



June-July 2022

LUTON IRISH FORUM

WELFARE, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES, EMPLOYMENT SKILLS



Highlights of a busy year and Trustee elections

We were delighted to be able to invite members in person to our AGM this year, for the first time in three years.

Chair of Trustees Tom Scanlon welcomed LIF Members and guests including Rachel Hopkins MP for Luton South, Surinder Pall Loi and Jarnail Singh from Shri Guru Ravidass Sangat, Luke

Donovan and Peggy Lyons from INS (Irish Networks Stevenage), Mark Hubbocks and Kyle Batt from Wagstaffs Chartered Accountants, our Auditors.



Photos clockwise from top left. The Emerald Pipe Band welcoming Members and

guests. Trustees at 31st March 2022 including Tom Scanlon, reappointed as Chair (5th from left); and re-elected Trustees Marion Curtis (left); and Pauline Sylvester (third from right sitting) listening to Nicola McLaughlin, Welfare Case Supervisor (standing). Mary Winter, Vice Chair, presenting Noreen Kellett MBE (left) with a thank you souvenir on retiring from the Board. Members and guests including newly elected Trustee Dave Crean (standing).



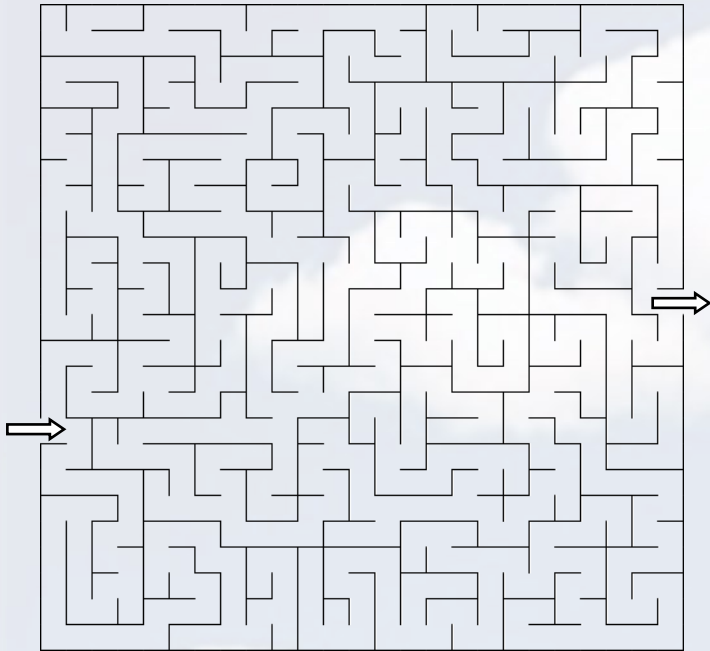
Members and other friends who have passed were remembered in a minute's silence.

Tom presented a summary of our work in the year to 31st March 2022. *Cont'd on page 3.*



Summertime fun!

How many dead ends will you discover before you find the way through this maze?



How many of these summer-themed words can you find in the letter grid below? Ignore spaces between words, letters in the grid may be used more than once. Well done if you find all 20 before your cuppa goes cold! This and lots more free puzzles can be found online at puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com.

- | | |
|-----------------|------------|
| AIR CONDITIONER | MUGGY |
| AIRPLANE | PICNIC |
| BEACH | SANDCASTLE |
| BEALTAINE* | SEASIDE |
| FERRY | SOLSTICE |
| HAY FEVER | SUNBURN |
| HEATWAVE | SUNSCREEN |
| HOLIDAY | SWIMMING |
| HOT WEATHER | THUNDER |
| ICE CREAM | WIMBLEDON |

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

By royal invitation

Our Trustee Board were thrilled to receive two invitations to a Royal Garden Party this year, following on from the QAVS recognition. Pictured are Trustees Dee Drennan (left) and Mary Winter who represented LIF at the event attended by Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, and Edward and Sophie, the Duke and Duchess of Wessex.



*Bealtaine (pronounced as Bee-yowl-tan-eh) is an ancient Celtic festival which officially heralds the beginning of summertime and traditionally is celebrated on 1st May.

Have a go at these numerical brainteasers from puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com. See if you can work out the missing values in the blank squares. The blanks are whole numbers between 1 and 9 and each number is used only once. Multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction. Answers: bottom of p4.

5	+		-		3
x		÷		x	
	+		-		-3
-		+		-	
	-	9	-		-11
3		11		52	

	+		-		8
-		x		-	
	+		-	1	13
+		+		x	
	+	9	x		23
3		65		1	



Families celebrate Jubilee together

Our summer events got off to a great start with a 1950s themed party celebrating HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Making the most of the dry and warm weather, we had an outdoor stage and seating. Party duo The Wilsons Show put on a fantastic and lively performance including favourite tunes from the 1950s and 60s that got us up and dancing.

