stage.
- Bottom Right:** A group of women in white blouses and dark skirts performing a traditional dance on a stage.

Several photos include banners for the 'National Competitions' and 'An Grianán'. The banners list various competitions such as 'Creative Writing', 'ICA Trophy for Reporting', 'Inter Federation Cup for Arts', 'Barramun Cup for Arts', 'National Table Quiz Final', 'Paddy Lavin Cup for Set Dancing', and 'Paddy Lavin Shield for Set Dancing'. The banners also mention the 'Irish Countrywomen's Association' and 'An Grianán'.



# *Eleanora Gibbon Competitions*



# *Handcraft committee*

In October, 2018 I took over as chair of the National Handcraft committee from our now National President Josephine Helly. We congratulate Josephine on her election and wish her a very successful term as our National President. She is a hard act to follow but I will do my best.

The other members of the Committee are Elsie Moxham, Longford Federation, Eileen Bateson, Kildare, Eleanor Calnan, Cork, Ethel Patterson, Donegal and Bronwen Murray, Dublin. We look forward to working together and will all meet as a committee, for the first time, at Handcraft Week which takes place from the 8th. to the 12th. Of April. Since taking over most of my time has gone into organising this week. The house and bungalows are fully booked so it will be a busy week, as always.

We are to continue with the taster classes in 58, Merrion Road, (central office) as they proved such a success previously and Bronwen has agreed to organise them. Thank you Bronwen. The tutors give their time for free, with the class participants just paying for the kits provided on the day. The fee for the class goes to "An Grianán" They are held on the 2nd. Monday of the month. The next class is on the 13th. May, and there will be a class in June. They recommence in September to November. January is fluid, depending on the weather. February and March are definite but there isn't any class in April on account of Handcraft week and Easter. Booking through Central office.

Our main function in the year is Handcraft Week followed closely by the Knitting and Stitching Show. As a member of G.A.N.S (Guilds-Association, Network and Societies), I.C.A is represented at meetings by a member of the National Hand Craft Committee and The National Arts Committee. Janet Edgeley, National Arts Committee and myself attended our first meeting in Dublin Castle on the 7th. March, it was very informative but speaking personally I have a lot to learn.

Our principle aim, as a committee, is to promote and keep alive the traditional crafts. Members need encouragement to develop their skills in the traditional crafts and with that in mind we would like at some future date to meet the Federation craft promoters to discuss how this might be achieved. Not everyone is aware that they can still do proficiency tests. Testing now takes place during Handcraft week.

*Pat O'Looney, Chairperson*

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## *Arts Committee Report*

The new National Arts Committee met for the first time on February 8th this year.

It was decided by the members Sharon Kelly, Anne Carleton, Janet Edgely, Susanna Braswell, Carmel Garrett, Hilda Roche to run an Arts Weekend in An Grianán on August 30 31 September 1. The following courses are being offered:

- |                       |                      |   |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---|
| • Story Telling/Drama | • Effective Speaking | • Video Photography ( using your phone) |
| • Drawing & Painting  | • Silk Painting      | • Calligraphy                           |

It is hoped that Federations would consider funding their Arts Promoters to attend as this would give a much needed boost not only to the weekend but also to the arts throughout the country.

Places must be booked and paid for by July 6th.

*Carmel Garrett, Galway Federation President, Member of Arts Committee*





# Friends of An Grianán



*Marie O'Toole, Chair of Friends of An Grianán with Biddy Gleeson a member of Friends of An Grianán*

Friends of An Grianán was started over fifty years ago by some ICA members under the chairmanship of Ms Joyce Nicholson.

Over many years many items have been donated from the proceeds of fund raising activities organised by Friends Committee and they included a new wooden floor in a much used room in the old Hort College, bain maries used at the Garden Party and for other social events, a donation towards the material for new curtains in the Library, planters, etc.

Friends have two weekends each year which are well attended and we always have a raffle, the proceeds from which are passed to the Manager, who has compiled a wish list for small/medium items, required for the facility. The annual subscription is €5 and whatever money we have in our account determines the number of scholarships we draw at our Annual General Meeting which is held in June of each year. Membership of Friends of An Grianán is not confined to ICA Members and we are always delighted when members 'join' their families as a gift. We also welcome a Guild membership and if successful the Guild usually raffles the scholarship from among its members. There is a Friends table at every National Conference and AGM where you can pay your subscription and become a Friend.

