



# ICA News

## Irish Countrywomen's Association ~ Bantracht na Tuaithe October 2020

Dear Members,

This has been one of the strangest years in living memory. Despite adversity, associations like ours are resilient and the importance of our physical and mental health in this pandemic cannot be overstated. I encourage all members to get involved in as many online classes and socially distanced meetings as possible. You will find a copy of the current Public Liability Insurance document on the back page for when we return to meetings and classes.



I would like to thank the 251 Guilds who took the time to send back the Postal Vote Adoption form. The results of this vote can be seen overleaf.

I would like to alert you all to possible changes that we may have to adopt to due to Covid-19. By flagging those changes now it will give us all a chance to prepare for the future of ICA. This year the NEB made a decision to push back the motions to AGM 2021 as we felt that members were prevented from discussion and debate around the motions by having no meetings or gatherings due to Covid-19 and needed to be fully aware of all the motions before voting on them. I urge you all now to familiarise yourself with the motions for 2020 because by the signs of things to come, it is quite possible that we may be having an AGM in May 2021 with restricted numbers, and with this in mind, a postal vote may be our only option to ensure all Guilds are included in the decisions on the motions. Advising you of this now gives us all the opportunity to prepare for a postal vote if necessary.

Meeting by teleconference and Zoom is the new normal for me now. It certainly wasn't easy but it was a case of having to survive to keep ICA work continuing. We are all well aware of the poor broadband service in much of Ireland. If this affects you and you would still like to view our AGM 2021 online, please make preparations for that now. Don't say you haven't been warned! Hopefully it won't come to this and we can have our old style AGM of us all gathering in a hotel, meeting and greeting with large smiles. However we can only make plans as our current situation develops and we must adhere to HSE and Government Guidelines.

In this mailing you will find the **Nomination Papers** for the upcoming national elections in 2021. Hopefully this pandemic will not prevent me from welcoming in your new National President, Secretary, Treasurer and Regional Presidents at our AGM next May. If you are planning to stand for National or Regional President I look forward to receiving your nomination and giving you all my top tips!

If you are considering standing for election for Federation President next year see overleaf for the list of Federations that will come into office on the board for 2021-2024.

The **Competitions Booklet** can be found in this mailing. We encourage as many as possible of you to enter and enjoy the satisfaction of working to achieve your goal. The **Property Register Form** is also included in this mailing, please complete it for your Guild and return to Central Office.

Yours in friendship and fellowship

Josephine Helly National President

# ELECTIONS 2021

The following Federations will be represented on the National Executive Board for the next term of office 2021-2024.

DUBLIN, KILKENNY, LOUTH, MONAGHAN, OFFALY, SLIGO,  
TIPPERARY NORTH, WATERFORD and WICKLOW.

If you are elected as Federation President in one of these Federations you will also serve on the Board.

An update from An Grianán:

Unfortunately we didn't get the opportunity to open our doors to guests, however let me assure you that when we do, we will welcome you all back with open arms (subject of course to HSE Guidelines etc).



The bedroom project is completed, 12 single rooms have been upgraded to Twin/ Double or Single en-suite rooms, and soft furnishings and curtains kindly made for us by members of Wicklow Federation.

We are currently preparing the brochure for 2021, we are contacting Teachtaí to collaborate on dates and courses and hope to have this with you in November. Please email in your address to [manager@an-grianan.ie](mailto:manager@an-grianan.ie) if you'd like to be added to our mailing list. Next year you can use your Coupon to come and stay with us.

Stay Safe and hopefully we will see you all again soon. Niamh Donegan Manager



Camross Guild  
Wexford  
Federation held 4  
sessions of socially  
distanced Chair  
Yoga. The class was  
given with the  
support of Sport  
Active Wexford.  
Stay Active!



