



## A Note from the National President

Dear Members,

As we prepare this mailing we are looking forward to the AGM to be held on 25th May in the Portlaoise Heritage Hotel. One new aspect of the AGM this year is Registration. All members can now register to attend by logging on to [www.ica.ie](http://www.ica.ie) and on the front page of the website you will see a blue button saying "click here to register for the AGM". You can also register by completing the AGM Registration Form inserted into this mailing. A Guild secretary can also complete the form on behalf of all Guild Members, so if you know how many of you will attend the AGM please complete and return the form or individuals can log on to the website. It is our aim to have a good idea of the number of delegates wishing to attend the AGM.



Since the last Mailing we enjoyed the Contest Weekend at An Grianán and had a very enjoyable time listening to the ten shortlisted Creative Writing entries, taking notes from the winners of the GemPack recipe competition culminating in the National Table Quiz final. A booklet of entries to the Creative Writing competition will be on sale at the AGM. The winners of all competitions are listed on the website and overleaf. We hosted the Guild Associations Network Societies (GANS) Meeting of the Craft Council of Ireland (CCol) in Central Office, and many thanks to all Guilds which have sent back their questionnaire about Lace work in Ireland, you will notice a thank you from Francis Nevin at the bottom of this page.

I attended a Bord Bia cookery demonstration in Grenagh Guild in Cork, as well as the AGM of the Northern Irish Women's Institute in Belfast. After Easter I met with Ann Corcoran of the Samaritans continuing my commitment to work towards challenging the stigma associated with mental illness. The Samaritans have a new programme which they offer to associations and membership organisations of training for Communication Skills and Listening Skills. This course is offered to all Federation Presidents. I attended the Wicklow Federation Dinner in the Woodenbridge hotel and I also spent Handcraft week in An Grianán and very much enjoyed meeting many crafters, tutors and members. I am always impressed with the high level of skill and expertise that is on display during Handcraft week and the date is set for next year 7 – 11th April 2014. Finally, I appeared on RTE Morning Edition television programme and discussed the newspapers with Keelin Shanley.

You will find a questionnaire with this mailing and I would ask all Guilds to complete and return it to Central Office before 1st July. The questionnaire aims to get an accurate picture of community life in your area and this will then inform an ICA policy regarding any decline in rural and urban community life.

It was with regret that last Monday we had to cancel the President's trip. The aim of the trip was to bring revenue to An Grianán and to get to know the North of Ireland but due to the lack of uptake from members the trip will not now go ahead.

I am pleased to welcome some new organisations to the Member Benefit programme and we have a maritime flavour this month offering free refreshments for ICA members when they visit either the National Maritime museum in Dun Laoghaire in Co. Dublin or the Flying Boat museum in Foynes in Limerick.

I am delighted to launch a new set of competitions with Irish Pride Bakeries. Have a look on the back page for more information and be ready to "Take Pride".

We look forward to seeing you all at the ICA AGM on 25th May in the Heritage Hotel in Portlaoise and please remember to register on line or use the Registration Form so we know how many of you will be attending. The Minutes of the AGM 2012 and the Agenda for the AGM 2013 are attached to this mailing.

## Guild Lace Audit - A Thank You from Frances Nevin

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Irish Countrywomen's Association who took the time to complete and return questionnaires for the purpose of gathering information for a first ever audit of Irish handmade lace on behalf of the Crafts Council and the Heritage Council. Over 60% of the returned questionnaires were from the ladies of the ICA. When I initially approached the organisation to ask for its help, its president Liz Wall was immediately enthusiastic in her support for this very worthwhile project.

Questionnaires were duly sent out with the Association's Newsletter and with S A E enclosed. (If only all National Organisations were as efficient !!!). From its inception the I C A has supported women and their craft, a craft that in turn supported families in times of extreme hardship. Lacemakers work very often staved off the disastrous consequences of the famine. All along the journey that is the story of lace making in Ireland the I C A has continuously endeavoured to keep wide-ranging skills alive. The history of lace-making has greatly contributed to Ireland's social history, to its heritage and to the narrative of the lives of Irish women. Thank you to the ladies of the I C A your cooperation was much appreciated.

## Competition Results

### Interfederation Cup for Art - Photography (Colour)

**1st Place** – Josephine Keane, Wexford  
**2nd Place** – Mary Ryan, Waterford  
**3rd Place** – Phyllis Hamilton, Wicklow

