



ICA Property Register 2021-2022

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 its property and to provide the National Executive Board annually with a copy of the register.

If you have a hall or premises, please ensure that the following information is included in the register and returned to Central Office before **Thursday 14th October** by post to 58 Merrion Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 or via email admin@ica.ie

Guild Name	
Address of Property	
Where are the Title Deeds / Documents currently held	
When did the Guild acquire this property (approximate date will suffice)	
Was this property sold in the last year? If yes, please furnish details.	

Signed: _____ Treasurer: _____

Date: _____



Irish Countrywomen's Association ~ Bantracht na Tuaithe September 2021

A Chomhbhaill, Fellow Members,

At long last some sort of normality is coming back into our lives with the easing of the restrictions starting from 20th September. We are now able to meet in our Guilds and Federations and begin to plan events. Tá sceitimíní orm...I am excited.

I said in my inaugural address that when we could safely do so, we would celebrate together, and we will finally be able to do that at our Winter Conference in Wexford on Friday 5th and Saturday 6th November. Book yourselves in, it's going to be great!

In August, we lost another great lady Monica Prendiville from Kerry, who was National President from 1991-1994. She will be fondly remembered. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.

The NAC met in An Grianán for training and Ann Lonergan South Tipperary Federation President was elected Chair of the NAC and Mary O'Gorman Kildare Federation President was elected Vice Chair of the NAC. I wish them well in their roles.

Our new CEO Eufemia Solinas joined us at the beginning of September bringing with her a wealth of experience, knowledge and enthusiasm. I am delighted to welcome her to ICA and hope that she will enjoy working with us.

Members have been returning to An Grianán over the summer months and into the Autumn. The atmosphere is lovely and there have been lots of great classes, great chat and laughter. I was delighted to be there for a day during the Friends of An Grianán week and Handcraft Week. I am pleased to announce that taster classes will be resuming in Central Office in October.

I also attended an agricultural show in Naas, where Kildare Federation showcased their work and promoted ICA. The final of the Aldi Brown Bread competition was held in the Howth Cookery School. We are so proud of Louie Taylor, from Donegal, who was one of the four finalists. Huge congratulations Louie!

I was delighted to join Camross Guild celebrating their 60th Anniversary. I attended a very informative and enjoyable Meath Federation meeting in An Grianán and I will attend the opening of a new Guild in Donegal next week. I look forward to visiting lots of other Federations and Guilds in the coming months. It's great to see the photos of some of the events that happened over the summer. Did I hear someone say that nothing is happening in ICA?

So ladies, let's get back together safely! Let's enjoy all that is great about ICA. Start your book clubs, your patchwork groups, your craft mornings, your drama, your walks, your social get togethers and enjoy being able to see each other in person. If you haven't already paid the €25 membership fee please do, so that you can join in all that's going on and come to Wexford in November. Tabhair aire daoibh féin agus dá chéile.



Hilda Roche

Hilda Roche National President



Monica Prendiville RIP - August 2021. Former National President and former Federation President of Kerry Federation died on 14th August 2021. Monica was National President from 1991 to 1994 and was a long-time member of Derryquay Guild. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.

Introducing Eufemia Solinas,

Dear members,

It is an honour to have joined the ICA as its new Chief Executive Officer. I thank sincerely the NEB for the warm welcome and for giving me the opportunity to support the organisation and its membership going forward.

I also take this opportunity to thank the staff for facilitating me in this initial period of time, and beyond. Most of all, I look forward to engaging further with the NEB, NAC, with the Federations and the Guilds, learning about your local efforts and commitment, leveraging the past to strengthen the future of the ICA.

I am originally from Sardinia, the sunny island sitting in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, in an area comparable to the Gaeltacht. I share your passion and pride for your own language, culture and traditions, while empowering women in friendship. I have lived in this beautiful country long enough now to cherish and share the same values on Irish heritage and culture, which is so well represented by the ICA at national level.