We recently lost a great supporter of Friends, Mrs Mollie Cawley, Sligo Federation, who was a member since its inception and who attended every Friends weekend accompanied by some of her family. May she rest in Peace.

Please make our Friends' circle bigger by telling your friends

*Marie O'Toole, Chairperson*

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## Produce Committee



*Nuala Stack and her Produce Cherry Tree*

I am delighted to inform our ICA members that the new Produce Committee, although little in number, has big plans for the future. Our committee covers the whole country, Ann Smith is from Donegal, Mary Melia is from Dublin and Nuala Stack is from Cork. We are confident that we can reach all the members and encourage them to try their hand or spade at achieving a Produce Test Award in..

Baking! I know that everyone can and has had a go at making Brown Bread, so, don't be shy, do brag about what you can do and you will encourage others. Perhaps you prefer to get your hands dirty! well do just that... sow a few seeds in some compost or good soil and watch them develop into something eatable or something that you can admire. Be like my granddaughter and say "I did it all by myself". Once you start you will find that you cannot stop and in a very short time you will find that your trip to the shop for "lettuce" or "carrots" will be no more. Once you taste your home produce you will never go back to shop bought and even more importantly apart from taste there will be no more waste.

With you, the members support, we plan to organise a week-end in An Grianán with practical classes in cooking and gardening. Your suggestions/comments, negative and positive would be greatly appreciated. Looking forward to re-igniting interest in Produce Awards. Remember "What you sow you grow" so, get sowing.

*Nuala Stack, Chairperson*

# South East Regional Report

Since we began our term as Regional Presidents, I have been in contact with each of the Presidents in the South East Region. I have spoken to 24 prospective new members from different counties who are anxious to join.

I was invited to Laois Federation meeting, they had a great attendance and I received a very warm welcome. They have a lot going on crafts, activities, trips, charity work and on the day, they had a collection of hats & scarves for the homeless. All Laois guilds were represented at the meeting.

I spoke to many of the members some were worried what was going to happen with ICA?

I was invited to Wicklow Federation ICA 64th Drama Festival week. The President Hilda Roache invited me to present the prizes on Sunday night after three nights of a variety of 1 act plays and sketches. It was a wonderful experience, great Talent, actors of all ages, it was great to see young people taking part especially within ICA. I met many Guild members very positive about ICA for the future and hoped we would get on with ICA as it should be.

I have been to Kildare Federation meeting and it was also very positive and friendly, I had a very warm welcome and was looked after very well. Kildare seem to be very active in Crafts, activities and lots more. Kildare Federation have 268 members. A good attendance with at least 11 guilds attending. They had a lovely display of crafts on the night all made by the members. There is a lot of interest for new members in Kildare.

I've been to Carlow Federation meetings. Carlow are very active and are getting some new members. We are hoping to open a new guild soon, we will be meeting with the group shortly. Carlow are planning an open Day shortly to see if we can get some new members. This year Carlow are involved in the ploughing so we are very busy.

I have still to visit Offaly, Wexford, and Kilkenny Federations who have still to come back to me with confirmed dates.

Conclusion most members are anxious to get on with ICA and do what they enjoy most about ICA the friendship, fun, crafts, trips and activities. All members are interested in Training for the Federation Officers and have a renewed interest in going to An Grianán.

*Margot Hennessy, Regional President*

## Laois Federation

Laois Federation's Millenium Quilt has at last found a permanent Home - in the Abbeyleix Heritage Centre. It was made in 1999 to celebrate the Millennium. There was a competition to encourage all Guilds to take part and make a square representing their Guild and area. However not all Guilds took part and some who did not name their square. Making the squares was the easy part but putting them together was quite a task. We have the Laois Federation President from 1966/1999 Mary McWey Timahoe Guild to thank for this. It hasn't been easy to find a home for the Quilt and we are delighted that The Heritage Centre in Abbeyleix has offered us a permanent where it will be on view to all members of the public.

It was presented to the Heritage Centre at the recent Handmade with Care Museum Exhibition. In addition to the Quilt there are crafts on display made by local ICA members from both Abbeyleix Guild and Castletown Guild and we are sure that the members of Abbeyleix Guild will keep an eye on it for all of us. Abbeyleix guild celebrated their centenary in the Heritage Centre in 2014 - so it seems a very appropriate place to have the quilt = no longer will it be stored in someone's attic and possibly forgotten all about.



*Betty Gorman vice President of Laois Federation with members of the Abbeyleix Guild at the Handmade with care exhibition in the Abbeyleix Heritage House where the Quilt is now on view*



*Members Portlaoise Guild including the Guild President, Caroline Shiel and the Federation President, Anne Payne who is also a member of the Guild. It was great to see all members present.*



*Mary Hearn Abbeyleix Guild with her hand work now hanging up the Heritage House Exhibition*

*Anne Payne, Laois Federation President*



# Clare and Kerry Federation

On Sunday 10th March , 11 guilds took part in the Federation Competition in the Temple Gate Hotel to mark International Women's day.

Corofin Guild are the winners of the International Woman's Day competition. They had a very colourful presentation of South Africa woman Marian Makeba who was a song writer who used her music to cross national divides. She was known as the UN "goodwill" ambassador " Mama Africa" A member wore the traditional costume and the guild displayed baked Rusks and Rooieus Tea which are native biscuits of that country.

Bridgetown Guild won 2nd prize with their presentation of their chosen country Ireland. Members dressed in costume and began their presentation with the song "Foggy Dew" with a detailed account of their celebrated woman Constance Markievicz, who was a founder member of the Irish Citizen's Army. They displayed griddle bread and potato cake which was traditional food of that time.

Kilmurry McMahon Guild won 3rd Prize with their chosen country Dominican Republic. Their celebrated women were Minerva Mirabel and her sisters Maria-Theresa and Patria. The sisters were murdered. The UN designated date in their memory is 25th November which is called the International Day for the Elimination of violence against women. Guild members wore the butterfly in their memory. Their national flag is the only one in the world that depicts the bible.

Well done to all guild for taking part and their work, research and presentation was a credit to them.



*Corofin Guild members - the winners of the International women's day competition.*

There was a large attendance at the ICA Federation meeting which took place on 25th February 2019 in the Auburn Lodge.

Guest speaker at the Federation meeting was Bridget Liddy PRO the Parkinson's association of Ireland - the Clare Branch. Parkinson's is a medical condition which can utterly change a person's life and is variable in its progress. Support group for moral support and interaction has been set up for 4 years and a regular monthly meeting is held on the last Friday of every month in Carrigoran Wellness Centre, Newmarket -on - Fergus. Meetings can consist of activities such as yoga, physio, Tai Chi, Music song or dance and a speaker to speak on a topic relevant to Parkinson's. The meeting is held at 10am to 1.00pm and finishes with a coffee and a chat. The Clare Branch covers all of Co. Clare and their contact mobile number is 087 2272782 or 087 9849178.

Competition winners for the Limerick on either "Valentine" or "Spring" were Noelle O'Mahony 1st Sixmilebridge Guild, Joan Dunne Tradaree Guild 2nd and Ann Corbett Scariff Guild 3rr place.

*Sent by Mary Moloney, Clare Federation PRO*



*Photo from Kerry Federation Meeting - 17th Feb 2019*



*Moyvane Guild along with friends received our Certificates of Participation in an HSE led Health & Nutrition Course.*

*Sent by Anne Fitzmaurice, Guild Press Officer Moyvane Guild, Kerry Federation*

# Limerick and Waterford Federation

Limerick ICA Federation

International Women's Day Event.



*Members of Castletroy Guild with Federation President Annette Long*

*Federation President Annette Long making a presentation to Sinead McDonnell, Environment Awareness Officer with Limerick City and County Council.*



Limerick ICA Federation organised an event to celebrate International Women's Day.

Sinead McDonnell, Environmental Awareness Officer, with Limerick City and County Council. Sinead addressed the gathering on the topic of the Environmental Initiatives supported by Limerick City and County Council in various communities around the county. She spoke on cutting down on single use plastics and the need to repeat this message again and again until it sinks in. She gave us tips on the many small things we as individuals can do to protect the environment. She stressed that everyone can make a difference. The event was held in the beautiful surrounds of the Hunt Museum Café on the banks of the broad majestic Shannon. This was by kind permission of Helen O'Donnell, the proprietor. Helen, not only afforded us the use of the Café, but also sponsored the tea, coffee and scones, Federation President, Annette Long, thanked both Sinead and Helen for their contribution to the event and presented them with pink orchids in honour of the day that was in it. Donations were taken up for ADAPT House, Limerick. We left with renewed enthusiasm for protecting our common home.

*Sent by Maura Walsh, Limerick Federation PRO*



Tramore ICA President Bernie Keating presenting a cheque, the proceeds from our Christmas Auction, to Keith from Tramore Order of Malta. Hopefully this will help towards training of recruits.

*Sent by Heather Phelan Waterford Federation PRO, Guild Press Officer Tramore Guild*



*The audience on the steps of the Hunt Museum with Sinead McDonnell and Helen O'Donnell of the Hunt Museum Café.*



## WONDERS

Thank you God for everything  
In this word I include Spring  
A time of year when nature wakes  
To show mankind your wondrous ways

I look around what do I see?  
The beauty of a budding tree  
Standing upright – Oh so proud  
It seems to call “please watch me sprout”

I take a glance another way  
I catch my breath and start to stare  
Ahead of me what do I see?  
The beauty of the deep blue sea

I raise my eyes up to the sky  
The clouds are busy rolling by  
The big bright ball – it is the Sun  
Is shining down on everyone

All the World now seems in view  
What beauty God I wish I knew  
How sights as wonderful as these  
Unfold themselves like glowing peace

I hear you call “my dearest daughter  
Why do you query God the Father”  
The wonders I have placed on view  
Are mankind’s gifts from me to you

*Mary Lorigan*  
*Guild Treasurer, Kill Guild, Kildare Federation*

## LAMENT FOR THE FLOWERS

Oh to have a little plot  
Where I could reap and sow  
Seeds, and plants and all I've got  
Roses too I'd grow  
But free from bug and greedy slug I pray..

For topless flowers and leafless stems  
Compost, now, are all my gems  
Peas and beans or salads green  
On my table -not seen  
Thanks to snail and slimey slug

The best laid plan, slug to destroy  
All summer longwent all awry.  
Rings of shells free range and organic,  
Seaweed salt beer and coffee --no lack  
You see, slugs were just having the craic!

Oh to have a little plot.  
Where I would my carpet dot,  
Red orange yellow green violet indigo and blue  
Free from bug and slimey slug  
Fat, greedy, brown, green and grey.

*Anne Geraghty*  
*Tullamore Guild, Offaly Federation*

## LEAF

As I walked along a quiet country road on an October day,  
A leaf broke free from its branch  
And drifted slowly to the ground at my feet.  
A thought came to my mind;  
Of all the people in the World,  
I am the only one who saw it,  
And noted its passing!  
All summer, little leaf, you clung to your branch  
And noted the birdsong and the raindrop,  
And now is the moment of your ending.  
I take note of this, and hope  
That when my end comes, and I lie under the Earth,  
Your descendants will fall softly on me,  
And note my passing too!

*Mary Teehan*  
*Guild Secretary, Borris In Ossory Guild, Laois Federation*

We hope you are enjoying the ICA newsletter.  
Please let us know what you are doing in your  
Guild and Federation as we are delighted to see  
that you are so active.

Also if you have recipes with a photo, or a  
poem written by you, please send it to us and  
we will share them with the members.



**ICA Central Office**  
**office@ica.ie**

Wicklow Federation had a lovely afternoon tea event to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge and International Women's Day hosted by Wicklow Town Guild le ceol, caint agus craic.

Our members and international guests enjoyed some great music from Wicklow Town Comhaltas members, then we took to the floor for Fallaí Luimní agus Droichead Ath Luain agus cúpla Seana Waltz as well as the Connemara Set and Shoe the Donkey. After our delicious afternoon tea our guest speakers told us about their native countries, Spain, Germany and Zimbabwe and our guests from Zimbabwe treated us to some beautiful singing. Ansin bhí roinnt amhráin gaeilge againn and then our Lithuania guest helped judge the Old Time Waltz competition. The afternoon was full of chat and laughter.

Go mbeirimid be oar an am seo arís.

## Wicklow Federation



*Sent by Hilda Roche, Wicklow Federation President*



## Westmeath Federation



*Nordic walking on the new cycle way*

*Competition in federation an arrangement in a boot 🐾 Bridie and Eilish*

*Photos were sent by Eilish McDonnell Horseleap/Streamstown Guild, Westmeath Federation President*



*Some ICA members were very involved in organising a concert to raise funds' to lay Tarmacadam around our church*



*Teaching the ladies to knit*



*Meeting with the Syrian refugees in Mullingar and taking the ladies out for coffee in the morning's  
Sent by Eilish McDonnell Horseleap/Streamstown Guild, Westmeath Federation President*



# ***Child Protection - A Synopsis***

Parents and guardians have the primary responsibility for the care and protection of their children. However, society also has a duty to promote the welfare and safety of children. The wider community of relatives, friends, neighbours, professionals and voluntary workers are well placed to be aware of a child's welfare. They should know how to recognise and respond to the possibility of abuse or neglect, so as to ensure that the most effective steps are taken to protect a child and to contribute to the ongoing safety of children.

Child welfare and protection policy is based on a legal framework provided primarily by the Child Care Act 1991 and the Children First Act 2015. There are a number of key principles of child protection and welfare. These are:

The safety and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.

The best interests of the child should be paramount.

The overall aim in all dealings with children and their families is to intervene proportionally to support families to keep children safe from harm.

Interventions by the State should build on existing strengths and protective factors in the family.

Early intervention is key to getting better outcomes.

Children should only be separated from parents/guardians when alternative means of protecting them have been exhausted.

Children have a right to be heard, listened to and taken seriously.

Parents/guardians have a right to respect, and should be consulted and involved in matters that concern their family

A proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of parents / guardians and families.

Child protection is multiagency, multidisciplinary activity.

The Children First Act 2015 places a number of statutory obligations on specific groups of professionals and on particular organisations providing services to children. Best practice should be in place for all organisations providing services to children. Through the provision of the Act, it is intended to:

Raise awareness of child abuse and neglect.

Provide for mandatory reporting by key professionals.

Improve child safeguarding arrangements in organisations providing services to children.

Provide for cooperation and information-sharing between agencies when Tulsa – Child and Family Agency, is undertaking child protection assessments.

The Irish Countrywomen's Association do carry out activities within guilds / federations and activities in An Grianán where our members come in contact with children. Therefore, we have decided to implement a Child Protection Programme containing a Risk Assessment, Child Safeguarding Statement, policies and training as necessary.

A Child Protection Sub Working Group was developed. The ICA obtained the services of a Child Protection expert (Olive Ring) who is contracted by the Carmichael Training Centre in Dublin. Olive carries out Child Protection training and develops child safety systems for many organisations throughout the country. To date the Risk Assessment for child protection for ICA is in process and the Child Safeguarding Statement is at review stage with the sub working group. At this current time there is no intention to review the membership age within ICA. An overall Child Protection Policy will be developed, further information on training will go out to guild members after this work is complete.

*Michelle Earley, Leitrim Federation President*

# Important Dates



## ICA Annual General Meeting

Sheraton Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath  
Sunday 26th May at 10:30 am

1 night bed and breakfast for Saturday 25th May

- €75 per person sharing
- €140 single occupancy

2 nights (Sat 25th and Sun 26th May) bed and breakfast and one evening meal

- €160 per person sharing
- €265 single occupancy.

**Lunch** can be bought on the day. There are 2 options: Either Main course, Dessert and Tea/ Coffee which costs €20.95 or the Soup and Sandwich option with Tea/ Coffee costs €13.50

**Please contact the hotel directly to book** your accommodation—Tel: 090 6451200.  
This is a discounted offer and is subject to availability and must be booked prior to April 30th 2019.

**Parking:** The Sheraton Hotel shares parking facilities with the Athlone Town Shopping Centre and does not own this car park. Car parking is complimentary for overnight residents. Please take a ticket on entry to the car park and present it at the hotel reception on registration.

Please register your attendance at the AGM on the Member's Area of the ICA website or by clicking here:

**Eventbrite**

## An Grianán Annual Garden Party 28—30 June

Join us at An Grianán for the Annual Garden Party on Friday 28th June 2019. Enjoy good food, a glass of wine, our fashion show and dance until the wee small hours.

Make a week-end of it and join us for a trip to Northern Ireland on Saturday, back for dinner and entertainment that evening, depart after a sumptuous breakfast on Sunday.



### Aldi Brown Bread Judging

An Grianán  
18th July



### National Ploughing Championships

17th, 18th, 19th September