### Interfederation Cup for Art - Photography (Black/White)

**1st Place** – Ena Howell, Cork  
**2nd Place** – Marie Hayes, Limerick  
**3rd Place** – Jenny Jones, Wicklow

### Interfederation Cup for Crafts – Table Runner

#### Patchwork

**1st Place** - Betty Denning, Cavan  
**2nd Place** - Pauline O'Dwyer, Dublin  
**3rd Place** - Eily Kennedy, Kerry

#### Lacework

**1st Place** - Olive Park, Donegal

#### Needlework

**1st Place** - Chris Cleary, Waterford

### Short Story Competition

**1st Place** - Susan Ryan, Kildare  
**2nd Place** - Angela Moore, Galway  
**3rd Place** - Margaret Sides, Longford

### Table Quiz 2013

**1st Place** - Clare Federation  
**2nd Place** - Waterford Federation  
**3rd Place** - Kildare Federation

### Gempack Recipe Competition

**1st Place** - Caroline Power, Meath  
**2nd Place** - Maria Cronin, Wicklow  
**3rd Place** - Joan Meaney, Limerick



**An Grianán**  
**Annual Garden Party**  
**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2013 @ 3pm**

Tickets €55.00 per person

- Overnight stay available at an additional €45 pp
- Showcase of crafts, flowers, needlework, artwork & gifts.
- Buffet lunch on the lawn with glass of wine & music
- Fashion show and a prize for the best dressed lady.
- Dancing in the evening. Raffle for lots of wonderful prizes
- All bookings through An Grianán:

**If you would like to be a stall holder, please contact An Grianán for an application form.**

Telephone: 041 9822119

Email: [admin@an-grianan.ie](mailto:admin@an-grianan.ie)

Web: [www.an-grianan.ie](http://www.an-grianan.ie)



LOUTH FEDERATION PRESENTS  
AN EVENING OF SONG IN AN GRIANÁN

FRIDAY MAY 31<sup>ST</sup>

SOPRANO LISA MCGUINNESS AND  
ACCOMPANIST MARY MCCAGUE  
FEATURING TENOR PAT ROCHE AND  
ROSARIO MISSENELLI ON TRUMPET

TICKETS €15

DOORS 7:30PM  
CONCERT 8:00PM

CALL AN GRIANÁN ON 041-9822119 OR  
LOUISA CUTHBERT - 042-9322503

## National Treasurer Mary Harrahill

Most of you will have held your AGM's when you get this mailing, and I want to welcome our new officers and wish you all the very best of luck for the coming year. Membership fees of €50, for 2013/2014 are due at your guild AGM, so please get these to the Federation Treasurer as soon as possible.



The National Property Register of all the Association property is held in Central Office and must be updated each year. Guilds and Federations are required by the constitution to prepare and maintain a register of all property and to provide the National Executive Board annually with a copy of the register.

As we are fast approaching the National AGM, can you please send any money which you collected for "Pennies for Friendship" and any money raised from the "fun run day" to Central Office. Many thanks for your support during the year and I look forward to seeing you at the AGM on the 25th May.

## National Secretary Kathleen Gorman

As the National AGM draws closer I would like to remind all members that this year we are encouraging you to register for the AGM. This will give us a clear indication of how many of you hope to attend and I do encourage you all to make an effort to attend the AGM. All Guilds and Federations have now received Annual Report Forms for 2013 – 2014. We urge you to complete and return these and membership fees to your Federation Treasurer. I remind you that all Guild AGMs must be completed before the Federation AGM and all Federation AGMs must be completed by the National AGM. The closing date for submissions for the ICA Book of Home and Family has now passed and many thanks to all of you who have sent in a submission. The General Editor, Aoife Carrigy has the final say on what is included in and excluded from the new book.



It was disappointing for us all to have to cancel the President's Trip however we made some excellent contacts in Northern Ireland and if any Guilds are planning a trip to the North, please do contact Central Office and they will be able to put you in contact with some of the excellent people in the Northern Irish Tourist Board who will do everything to assist you to plan your trip. For more information about the packages for the AGM please see elsewhere in this mailing and don't forget to bring your Membership card with you for scanning in.

## New Membership Benefits April



### **KILKENNY**

Threads of Green Fabrics is a retail and online store, situated on the edge of Kilkenny City with a full mail order service. We are delighted to offer 10% discount on all stock instore on presentation of the ICA Membership Card. Avail of 10% discount online by entering the Discount Code is ICA2013. Tel: 056 7762514. [www.threadsogreenfabrics.com](http://www.threadsogreenfabrics.com) / [info@threadsogreen.ie](mailto:info@threadsogreen.ie).



### **LIMERICK**

The Foynes Flying Boat and Maritime Museum is delighted to offer ICA members a great day out to visit the museum, have a masterclass in making an Irish Coffee, take the guided tour and enjoy free Tea and Scones all for the price of €10.50. We look forward to welcoming all ICA member. See <http://www.flyingboatmuseum.com/> for more information and call Grainne on (0)69 65416 to book your visit today.



### **DUBLIN**

The National Maritime Museum in Dun Laoghaire Co. Dublin is delighted to welcome all groups of ICA members large or small. The museum offers an excellent overview of the Maritime History of our nation and all ICA members will receive Free Tea and Coffee as part of their €5 entry fee. We look forward to welcoming ICA members to this great facility. Have a look at <http://www.mariner.ie> or call Dermot Lynch on 087 6554467 for more information.



### **NATIONWIDE**

Connect Hearing are delighted to offer all ICA members a €100 discount on your hearing system and if you require 2 aids you will get a discount of €100 per aid. We have clinics in Dublin, Louth, Cavan, Monaghan, Donegal and Sligo. We look forward to welcoming you and offering you excellent customer service on all our products and services. [www.connecthearing.ie](http://www.connecthearing.ie).



