



February-March 2021

LUTON IRISH FORUM

WELFARE, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES

Much needed fun at St Brigid's

Some 75 LIF members and guests got together to celebrate Lá Fhéile Bríde (St Brigid's Day) with an afternoon of great Irish comedy on Saturday 30th January. Our popular annual event marking St Brigid's Day was a free event via Zoom this year, meaning families spread across the UK and Ireland could all watch together.

After a special message from H.E. Ambassador of Ireland, Adrian O'Neill, we spent the next two hours laughing along with clips and learning about some of the most successful Irish women working in comedy. Julie Walters, Kathy Burke, Caroline Ahearn, Derry Girls, Aisling Bea, Dirt Birds, Maureen Potter and June Rodgers were all featured as well as two great television characters, Mrs Brown and Mrs Doyle.

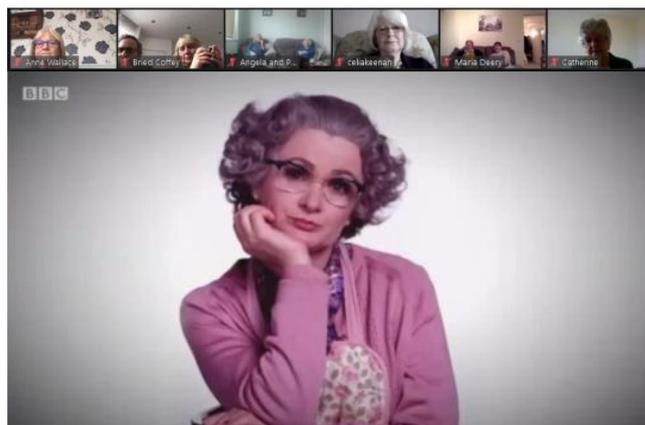


Celebrated matriarch Agnes Brown, created and played by Brendan O'Carroll.

There were some very special guests. Luton's two female MPs Sarah Owen and Rachel Hopkins, Rachel kindly gave House of Commons chocolates as a raffle prize; Gerry Molumby, Director of the Triskellion Irish theatre company, donated a beautiful handmade St Brigid's Cross for our raffle; and Sarah Finucane from The Craic is Back magazine completed the guest list.

More than half the audience enjoyed a delicious Irish Afternoon Tea, made and delivered by the family team of Jack Berr Catering.

Typical was this comment: "Thanks so very much to the ladies who delivered my afternoon



The late Caroline Aherne as the much-loved Mrs Merton.

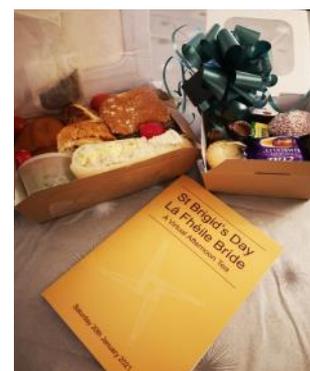
tea this morning in the rain ... it made my day ... thanks a million!"

Attendees were full of praise for the event. Elaine Lister said: "Thank you to the Irish Forum for still hosting this much needed event, women in comedy is very apt for this year and has made me laugh and remember very good people and shows. Thanks so very much...have learnt more again today, nice to see everyone too, very much needed I am sure for us all."

Ann Milner remarked "It introduced me to several Irish comedians I didn't know and most importantly I laughed a lot ... it reminded me how proud I am to be Irish."

Rachel Hopkins MP, a regular supporter of LIF's St Brigid's Day events commented that the afternoon was "Informative, funny, entertaining," it "brought different generations together celebrating Irish women in comedy" and was a "great way to spend a couple of hours!"

To view the event, head over to LIF YouTube channel or get in touch and request a DVD recording.



Playing with words and numbers

Which of the following statements are true and which are false? Answers are at the bottom of page 4. Thanks to Aviva The Big Irish Quiz Survey at surveymonkey.co.uk/.

1. More than half of all Irish households have a pet dog or cat.
2. The most popular nickname given to cars in Ireland is 'Mary'.
3. The first time The Republic of Ireland played in the World Cup was 1988.
4. Dublin airport had more than 30 million passengers in 2018.
5. The most popular boys' name for new-borns in 2018 was James.
6. The average number of children per family is 3.
7. Motorists are six times more likely to view their cars as female.
8. The Women's Football Association of Ireland was established in 1973.
9. The most common destination from Dublin airport in 2019 was Paris.
10. The most popular girls' name for new-borns in 2018 was Emma.
11. The top grown fruit in Ireland is the apple.
12. The most important amenity Irish travellers look for in a hotel is WiFi.
13. The average age Irish children move out of their parents' home is 23.

Can you tally up these?

The missing numbers in the puzzles are whole numbers between 0 and 9. The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals along the bottom. The diagonal lines also add up to the totals to the right. Answers are at the bottom of page 4. Thanks again goes to puzzlemakerdiscoveryeducation.com

| | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | 11 |
| | | 5 | | 21 |
| 2 | | | 6 | 22 |
| | | 0 | | 10 |
| 1 | | | 3 | 19 |
| 13 | 17 | 23 | 19 | 17 |

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| | | | | | 12 |
| | | | | | 19 |
| 6 | | | | | 12 |
| | | 6 | | | 23 |
| 1 | | | 3 | | 12 |
| 23 | 9 | 20 | 14 | | 18 |

Say what you see to find a well known word or phrase in each box below. Answers on page 4.

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| BIG BIG ignore ignore | Meal △ | instandingline |
| d deal d e e a a l deal l | R O ROADS D S | Arrest You're |
| Mind Matter | BIRD | Chair |

Can you find the words listed below in the wordsearch? Ignore the spaces between words, letters in the grid may be used more than once. Thanks to puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.co.uk

- | | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| BUTTERFLY | RAIN |
| BULBS | SNOWDROPS |
| CHICKS | SPRING CLEANING |
| DAFFODILS | SPRING GREENS |
| EASTER | ST BRIGID |
| EGGS | ST PATRICK |
| HYACINTH | STORMS |
| LAMBS | SUNSHINE |
| LENT | TADPOLE |
| NEW LIFE | TULIPS |
| RABBIT | WARMING |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | E | T | S | A | E | N | T | I | B | B | A | R | Q | S |
| N | S | F | B | G | E | B | X | W | Z | S | S | J | N | P |
| Q | I | I | S | W | G | E | B | Y | E | B | N | D | Z | R |
| L | R | A | L | G | L | E | L | N | N | D | E | S | D | I |
| M | E | I | R | O | J | F | E | H | I | A | E | T | C | N |
| Z | F | N | P | F | R | U | O | V | H | F | R | P | C | G |
| E | J | D | T | E | B | U | L | B | S | F | G | A | H | C |
| C | A | V | T | A | Q | E | D | V | N | O | G | T | W | L |
| T | H | T | A | M | R | I | F | T | U | D | N | R | A | E |
| G | U | I | J | X | G | Y | D | I | S | I | I | I | R | A |
| B | S | M | C | I | X | M | E | F | C | L | R | C | M | N |
| S | D | M | R | K | I | Y | Y | A | I | S | P | K | I | I |
| Q | S | B | I | K | S | Q | Y | T | H | F | S | N | N | N |
| S | T | O | R | M | S | H | S | L | A | M | B | S | G | G |
| S | N | O | W | D | R | O | P | S | T | U | L | I | P | S |



Jack (left) and granddaughter Mae delivering afternoon tea boxes for our online St Brigid's Day event.

Women just do it!

Jack and the team at Jack Berr Catering did a sterling job making and delivering the St Brigid's Afternoon Teas. Now Jack's written us a poem – what a talented woman!

It was wet, it was windy and boy it was cold
But the team at Jack Berr Catering were up for it
and feeling quiet bold!

It's the feast of St Brigid, did the weather not
know?

Out in the elements two bubbles did go.

