



August-September 2021

# LUTON IRISH FORUM

WELFARE, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES, EMPLOYMENT SKILLS



*Our Trustee Board with their QAVS badges.  
Left to right: Tom Scanlon, Chair; Mick Maguire; Noreen Kellett MBE; Siobhan Rooney, Advisor to the Board; Marion Curtis, Secretary; Gill Grant; Mary Winter, Vice-Chair; Pauline Sylvester; Elleesa Rushby; Dee Drennan; Luke Kitching, Treasurer.*

## Honouring our volunteers

Helen Nellis, Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, as the HM The Queen's representative, presented the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS) to more than 50 of our Volunteers past and present on Friday 23rd July.

The volunteers were nominated by Lord Bill McKenzie, a great friend and supporter of LIF, in recognition of their immense contribution to the local community. The QAVS is for volunteer-led organisations and is the highest award given in the UK for volunteering, the equivalent of an MBE to an individual.

HM Lord Lieutenant paid tribute to the work of LIF and its volunteers in the Irish community and praised the "sheer joy and warmth it gives across all the diverse communities in Luton."

After more than a year of lockdowns and Covid restrictions, the presentation was a truly joyous occasion, with many volunteers seeing each other again. In a summer where the weather has been unreliable, we were lucky with sunshine.

Volunteers and guests enjoyed toe-tapping live music from Brian Burke, John Devine, Annette Hannigan and friends from Comhaltas and a selection of light refreshments.

Noelette Hanley, LIF Chief Executive Officer said, "Volunteers have been at the heart of Luton Irish Forum since local Irish people got together nearly 25 years ago to support each other and the Irish community in and around Luton. Today our volunteers are just as vital to what we do in supporting the wider population with a welfare service, social, cultural, volunteering and employment skills opportunities.

"The world has changed, but what hasn't is the commitment and hard work of our volunteers. I am inspired by them every day. They volunteer with massive smiles on their faces and continual good humour that you can see lifting the spirits of our members – and this is especially welcome in these difficult times."

*Cont'd on page 3...*

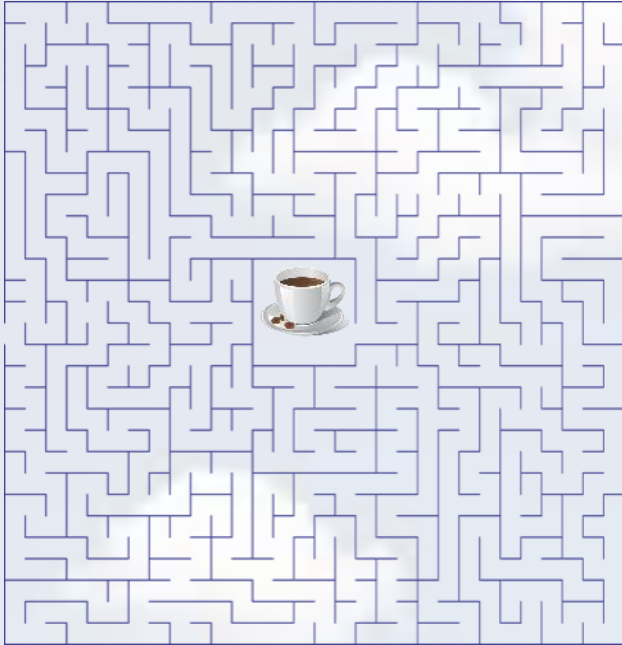


# Puzzles to go with your cuppa



Find the way to the centre of the maze and reward yourself with a cup of tea!

Thanks to puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.co.uk for the puzzles here. Visit the website to find there are lots more puzzles .



How many of these sports and hobbies can you find in the letter grid below? Answer at bottom of this page. Ignore spaces between words, letters in the grid may be used more than once.

ARTS AND CRAFTS  
COUNTRY WALKS  
DARTS  
GAELIC FOOTBALL  
HOCKEY  
KNITTING  
RUGBY  
BIRD-WATCHING  
CRICKET  
CAMOGIE  
GARDENING

HORSE-RACING  
NETBALL  
SINGING  
BOXING  
BAKING  
FISHING  
GOLF  
HURLING  
SNOOKER  
TENNIS

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

## Answers to puzzles

Jokes 1: On the outside. 2: Some poor horse is going barefoot. 3: It became a French fry. 4. Because he was 33 and still lived at home, thought his mother was a virgin and she thought he was the son of God. 5: One to change the bulb, four to remark about how grand the old bulb was. 6: Neighbourous. 7. Because the rain is warm. Wordsearch: Gaelic Football.

## Membership time!

Following all our 2019-20 memberships being extended free for a year, membership for 2021-22 will be available from 31st August.

Standard Individual Membership	£5.00
Extra Individual Membership	£10.00
<i>(includes discounts at local shops)</i>	
Family Membership	£10.00

Anyone that has been a LIF member continuously for 20 years or more is entitled to free Standard Individual Membership for life – please get in touch if this is you!

## Have you heard the one about...?



Send us your favourite jokes and we'll publish the ones that make us giggle.

1. On which side do chickens have the most feathers?
2. What does it mean when you find a horseshoe in Ireland?
3. Did you hear about the Irish potato that emigrated?
4. How do we know that Jesus was Irish?
5. Why does it take five Irishmen to change a lightbulb?
6. What is a horse's favourite TV show?
7. How can you tell when it's summer in Ireland?