# AGM 2020 UPDATE

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the AGM was held in an unusual format this year. All members were sent an individual copy of the Annual Report for 2019-2020 and Guilds were asked to discuss, complete and return the Postal Vote Adoption form. On 11th September the votes were counted by June Lawless of the Procedures Committee. There was an impressive return of this form with the following results.

**251** Forms were returned

246 of those were valid papers. There were 5 spoilt papers.

Guilds were asked three questions:

Question: 1 "Is your Guild in favour of this form of AGM ?"

**240** Yes      **4** No      **2** undecided

Question: 2 "Do you agree with the appointment of N. Carrick Auditors?"

**244** Yes      **2** No

Question: 3 "Do you approve of the Draft Minutes of the reconvened AGM in 2019?"

**240** Yes      **2** No      **4** undecided

Members were given the opportunity to comment or send in queries regarding the Annual Accounts or the Annual Report to a dedicated email address. The Accounts and the Annual Report were sent to the Charities Regulator at the end of September 2020.

## SUPPORTING GALWAY AUTISM PROJECT



*Sophia O' Reilly,  
President of  
Knocknacarra Guild  
(Galway), presenting a  
cheque to the Galway  
Autism Project, from the  
proceeds of a coffee  
morning run by her  
Guild.*

# UPDATED ARTS AWARDS BOOKLET



The newly updated Arts Award booklet is on sale in Central Office priced at € 3.00. It is also available to download from the Member's Area of the website. Some of these Awards are tied in with the National Competitions eg: The Blackberry Hearing Solo Voice competition, The Creative writing competition, and the Photography competition. For more information about the Arts Awards please contact Sharon Kelly the Chair of the committee:

[sdkellyart@yahoo.ie](mailto:sdkellyart@yahoo.ie)

## NATIONAL COMPETITIONS 2020-2021



You will find enclosed in this mailing a copy of the new National Competitions booklet for 2020-2021. We encourage as many of you as possible to enter. The Contest Weekend is due to take place on Saturday 20th - Sunday 21st March 2021 Covid permitting.



## BROWN BREAD COMPETITION 2020

Congratulations to Mary McCarthy (on the right) of Carrigaline Co. Cork who was this year's winner of the Aldi Brown Bread competition.



## SOCIALLY DISTANCED MEETINGS IN BALLYCONNELL CARLOW

It is possible to have socially distanced meetings and meet up with your Guild members in a safe environment like the members of Ballyconnell Guild Carlow Federation who recently enjoyed a lovely community event for cyclists of all ages and abilities- some very fit and some not so fit. Some of the ladies and their friends hadn't cycled since they had cycled to school in the 1950s. They agreed that the ICA would now take the lead in this small community and promote cycling and a safer road network and this would be the first of many bike outings. They all enjoyed the sunny Autumnal day.



## THE HISTORY OF THE GUILDS IN MAYO FEDERATION



As part of Social Inclusion week which starts on 12th October, Mayo Guilds would normally take a table at the Arts and Crafts exhibition each year but as this could not take place Kay Devine Mayo Federation President decided with the help of the Guilds to compile a history of the 12 Guilds in Mayo which was supported by Mayo North East S.I.C.A.P. in the publication of the book. They have made a video and included Mayo ICA Federation and the book was launched on 5th October. The video will be uploaded on the Mayo Federation Facebook page and on YouTube on 12th October.

Members in Renmore Guild Galway Federation have been busy crafting. To the right is some Limerick lacework by Colette Kelly and far right is a photo of various crafts by Rose Mary Conneely.



### Staff changes in Central Office



Jade Pepper only joined in March and now is leaving ICA for a new job in the Civil Service and we wish her all the best for her exciting future.

### A Poem for our times by Angela McKeon Longford Town Guild

I won't arise n go now, nor go to ICA  
 I'll sanitise the doorknob and make a cup a tea  
 I won't go down to the sea again, I won't go out at all  
 I'll wander lonely as a cloud from the kitchen to the hall  
 There's a green-eyed yellow monster to the north of Kitmando  
 But I shan't be seeing him yet nor I hope will you  
 While the dawn comes up like thunder on the road to HQ  
 I'll make a bit of supper and eat it off a tray  
 About the woodland, just right now, I'm not free to go  
 To see the "keep out" posters or the cherry hung with snow  
 And no, I won't be travelling much within the realms of gold  
 Or get me to An Grianán Heaven, all that's been put on hold  
 Give me your hands, I shan't request, albeit we are friends  
 Nor come within a mile of you, until this shit ends!

## PROPERTY REGISTER OF ALL GUILDS IN THE ICA

A national property register of all Association property is held in Central Office and must be updated each year.

Guilds and Federations are required by the Constitution to prepare and maintain a register of all it's property and to provide the National Executive Board annually with a copy of the register.

If your Guild has a hall or premises please complete and return this form enclosed in the newsletter.

## Socially distanced activities outdoors

On the right, members of Longford Town Guild playing socially distanced Boules.



Below members of Moville Guild Donegal Federation visiting the banks of beautiful Lough Foyle for a socially distanced outing.



On the left, members of Mullingar Guild met on the shores of Lough Ennell at Ladestown for a walk and a socially distanced outdoor cup of coffee. They even fed the swans!

On the right members of Wicklow Town Guild have enjoyed meeting up outside and going for walks. This walk took them to the end of the Pier in Wicklow Harbour.



On the left, members of Ballyloughan Guild crafting lap or knee blankets out of doors. Lined with cotton, these were donated to nursing homes all over Co. Carlow.



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**ICA Members Public Liability Insurance Cover**  
**Insurer: Hiscox Insurance Company Limited – Policy Number: HU P16 1719564(8)**  
**Period of Insurance: 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

***Public Liability Insurance***

The policy provides cover in respect of all sums, which the Association shall become legally liable to pay in respect of bodily injury or illness of any person (not being a person under a contract of service of apprenticeship) or damage to any Third Party property happening in connection with the business described in the Policy and occurring:

- (a) Upon or about the premises of
- (b) During and in connection with the duties elsewhere of any member of the Association

***The Business***                      Social, Educational and Cultural Organisation

***The Premises***

- (a) 58 Merrion Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4
- (b) Any other premises temporarily hired by or lent to the Insured for the purposes of any meeting, sale or social function by the Insured

***Limit of Indemnity***

- (a) €6,500,000 any one occurrence/ unlimited in any one period of insurance
- (b) €31,744 any one period of insurance involving damage to Third Party Property caused by vibration or by the removal or weakening of support

***Extensions:***

- (a) Liability for loss of damage to premises (including fixtures or fittings thereof) hired or rented but excluding the first €325 of such loss or damage unless caused by Fire or Explosion
- (b) Liability assumed under Hiring Agreements with owners of premises for the fire of such premises including liability to Third Parties but excluding the first €325 of any claim.

***Notes:***

- (1) It is a condition of Extension (b) that the conduct and control of all Claims for which your Insurers may be liable by virtue of the extension be vested in your Insurers.
- (2) Members are respectfully requested not to sign any Hiring Agreement, which imposes on the Insurers a Liability, which would not attach in the absence of such Agreement.
- (3) Food Poisoning risks

***Policy Exclusions:***

- (a) Claims arising from ownership, possession or use of any mechanically propelled or horse drawn vehicles, any vessels or craft.
- (b) Loss or damage to property (other than "Premises" as above described) in the charge of or under the control of the Insured or any servant or agent of the Insured.

**Subject to Policy Terms and Conditions**

Directors: Liam B. Kilkenny (Chairman), Eamonn G. Griffin (Managing)  
Company Reg No. 202240

EURO RISK MANAGEMENT (INSURANCES LTD) T/A ERM FINANCIAL SERVICES IS REGULATED BY THE CENTRAL BANK OF IRELAND