



October-November 2021

# LUTON IRISH FORUM

WELFARE, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES, EMPLOYMENT SKILLS

## Laughing together again at our lively Autumn Social

More than 130 LIF members and other locals celebrated the return of our regular socials in The Celtic Club on Wednesday 6th October.

We were treated to a tasty buffet lunch; live traditional Irish music played by Brian Burke, Danny Considine and Kevin Naughton; top tunes from volunteer DJ Dave Crean, and raffle prizes including bottles of whiskey, original paintings and a beautiful fruit basket.

Regular attendee Janet Maugham commented: "It was wonderful to see everybody after Covid lockdown. There was great laughter, singing and dancing."

By contrast, it was the first time Philomena had been to a LIF social, she said: "Turned up at the Celtic Club not knowing anyone, was on my own, and ended up chatting to everyone like I'd known them for years!"



*Volunteers (and staff) involved in planning and running the Autumn Social.*

Thank you to the volunteers who worked so hard before and on the day, including DJ Dave, the trio of traditional musicians, and to BLCF (Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation) for sponsoring the event.



# Remembering our loved ones

We remembered LIF members, family and friends who have passed over the last 18 months at a special Memorial Mass in the Holy Ghost RC Church in Luton on Saturday 2nd October.



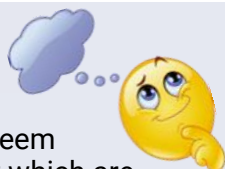
Monsignor Kevin McGinnell and Fr Don Bosco led the Mass accompanied by our own choir and the Emerald Pipe band.

More than 100 members and friends attended with several bringing items that remind them of their loved ones to the altar.



“Many people weren’t able to attend funerals and other events to say goodbye to loved ones who sadly passed during the Covid pandemic. The Memorial Mass gave us the chance to say goodbye now we can get together,” explains LIF Chief Executive Officer Noelette Hanley. “While it was very sad remembering friends who are no longer here that we’ve known since the Forum’s beginnings more than 20 years ago, it was a great comfort to be together and to pray for them.”

## Puzzle time!



Some of these seem statements seem unbelievable, but can you work out which are in fact true and which are unbelievable because they’re false? Answers at bottom of the page.

1. Camels have three sets of eyelashes? True
2. If you add the two numbers on the opposite sides of dice together, the answer is always 7 True
3. Scallops don't have good vision False.
4. A snail can sleep for up to three months.
5. A double rainbow is a mirror image of the first rainbow. True
6. The pupil of a goat is diagonal.
7. Humans can catch warts from toads. False
8. The snow on Venus is metal. True.
9. A tsunami wave can travel the speed of a jet.
10. Bats always turn right when leaving a cave.

Answers 1 True. 2 True. 3 False. They have as many as 100 simple eyes. They're frequently blue. 4 False, up to three years. 5 True. 6 False, rectangular. 7 False. 8 True. 9 True. 10 False, always turn left

How many of these words can you find in the letter grid below? Ignore spaces words, letters in the grid may be used more than once.

- |                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| BONFIRES         | HOLLY AND IVY |
| CHRISTMAS LIGHTS | JUMPERS       |
| COSY EVENINGS    | MIST          |
| DARK MORNINGS    | MULLED WINE   |
| FALLING LEAVES   | PINECONES     |
| FIREWORKS        | RAINCOAT      |
| FROST            | SCARVES       |
| HALLOWEEN        | SLIPPERS      |
| HATS AND GLOVES  | TURKEY        |

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

# Meet Luke: Champion dancer!

This issue we meet one of our Trustees, Luke Kitching, and find out more about him.

Luke's grandparents came from just outside Listowel, Co. Kerry and Ballyfermot, Co. Dublin. He's the eldest of three brothers and Luke, Declan and Eamon have been involved in Irish Dancing for the past 19 years.

During a family holiday to Australia visiting cousins and seeing all the trophies they had won from Irish dancing, Luke and his brothers were so impressed, they thought they'd have a go! As soon as they arrived back in Luton, they joined Finbarr Conway Academy and started learning to dance.