I am passionate about education and, I am sure it is clear, I strongly believe in empowerment, whereby individuals and communities take ownership of change for a better future for all. It is also important to advocate for the enhancement of women within their communities and society as a whole – a cause particularly close to my heart as I have first-hand witnessed the societal and social positioning of women in an international development context.

In this day and age, diversity and representation are very important: it must be paramount to inspire, educate and support women to act within their own communities to obtain a more balanced and better represented society. The foundations rely on empowerment, which drives stronger voices for action and create a ripple effect, which will travel across our societal structures, bringing about much needed social change. In this post-pandemic world, we all have learned about the importance of our communities, the friendship and support we can lend to each other. I believe the ICA has a greater role to play in terms of social impact across rural and urban Ireland and I am honoured to be part of this journey with you all. Go raibh mile maith agat. Eufemia Solinas

Eufemia Solinas seen here holding some Calico Dolls recently donated to Crumlin Children's hospital



COMPETITIONS CORNER

The National President Hilda Roche invites you to enter the following competitions:

1. 500 words on "What ICA Means to Me" Winner receives €75 in An Grianán Vouchers
2. 500 words on "An ICA event I will never forget" Winner receives €50 in An Grianán Vouchers
3. 500 focail "An áit is fearr liom in Eirinn" Winner receives € 25 in An Grianán Vouchers

You can enter 1, 2 or all three. Must be typed. Send your entries with your name, Guild, Federation on a separate piece of paper to ICA Central Office, 58 Merrion Road, Dublin 4

Mark the envelope "Competition"

Closing date: 26th October 2021



Christmas Shoebox Appeal- BRING YOUR SHOEBOX TO THE WINTER CONFERENCE

Team Hope is delighted to announce that this year the Christmas Shoebox Appeal is back and everyone will be able to "Build a Box". Lots of ICA members enjoy participating in the Appeal creating shoeboxes filled with wonderful gifts. It can prompt discussions about cultural differences, caring for others, sharing and, of course, it's fun to do! We will collect boxes at the Winter Conference in the Amber Springs Hotel in Gorey on 6th November.

Perhaps you could pop an item from the 4W's (something to Wash with, Write with, Wear and go WOW!) each week into your shopping basket and watch your boxes "Build" up over time or perhaps you could host a coffee morning or charity event and use the money raised to purchase a box, or boxes, online. Every box counts! The closing date for dropping off boxes is **8th November** and there are drop off points right across the country including any Dealz, Toymaster or First Stop Tyres stores or you can drop off at the Winter Conference. [How to fill a shoebox - Team Hope](#)

Team Hope have offered zoom or in person speakers who can attend ICA meetings and give you a personal insight into the Appeal and how it works. You can order leaflets, find further resources and details on how to help one of our volunteer teams around the country or view the 2021 video at www.teamhope.ie/csa. Follow Team Hope on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @TeamHopeIreland. They'd love to see your shoebox pictures!



ICA CONTESTS: Dublin Federation will be running the Competitions Programme for the next three years. Watch this space for the exciting programme of contests and competitions.



Camross Guild recently celebrated their 60th Anniversary and invited the National President Hilda Roche to attend. A vibrant and enthusiastic Guild they have like many Guilds, their 60 years have been filled with events of all sorts. They have held Senior Citizens parties, taken sick members to Lourdes, supported the local Women's Refuge and have invited a wide range of speakers to address the meetings. In 1991 they set up a community alert group, still in existence today. In 2000 the Guild constructed a Rockery Garden which was recently entered into the "Keep Wexford Beautiful" competition. They have travelled the country, done many activities and held fundraisers including the money for beds in the local Psychiatric hospital in Enniscorthy and raised funds for mental health.



Above; Founder member Maggie Morrissey (right) and Guild President Mary Kelly (left). Below seen with Hilda Roche.



Nurses on the Labour ward of University Hospital Galway have contacted ICA to ask for donations of knitted hats for newborn infants. A pattern is available <https://www.themakeyourownzone.com/knitting-newborn-hats-for-hospitals/>

We want to hear from your Guild. Please email admin@ica.ie with your histories.

Are you paying too much for your Health Insurance?



The Health Insurance Authority is a statutory regulator of the private health insurance market in Ireland. The Authority also provides information to consumers regarding their rights and health insurance plans and benefits. They are offering free presentations on Zoom and in person to ICA Guilds to help members make sure that they have the best Health Insurance to suit their needs. If you would like to organise a presentation please contact Eimear Greene on ph: +353 1 4060080 Email: eimeargreene@hia.ie



Left; Members of Kildare Federation at the Agri-Trade show in Naas Co. Kildare. Right National President Hilda Roche speaking at the event.



On left; The Apple festival or Féile na nÚll took place in Cloughjordan Eco Village Co. Tipperary- ICA members Anne Guidera and Berta Armitage were among the judges of the Apple Bake competition

On right, the new members of the NEB 2021-2024 from left to right: Helen Uí Mhúineacháin (Dublin Federation), Ann J Lonergan (Chair of the NAC) Mary D'Arcy (Regional President South East), Susanna Braswell (Wicklow Federation), June O' Dwyer (Regional President South West), Kathleen Gallagher (Sligo Federation), Eufemia Solinas (CEO), Hilda Roche (National President), Carol Grogan (Louth Federation), Mary O'Halloran (National Treasurer), Catherine O'Dowd (Monaghan Federation), Mary Harkin (Regional President North West), Joanne Allen (National Secretary) and Patricia Madden (Regional President North East).



Congratulations to Louie Taylor (seen on left) of Finn Valley Guild Donegal Federation who was one of the 4 finalists in the Brown Bread Baking Competition in conjunction with the National Ploughing Association and sponsored by Aldi

Spot the difference!

Noeline Power of Waterford Federation seated at the same



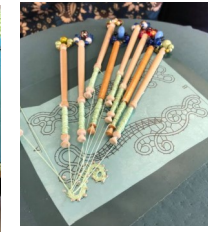
spinning wheel in An Grianán 40 years later.



Friends of An Grianán, Bobbin Lace and Waterford weekend



On the left, Chair of Friends of An Grianán Marie O'Toole (right) presenting a bouquet to National President Hilda Roche. (left).



Some examples of Bobbin lace done at An Grianán recently.



On right, Members of Ashford Guild Wicklow Federation enjoying a summer outing.



On left, members of Carlow Federation visiting Altamont Gardens



On left, 60th Anniversary celebrations of Borris-in-Ossory Guild in Laois Federation

Right, Members of Scarrif Guild in Clare visiting St Cronan's 10th Century church in Tuamgraney



Below, Members of Ratoath Guild Kildare Federation table quiz

Left, Members of Killybegs and Tobar na mBan Guilds in Donegal Federation on a visit to Slieve League



On right, Members of Ballinode Guild Monaghan Federation at An Grianán



GUIDELINES FOR HOLDING FEDERATION AND GUILD MEETINGS:**Continuing our Recovery and Reconnecting****A Note from the National President**

The recent easing of restrictions allows us to get back to meeting in our Guilds and Federations. We have missed the chat, the laughter, the craft groups, the drama groups and so much more. We need to meet in person and get back to our ICA. While mindful of keeping each other safe at all times. The majority of our members are fully vaccinated. The following are guidelines are designed to help. Further information is available from the government document Reframing the Challenge. We still must be sensible and follow all HSE guidelines. Take care of yourselves and each other and enjoy ICA. Hilda

Please note that ICA meetings /events must always adhere to current government restrictions and HSE advice and cannot take place if not within the restrictions in place at the time.

From the 20th September organised indoor activities can take place with capacity limits of 100 people (with appropriate protective measures) where all participants are immune (fully vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19 within the past 6 months). Where patrons have mixed immunity status, pods of up to 6 participants will be permitted. Multiple pods will be permissible subject to protective measures. Number of pods will have regard to the size of venue and substantial social distance between individual pods.