It could chuck what it wanted we did not care,
Our friends at the forum were awaiting so for
sure we'd be there.

Boxes packed full of goodies were loaded in cars,
Challenges were accepted and we were off to
see our stars

The weather it tried our journeys to hamper,
Rain, sleet and that wind, beejesus, could it even
get any damper?

We stopped and we started, we battled along,
then came the rallying cry
"Come on now gang the Forum are waiting, let's
remember our song"

Doors knocked and then opened and many bells
they were rung,
Smiles for a greeting, they were so glad we'd come.

Quick chats and a catch up and an outpour of joy,
Then it's back on the road to deliver 'oh boy'.

Down to the last one and it's oh such a shame,
The craic has been mighty, can we go round again?

St Brigid's, it's over our deliveries are done.
Us girls got together and made it such fun.

So it's hooray for the Forum and their wonderful
crowd.

We'll see you all next year if Covid allows!

**The Soldier's Song*

Protect yourself and loved ones

As we go to print, the vast majority of people in the four groups identified as being at most risk if they catch Covid have received an initial vaccination. We spoke with one of our members, Mary Winter, who had the vaccine along with her father recently.

I'm really happy to have had the vaccine against Covid which was given to me by a lovely young woman. I have to say I didn't feel the needle at all.

If you are called in at short notice, like me, you will need your NHS Number and doctor's address (on a repeat prescription, hospital letter or your GP will have it). My dad didn't need this information and his form had that information pre-printed.



Pat Mullen and daughter Mary Winter (right) both received a vaccine against Covid recently.

I'm happy and relieved to have had the vaccine as it seems to me that this is the first step on the path to everyone going back to a normal and sociable life, where we can hug our children and grandchildren without the fear of catching Covid.

I have no hesitation in recommending everyone who is able to, to have the vaccination when called in.

Mary Winter

If you are over 70 years old or are clinically vulnerable and still haven't been offered the vaccine when you read this – contact the NHS now to book an appointment.

Telephone 119 free of charge between 7am and 11pm seven days a week or book online at www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination.

Reflection and prayer

For anyone missing going to their usual church or other place of worship in these difficult times, Sisters Kathleen and Antoinette from the Sisters Of St Clare, would be delighted if you got in touch to say a prayer together.

The Sisters of St Clare also have a Prayer Garden, open to the public 10am-6pm every day. This serene spot has plenty of seating to rest awhile and pray or to simply take time out to listen to the sound of the River Lea running nearby.

"Everyone, all creeds and no creeds are most welcome to get in touch to pray together. Or just come and sit in peace in the inspirational setting of our beautiful prayer garden," says Sr. Kathleen.



The Sisters can be contacted for prayer or to talk to by phone on 01582 424518. The prayer garden is at the rear of 3 Abigail Close, LU3 1ND. Please park on the bridge if you can; drop off but not parking is available by the garden entrance.

Have you received your Winter Fuel Payment?

If you were born on or before 5 October 1954 you could get between £100 and £300 to help pay your heating bills. This one-off, tax-free payment made during the winter is known as a 'Winter Fuel Payment'.

If you've received this payment before but haven't this winter, contact the DWP's Winter Fuel Payment Centre on 0800 731 0160 (Freephone).

The deadline for making an application for 2020/21 is 31st March 2021, but do it sooner rather than later.

Answers to puzzles on page 2.

deal. Crossroads. You're under arrest. Mind over matter. Big bird. Highchair.
numbers: 9651, 2596, 1009, 1693, 9370, 6141, 5549, 3054. Say what you see: Too big to ignore. A balanced meal. Standing in line. Square
strawberry. 12=True. So many of us would be lost without internet. 13=False. It's actually 26. Nothing like mammy's dinner! Missing
number, we know! 7=True. 8=True. 9=False. It was London (Heathrow and Gatwick). 10=False. It was actually Emily. 11=False. It's the
Cup was 1990. 4=True. Dublin airport had 31.5 million passengers in 2018. 5=False. It was actually Jack. 6=False. It's actually 1.38! Odd
1=True. 61% of Irish households have a pet dog or cat. 2=False. Most popular is Betsy. 3=False. The first time Ireland played in the World

Diary

Please get in touch or check online for joining details and updates.