We were honoured to welcome Vice Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire Chris Sharwood-Smith MBE, Deputy Lieutenants Rev Lloyd Denny and Prof Gurch Randhawa as representatives of HM The Queen, as well as more than a hundred of our members, their family and friends.

By far the most popular 'guest' to be pictured with was a realistic cut-out of HM The Queen!



Left to right: Prof Gurch Randhawa, Tom Scanlon, Chris Sharwood-Smith MBE and Noelette Hanley.

Highlights of a busy year

...Cont'd from page 1.

Following approval of accounts, Noelette Hanley, CEO, explained the minor updates required to the Articles of LIF's Memorandum and Articles in our Constitution (which govern how we as a Charity operates) in light of recent legislation updates. The changes were approved by the meeting.

Business continued with election of members to the Board of Trustees. Trustees serve a term of three years with a third of the Board up for re-election each year, helping to refresh skills and giving all members an opportunity to stand. Completing their terms this year were Chair Tom Scanlon, Marion Curtis and Pauline Sylvester; all were willing and eligible to stand for re-election. Tom reported that Trustees Noreen Kellett MBE and Mick Maguire have resigned as Trustees although they remain very involved in LIF.

Our Trustees are volunteers who give their knowledge and experience as well as their time and energy to the strategic development and running of LIF as a Charity. Most also volunteer in other roles too.

Tom stood unopposed as Chair and therefore was reappointed automatically. Members who were present at the AGM voted on the members nominated as Trustees and duly elected were Dave Crean, Marion Curtis, Siobhan Rooney and Pauline Sylvester. Congratulations to you all!

Presentations and updates on different projects we're working on followed, including some surprising, and impressive, statistics.

Also announced were details of our Membership offer for 2022-23 (including some really useful discounts), see details in LIF and on our website.

Copies of AGM minutes are available on request.

Pension Credits – are you entitled?

Pension Credit tops up weekly income to a guaranteed minimum level of £182.60 a week for single pensioners or £278.70 for couples (higher amounts apply for those who reached State Pension Age before 6 April 2016).

Pension Credit is a tax-free payment for those who have reached the qualifying age, which is State Pension age, and who live in Great Britain.

You may still get Pension Credit even if you

- have not paid National Insurance
- have some savings or a small pension
- live with your grown-up family
- own your own home

To check this or other entitlements, please get in touch to book a 'Benefit Check' appointment.

Diary

This programme may be subject to change. Please refer to What's On for activities in LIF by organisations other than LIF. Events take place in the Forum unless stated. Suggested donation for attendance at weekly/monthly activities including refreshments is £1-2 per session.

Monday to Friday 9:30am-4:30pm
Welfare Advice Service – by appointment
Passport Applications Assistance and Witnessing – by appointment
New welfare enquiries: Please phone Monday to Thursdays 9:30am-3:30pm

Monday to Friday 9:30am-4:30pm
Digital Skills & Employment Support and ESOL

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

Tuesdays 11:00am-1:00pm
Tuesday Club including bingo

Tuesdays 7:00-8:00pm
Irish Language Chat via Zoom (term time only)

Wednesdays 11:00am-12:45pm
Wednesday Club including bingo

Wednesdays 1:00-2:00pm
Gentle Exercise

Wednesdays 1:30-3:30pm
One-to-one IT Help by appointment

Thursdays 10:00-11:30am
Tea and Chat including occasional speakers

Fridays 09:30-11:30am
Baby and Toddler Group (term time only)

Fridays 12:00-2:00pm
Art Class

Fridays 2:30-4:30pm (last Friday of month)
Calligraphy Class by Zoom

Sundays 11:00am-1:00pm
Pipe Band Practice

Tuesday 12th July 2022 1:30-3:00pm
Returning to Ireland information session from Safe Home Ireland
Advance booking via LIF or turn up on day (Safe Home also visiting Tuesday Club that day)

Thursday 4th August leaving LIF 9:30am
Coach trip to Southend-on-Sea
£15 LIF Members, £17.50 Non-members
Advance bookings only, via LIF

Wednesday 10th August 6:00-9:00pm
Launch of Luton St Patrick's Festival film
Luton Town Hall, LU1 2BQ
Advance bookings via Eventbrite, or via LIF if you're not online

Wednesday 5th October 12:00-3:00pm
Autumn Social
Celtic Club, Cobham Street, Luton, LU1 3BS
£5 LIF Members, £6 Non-members
Advance bookings only, via LIF

Thursday 24th November
Christmas trip - details to be announced!

Late November / Early December
Christmas show - details to be announced!

Thursday 8th December 12:00-3:00pm
Christmas Social
Celtic Club, Cobham Street, Luton, LU1 3BS
£6 LIF Members, £8 Non-members

Luton Irish Forum

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