Ultimately it is up to individual members to decide if they attend any meeting or event. The following are guidelines/suggestions to assist Federations and Guilds to organise indoor events and meetings.

Federation/ Guild Committee discuss your venue where there can be social distancing according to current government rules. Discuss with the venue where your meeting will be, re numbers allowed, lay out of room and requirements re surface cleaning, sanitisers etc. Appoint a committee member/ members as Covid Officers or agree who will be responsible for the following:

- Check proof of immunity
- Ensure that every person attending the meeting signs the attendance form giving name and contact phone number
- Ensure all requirements as agreed with the venue are adhered to
- Ensure there is adequate ventilation.

When sending out notice of a meeting

- Note that it is a member's personal choice and decision to attend any ICA event or meeting
- Give time when the meeting will start and end
- Advise everyone that proof of immunity will be checked
- Ask anyone who is not feeling well not to attend

From 22nd October onwards final restrictions will be lifted

Measures that remain in place include:

- Self-isolation when we have symptoms
- Mask wearing in healthcare settings, indoor retail and on public transport

For more information on the easing of restrictions see:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/3361b-public-health-updates/>

If you are feeling unwell visit <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/restricted-movements/> and contact HSE live at 1800 700 700

WINTER CONFERENCE
5th and 6th November 2021
Amber Spring Hotel, Gorey, Wexford

Don't forget to Register on Eventbrite. The Conference open to ICA members only. There is no charge to attend.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ica-winter-conference-tickets-176168132627>

Eventbrite

When booking for the Winter Conference please use the following reference number; 266636. The Reservations line is open from 9am to 6pm or you can email reservations@amberspringshotel.ie (T) 00-353-53-9484000 Bedroom Rates:

Single room bed & breakfast - €130 per night . Single room dinner, bed & breakfast - €155 per night

Double / Twin room bed & breakfast - €160 per night. Double / Twin room dinner, bed & breakfast - €210 per night

Friday 5th November	Amber Springs Hotel	Saturday 6th November	Amber Springs Hotel Gorey, Co. Wexford
2:00 PM	Visit to Clonmore Graveyard	9:00 AM	Registration
3:15 PM	Visit Bree Gardens and reception	10:30 AM	Conference opening
7:00 PM	Dinner Amber Springs Hotel	11:30 AM	Commemoration and Lockdown Stories
8:30 PM	Entertainment	1:00 PM	Lunch
		2:30 PM	Conference Reconvenes
		2:45 PM	Federation updates
		3:15 PM	Member Priorities
		4:00 PM	Raffle and close

Join us and let's Celebrate!

This is the first real opportunity to meet and reconnect. This will be a different style of conference as we come together to celebrate our 111 years of history and look to the future. This informal Conference will be inclusive of all members. Work is progress to finalise conference proceedings. On Friday afternoon we invite all members to join together at the graveside of Anita Lett for a **wreath laying** ceremony. We then invite you to **Bree Gardens**, where a **Celebration Reception** will be held to commemorate the amazing women who first founded our wonderful association. Members will travel independently to Clonmore Graveyard and on to Bree Gardens. On Friday evening we will enjoy dinner together and **entertainment**. Do not miss this chance to reconnect with your fellow members on Friday and Saturday.

On Saturday we invite all members to participate in a session called **Our Lockdown Stories**. We want to hear how ICA helped you to get through lockdown. Did you set up a WhatsApp Group or join a Zoom call for the first time? We want to hear your stories. We will also commemorate all those who lost their lives during the pandemic.

In the afternoon session we invite all members to take part in stating your **Top Priority** for the months ahead. We want to hear from members around the country, so please prepare what your top priority is, and be ready to take the microphone!

We do hope you can join us to celebrate 111 years of the ICA.

Please note this Conference Agenda may be subject to change if necessary.