# Meet... May Lilley, book author!

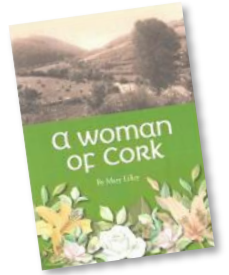


*May celebrating her 92nd birthday at one of our recent Wednesday social groups.*

The star of this issue's 'Meet A Member' is May Lilley. May has been a LIF member for 23 years, since our early days in New Bedford Road and is very much part of what makes LIF a welcoming place to enjoy a cuppa with friends old and new.

May is about to publish her memoir, 'A Woman of Cork'. It's a beautifully detailed account of a past time, remembering her family and how life was lived in rural Cork. It's a must for anyone wanting to recapture the simplicity and hardships that affected rural families and the strong bonds that held them together. May recalls many of the wonderful stories of folklore and locally infamous

crimes told to her by her mother. The book is written from the heart and will move you to laughter and tears in equal measure. The photos May has chosen really bring it to life and are a wonderful tribute to her family.



May was recently interviewed by Irish in the UK television, enabling her to publicise her book internationally. 'A Woman of Cork' is going to press as we publish this newsletter and will be available to order from LIF from 8th September.

May loves being part of LIF and is a regular at our Wednesday social and bingo group and the Literary Society. She often donates to the raffle because she believes in 'giving something back.' May spoke about how LIF will help anyone who needs it and is proud to be a member of LIF.

And May - we at LIF are very proud of you. Good luck with your book. You deserve it!

- How we can support other members to write their own stories will be a topic of discussion at future Literary Society meetings. Next meeting is Wednesday 8th September; from October meetings will be on the first Wednesday of each month.

## Volunteers honoured

*...Cont'd from page 1*

We were delighted to welcome a number of distinguished guests, notably, Lord and Lady McKenzie, Deputy Lord Lieutenants of Bedfordshire Dr Robert Oakley, Reverend Lloyd Denny and Professor Gurch Randhawa, The High Sheriff of Bedfordshire Eric Masih, First Secretary of Irish Community & Cultural section in The Embassy of Ireland Isobel O'Connor, Luton South MP Rachel Hopkins, Luton North MP Sarah Owen, Luton Mayor Cllr Mahmood Hussain, Leader of Luton Borough Council Hazel Simmons, and Irish Youth Foundation's Head of Fundraising & Development Donna Duffy.

Due to changing work commitments, Denise Sadleir stepped down from the Board in July but remains a volunteer in other capacities. Denise was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a thank you card during the event.

View lots more photos on our Facebook page. Just contact us if you would like a high resolution photo emailed for you to get printed.



*Even HM Lord Lieutenant Helen Nellis couldn't resist a quick dance to the lively beat, accompanied by LIF volunteer Dave Crean MBE.*

## Volunteer help needed!

Do you want to join our award-winning team of volunteers? We need help in several areas: our reception, with supporting people to get online and/or develop their digital skills and with befriending. Please get in touch with Janet, Volunteering Officer, to find out more, tel. 01582 817068 or email [janet@lutonirishforum.org](mailto:janet@lutonirishforum.org)



The Memorial Mass will include hymns sung by the choir.

## Remembering loved ones at Memorial Mass

For much of the past 18 months many of us have been unable to attend funeral masses or other events to remember family and friends who have passed in this difficult time.

Our Memorial Mass in October is an opportunity to remember these loved ones. Small items of significance to the loved can be placed on the altar prior to the service or taken to the altar as part of a procession during the mass.

Choir members have recently started meeting again. They are practising hymns in both Gaelic and English to sing during the service and are keen to welcome new members, whatever your singing ability!

Please get in touch if you want your loved one to be named in prayers, would like to participate in the service or join our choir.

All LIF members and friends are invited to the service.

## We're off to the beach!

We are delighted to have a coach booked for a trip to Clacton next month (Thursday 2nd September). See notices in LIF for details. Members can book seats now at £15.00 each, non-members may book from 26th August at £20 each. Watch out for details of a Christmas trip and a Tinsel and Turkey break in our next issue!

## Diary

**\*\* PRE-BOOKING IS NO LONGER REQUIRED \*\***

Events take place at LIF unless stated.  
This programme may be subject to change.

Tuesdays 11:00am-1:00pm

**Art Class by Zoom**

Tuesdays 11:30am-1:00pm

**Tuesday Club** including bingo

Tuesdays 7:00-8:00pm

**Irish Language chat by Zoom**

Tuesdays 7:00-9:00pm

**Pipe Band Practice**

Wednesdays 11:30am-1:00pm

**Wednesday Club** including bingo

First Wednesday of the month\* 1:30-3:00pm

**Literary Society** \*N.B. Sept. meet is on 8th.

Thursdays 10:00-11:30am

**Tea and Chat**

Thursdays 2:30-3:30pm

**Choir**

Fridays 12:00-2:00pm

**Art Class**

Fridays 2:30-4:30pm

**Calligraphy Class by Zoom**

Sundays 11:00am-1:00pm

**Pipe Band Practice**

Thursday 2nd September

**Coach trip to Clacton** Members £15

Leave LIF 9:30am, depart Clacton 5pm

Tuesday 14th September 4:45-6:15pm

**Trustees Meeting at LIF and by Zoom**

Monday 20th September 10:00am-4:00pm

**Open Day Drop In: Help to Find Employment**

Saturday 2nd October 11:00am

**Memorial Mass, Holy Ghost Church, LU4 8JD**

Remembering LIF family and friends

Wednesday 6th October 12noon-3:00pm

N.B. Doors will not open until 11:30am

**Afternoon Social in Celtic Club, LU1 3BS**

Music, dancing and buffet lunch. Members £5.

## Luton Irish Forum

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