Tuesdays 11:00am-1:00pm

Art Group by Zoom

Tuesdays 7:00-8:00pm

Irish Language chat by Zoom

Thursdays 10:00-11:00am

Tea & Chat by Zoom

Fridays 11:00am-2:00pm

Art Group by Zoom

Fridays 2:30-4:30pm

Calligraphy by Zoom

Tuesday 9th March 2021 5:00-6:30pm

Trustees Meeting by Zoom

Wednesday 17th March 2021

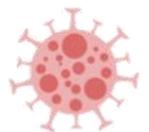
St Patrick's Day celebrations by Zoom

See our special issue in March for details or follow us on social media.

With this issue

Included with your newsletter should be a few extras this issue.

- A free St Patrick's Day card for you to send to family or friends who you can't see this year. Additional cards are available for a small donation to cover printing costs.
- Freepost questionnaire about what you think of and what you'd like to see in this newsletter.
- Details of walk-in Rapid Testing Centres for locals without Covid-19 symptoms, but who may be passing it on to loved ones without realising.



Luton Irish Forum

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Charity No. 1113069 Company No. 5651900



LUTON ST PATRICK'S FESTIVAL

Due to Covid-19 again we are unable to host Luton St Patrick's Festival in the usual way this year but we do have a programme of activities and online events, which we will be announcing very soon. In the meantime, here is an exclusive just for LIF members!

Luton Irish Forum's St Patrick's card

Stay connected with our Luton Irish Forum's St Patrick's card to send to friends and family. Send greetings, messages of luck and hope, tell a story and stay connected!

Call out for the Luton St Patrick's Archive

For 21 years we were too busy doing to document so we need your help! Were you there? Have you any fond memories that you captured? Do you have stories to share? Share with us to help build the missing years in our archive and complete the building of our new archive website for everyone to enjoy. We are calling out for any photographs and video footage of our past festivals; we can digitalise and transfer any printed photographs and DVDs that you have.

For more information, please contact us via archive@lutonirishforum.org or phone us on 01582 720 447.

More to be announced very soon



We want your opinion!

Your opinion is vital to help us deliver a high-quality service that meets your needs. It also enables us to improve and develop our services that may help to secure future funding.

We would be very grateful if you could complete this form and follow the instructions on the reverse for returning to us by Freepost. No stamp needed. Please do not add address or write on the outside of the correspondence as then we may have to pay a service charge in addition to postage.

1. Do you receive the LIF newsletter regularly? Yes [] No []
2. How do you usually receive the newsletter? Post [] Email []
3. How much of it do you usually read? ? All [] Most [] A little [] None []
4. What do you like best about the newsletter?

5. What parts do you not read or not like?



6. How would you feel about a very slightly smaller size of print to fit in more news?

Yes, fit in more news [] No, keep it as it is []

7. Would you prefer a page or two of puzzles separate (extra) to the newsletter? Yes [] No []

8. What do you think of the difficulty of puzzles?

Much too easy [] Slightly easy [] Just right [] Slightly hard [] Much too hard []

9. Is there anything you would like to read about in the newsletter that isn't there? E.g. Wedding anniversaries, big birthdays, competitions, 'Meet ...' (a different member each issue), jokes, births, marriages, or bereavements?

Yes [] No []

If 'Yes', what would you like us to include? _____

10. Is there anything you'd like to add about the newsletter?

Thank you! Please see reverse for folding and return.

T 01582 720 447 E info@lutonirishforum.org W lutonirishforum.org

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Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme

An Roinn Gnóthaí, Ealaíon & Spóirt
Department of Enterprise, Trade & Tourism



Luton



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Fold both the sides behind the address and tuck one inside the other.

No stamp needed, please do not write on the outside.