### **GALWAY**

'Ger's Place' is owned and run by Ger Blackwell, who is herself an accomplished seamstress, knitter and crafter. Her shop is a hive of activity, not only selling supplies, but also providing classes. The shop is packed with haberdashery, yarns/wools, patchwork & quilting supplies and fabrics, jewellery findings, buttons, knitting & crochet supplies, patterns and books. Tel 091 638246. Ger's Place, The Crane, Kinvara, Co Galway (in the market square).



### **KILDARE**

Basler Kildare Village is delighted to offer an exclusive discount of 20% to all ICA members. Please contact the Basler Outlet on 045 522 025 for more information and log on to [www.basler-fashion.com](http://www.basler-fashion.com) for the most up to date collections. This offer excludes sale promotions and is valid only in the Basler Outlet, Kildare Village, Nurney Rd, Kildare Town.

### Accommodation at The Portlaoise Heritage Hotel

To make a reservation please contact the Hotel on 057-86 78588 and quote reference number 86008 or ICA.

#### **Double Bedroom Rates:**

1 nights Bed & Breakfast @ €55.00 pps  
1 nights Dinner Bed & Breakfast @ €80.00 pps  
2 nights B&B with 1 Dinner @ €125.00 pps

#### **Single Bedroom Rates:**

1 nights Bed & Breakfast @ €80.00 pp  
1 nights Dinner Bed & Breakfast @ €105.00 pp  
2 nights Bed & Breakfast with 1 Dinner @ €175.00 pp

#### **Special Sunday Night Rate:**

€59 for the extra night single or twin occupancy Bed & Breakfast

### Senior Help Line

Do you know an older person who lives on their own and would love to have someone to talk to?

Do you have a friend, neighbour or parent who sometimes feels lonely? Senior Help Line is a national confidential listening service for older people provided by trained older volunteers. 28,000 older people phoned the service in 2012, and all callers receive a warm and supportive response.

People phone because they feel alone and isolated, they may be worried, anxious, or in crisis. Senior Help Line volunteers are trained to listen, to help each caller explore their options and to refer to other appropriate services who can also help.

Many people phone Senior Help Line regularly, and see it as a lifeline. Giving someone you know the Senior Help Line number could be doing them a really good turn.

Senior Help Line 1850 440 444, for the price of a local call anywhere in Ireland, open 10 am to 10 pm every day of the year.



Irish Countrywomen's Association

58 Merrion Road  
Ballsbridge  
Dublin 4

Phone: 01-6680002  
E-mail: office@ica.ie  
Web: www.ica.ie



# An Grianán



## Short Break Special 7 – 10 May 2013

Discounted ICA price – €259 pp

Choose from: Your Special Time (Tues),  
Pause & Relax (Wed & Thurs) /  
Encaustic Art / Handmade Cards /  
Romanian Lace / Fit, Fun & Active /  
Computers

## Monday 13 – Friday 17 May 2013

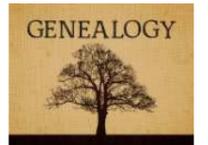
Join a great bunch of the ladies from  
Monaghan and Waterford

Choose from: Watercolours / Mix &  
Match / Creative Writing / Look Good,  
Feel Good / Fitness / Beaded Jewellery



## 1 Day Specials @ An Grianan Wednesday 22nd May 2013

Price Includes tea/coffee &  
scones on arrival, 3 course  
Lunch, Tuition, Visitors arrive in  
time for class Starts 10am  
Depart after class at 4pm  
Cookery €55 pp  
Genealogy €75 pp



€5.00  
Family

## Harvest Festival Saturday 31st August 2013 1:00pm - 6:00pm

Family fun day with Arts & Crafts,  
Food Fair and Vintage Car Display.  
Dinner and evening entertainment  
Overnight Accommodation available if required.

## “TAKE PRIDE”

Irish Pride Bakeries are delighted to have partnered with the ICA and invite you to participate in two “Take Pride” competitions using Irish Pride products.



- The most unusual and exotic Bread and Butter Pudding Recipe using any Irish Pride product. This is an individual competition. Please send in your entry to Central Office, 58 Merrion Road, Ballsbridge Dublin 4, before October 31st 2013. There is no entry fee.
- The Take Pride Picnic: This competition will be based on the 6 categories of bread on the Irish Pride website namely: **White Breads / Wholemeal Breads / Seeded and Grain breads / Traditional Breads / Buns and Rolls / Speciality Breads.**

Please see the Irish Pride Website [www.irishpride.ie](http://www.irishpride.ie) for the list of products in each category or call Central Office on 01-6680002 for the list. Contestants will need to produce a picnic using products from 4 of the 6 categories above, Three products must be savoury and one product must be a dessert. Details of the Federation winner to be in Central Office before 31st October 2013.

“Take Pride” weekend will be held on Saturday 8th November in An Grianán when the finals of both competitions will be held. All shortlisted Bread and Butter recipe contestants and Take Pride Picnic Federation winners will be invited to compete during the “Take Pride Weekend”. