



June-July 2021

LUTON IRISH FORUM

WELFARE, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES, EMPLOYMENT SKILLS



It's great to have you back!



We were thrilled to welcome our members back to our social groups after England moved to Step 3 on 17th May.

To meet the 'Covid-Safe' guidelines, the number of attendees at each session is limited and we have other measures such as 'Hands, Face, Space' in place to maintain LIF as a Covid-Safe location.

First back was the Tuesday Club who enjoyed a fun bingo session and a raffle along with a good cuppa and light refreshments. The Pipe Band met for their first practice in more than a year that evening and the Wednesday Clubs, Tea and Chat and Art Class members were all obviously delighted to be back in LIF too.

One of the first through the door was Rose Pender who said: "I'm delighted to be back. The Forum is amazing, helps so many people. Definitely glad they (clubs) are open again."

Eddie has to get two buses to get to LIF, he says: "Getting to the Forum is hard but well worth the effort, I really look forward to going there. I enjoy meeting other people, having a chat and a joke. It's nice to get involved."

Noelette Hanley, Chief Executive Officer at LIF, commented "We're so delighted to have our members starting to come back to our social groups. It's just wonderful to hear all the chatter and laughter again."

See Diary on page 4 or get in touch for details and to book your place at one of the groups.

Advice Helpline for new welfare enquiries



T. 01582 720 447

Tuesdays 9:30am-12:00pm

Time for a cuppa!

In our recent survey many of you asked for jokes, so here's a few quick ones. Answers at bottom of the page. Send us your funny ones – we'll publish the best!

1. What do you call a penguin in the Sahara desert?
2. What do you call a fake Irish stone?
3. What do you call a boomerang that does not come back?
4. Why was the turkey in the pop group?
5. Why can't you borrow money from a leprechaun?
6. What's orange and sounds like a parrot?
7. Why is it so difficult to train dogs to dance?
8. What do frogs wear on their feet?
9. What do you call a big Irish spider?
10. Why don't leprechauns run?

	+	5	-		9
÷		×		×	
3	+		+		20
-		+		÷	
7	+	1	×		11
-5		46		4	

	-	2	×		-1
-		+		-	
	-		-		-9
+		-		-	
7	+		+		24
11		-1		-9	

Can you work out the missing values in the boxes above?

They are whole numbers between 1 and 9.
 Each number is only used once.
 Each row is a maths equation.
 Each column is a maths equation.
 Remember: multiplication and division are done before addition and subtraction.

a	a ,	i t '	s a	o f	c u p	i t	h o w
s l	t e	e i	i k e	i n	l l	a k e	y o
L i f	u m						

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

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| AWAYDAYS | OUTDOORS |
| BARBECUE | PARK |
| CUTGRASS | PICNIC |
| GARDENING | RAINBOW |
| HAYFEVER | RAINSHOWER |
| HOTWEATHER | ROSES |
| HUMIDITY | SEASIDE |
| ICECREAM | SUNBURN |
| LAWNMOWER | SUNSHINE |
| MIDSUMMER | WASPS |

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

Unscramble the tiles below to reveal a hidden message. Each tile is used only once. Use spacing, punctuation and common words to find adjacent tiles. Some words may be split into two lines.

Answers Jokes 1: Lost. 2: A Shamrock. 3: A stick. 4: He was the only one with drumsticks. 5: Because they're always a little short. 6: A Carrot. 7: They have two left feet. 8: Open toad sandals. 9: A Paddy long legs. 10: They'd rather jig than jog. Hidden message Life is like a cup of tea, it's all in how you make it. Missing numbers 6 5 2. 3 9 8. 7 1 4. 5 2 3. 1 6 4. 7 9 8.

A Cavan man at the heart of LIF

Something readers asked for in our recent survey was a 'Meet a member' piece – so here is the first of what we expect to be a regular feature. Trustee and LIF volunteer Elleesa Rushby, also a professional writer, spoke to one of our Founding Members, Joe Ward.

Joe Ward is originally from Bailieborough, Co Cavan.

Joe was one of the founding members of LIF who came together as they saw the need for the Irish perspective in Luton. Initially, meetings took place on Saturdays at the Town Hall where they would plan opportunities to strengthen the Irish community.



Joe Ward (front row, second left) and many of our Trustees when Ambassador O'Neill (bottom right) visited the Forum in 2018.

The highlight of the Luton Irish Forum year for Joe has always been the St Patrick's Parade and Festival and he has been involved as a volunteer since the start. The event has grown so much from a grassroots event, that 21 years later, it is about to become the subject of a documentary by award-winning Irish film director, Colm Nicell. Joe is very proud to have been part of that amazing journey.

Joe recalls the St Patrick's events as "fantastic" and provided an opportunity for fundraising through the sale of Irish merchandise, to bring Ireland just that bit closer by wearing county rosettes and tricolour scarves. Joe is a past Secretary of the Cavan Association and has been involved with their events and fundraising.

When it comes to genealogy, Joe's your man. Previously, he ran the Genealogy club at LIF as a volunteer, helping members search for hard to find Irish ancestors by knowing all the tricks to navigate census and other online information.

His knowledge of Irish history was a huge asset too and Joe was able to tell members not just who their ancestors were, but a lot about the times in which they lived.

Joe has also been a keen fundraiser for LIF over many years, networking with the Irish Government and Luton airport.

Joe said he was really looking forward to coming to tea and chat and catching up with everyone. He's hoping that health permitting, he will be able to join in more regularly soon and there will be plenty of friends who will want to chat with him, and of course they will! Joe is so friendly and knowledgeable across a huge range of topics; the ideal man to tell you something new over a cuppa.

Marion Curtis who runs the Tea and Chat group commented: "Every one was so pleased to see Joe and have a chat about old times. Seeing him made our day – just the tonic we needed!"



Nominations open now

With this newsletter are details about our AGM. LIF Members can nominate any eligible member to be a Trustee using the nomination paper enclosed. ~~Voting will take place at the AGM on 3rd July at Holy Ghost Parish Centre.~~



More than 500 people had their first jab over the three days of a walk-in vaccination facility in our car park.

Vaccinations and free home test kits

We were proud to host a pop up Covid vaccination centre in the shape of a specially adapted bus located in our car park from 23rd to 25th April.

The initiative offered local people from eligible groups to walk in and get their first Covid vaccination with no appointment needed. Some 542 people took advantage and had their vaccination over the three days.

Thanks to NHS England and all the volunteers involved, as well as everyone who came and had their vaccination, which helps protect us all.

Because around 1 in 3 people who have Covid don't have symptoms but are still able to pass it on, it's recommended that we all carry on abiding by 'Hands, Face, Space' and also that we test ourselves twice a week. Just pop along and pick up your free home test kit from the Forum.



Diary

Events take place at LIF unless stated. This programme is subject to change. While Covid restrictions are still in place, pre-booking is required, please get in touch for further details or to book your place.

Tuesdays 11:00am-1:00pm

Art Class by Zoom

Tuesdays 11:00am-12:30pm

Tuesday Club inc. bingo, raffle, good chat and light refreshments

Tuesdays 7:00-8:00pm

Irish Language chat by Zoom

Tuesdays 7:00-9:00pm

Pipe Band Practice

Wednesdays 11:00am-12:30pm

Wednesday Club morning session inc. bingo, raffle, good chat and light refreshments

Wednesdays 1:30-3:00pm

Wednesday Club afternoon session inc. bingo, raffle, good chat and light refreshments

Thursdays 10:00-11:30am

Tea and Chat

Fridays 12:00-2:00pm

Art Class

Fridays 2:30-4:30pm

Calligraphy Class by Zoom

Sundays 11:00am-1:00pm

Pipe Band Practice

Tuesday 8th June 5:00-6:30pm

Trustees Meeting at LIF and by Zoom

Saturday 3rd July 12:00pm

Memorial Mass, Holy Ghost Church, U4 8JD
Remembering LIF members and friends who have passed during the past year or more.

POSTPONED

*** **NOTE NEW DETAILS** ***

Saturday 3rd July **10:30am**

A.G.M. via Zoom

Friday 23rd July 12:00-2:00pm

Presentation of Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to our Volunteers

Luton Irish Forum

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