They enjoyed it so much, and were good at it, that 19 years later all three brothers now help teach at the same school, passing on their skills with Adult Irish Dancing Classes, which he describes as 'great fun'.

Luke says that all three brothers have been very lucky to have travelled worldwide, competing in various competitions from local feiseanna (traditional Gaelic arts and culture festivals) to the World Championships. He believes that Irish dancing has instilled in him great life skills as well as giving him some fantastic friendships.

Becoming a trustee for Luton Irish Forum appealed to Luke because it enabled him to use his skills and experience in new ways, while also learning and developing new ones at the same time as 'giving back' and contributing to the local wider community.

Luke is especially keen to encourage other young people to get more involved and help

out with committees or sit on a board relating to something they are passionate about.

He says: "It's been one of the hardest but most interesting times to be a trustee. We've found ourselves in an unprecedented time over the last 18-24 months, with no instruction manual on how to see it out or adapt to the situation.

"As a trustee and a board, we've made the best decisions we could, based on the information available, and in the best interests of the charity and its beneficiaries. It's been great to see how the board and LIF has adapted to the situation, and we have continued to offer some of our most vital services and provide support to our members and the wider community. This wouldn't be possible without our brilliant employees and all the volunteers who continue to do some amazing work!"



Luke Kitching.

During lockdown, Luke was part of LIF's Befriending Service, keeping in touch with some of our isolated members and also doing their weekly food shop. In addition, he was part of an initiative that collected 8,436 items of food for a Christmas Food Bank Appeal last December for Luton Food Bank, Noah and two local schools which LIF supported also.

What Luke loves most about LIF he says is seeing the amount of people that our work benefits across the wider community through all the different services offered.

"It shows just how important an organisation and charity LIF is to Luton" adds Luke.



Luke (centre) with brothers Eamon (left) and Declan (right) and the mountain of trophies they've won!



We would like to  
welcome members to  
**Luton Irish Forum!**

We will be here the  
last Wednesday of  
every month!

✉ [hello@money mattersbank.com](mailto:hello@money mattersbank.com)

☎ 01582 666877

## Diary

Events take place at LIF unless stated. This programme is subject to change. Suggested donation to attend most LIF activities is £1-2.

Tuesdays 10:00am-2:00pm  
**Art Class by Zoom**

Tuesdays 11:30am-1:30pm  
**Tuesday Club**

Tuesdays 7:00-8:00pm  
**Irish Language Chat**

Tuesdays 7:00-9:00pm  
**Pipe Band Practice**

Wednesdays 11:00am-1:30pm  
**Wednesday Club**

Thursdays 10:00-11:30am  
**Tea and Chat**

Fridays 09:30-11:30am  
**Baby and Toddler Group**

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 9th November 5:00-6:30pm  
**Trustees Meeting**

Friday 16th November 10:00-11:30am &  
3rd December 10:00-11:30am  
**St Patrick's Festival planning meeting**

Thursday 9th December 12:00-4:00pm  
**Christmas Social in Celtic Club, LU1 3BS**  
Music, dancing and buffet lunch. Members £5.  
Non members £7.50.

December  
**Christmas Coach trip**  
Details and date to be announced

Tuesday 14th December 5:00-6:30pm  
**Trustees Meeting**

## LIF Membership is great value

If you haven't renewed your LIF membership yet, do it now! From only £5 a year, membership entitles you access to all our events, discounted coach trips and first chance to buy tickets to events such as our Christmas Social.

Standard Individual Membership	£5.00
Extra Individual Membership	£10.00
Family Membership	£10.00

Extra membership includes discounts at Gerry Taylor Butchers, Old Skool Pantry, Active Luton, Orbital Trampoline Park and Pictons Solicitors.

Find out more and join via the 'Membership' page on our website or pop into the Forum.

## Christmas closure



Our offices will close at 1:00pm on Thursday 23rd December 2021 and will reopen at 9:30am on Tuesday 4th January 2022.

*Happy Christmas everyone!*

### Luton Irish Forum

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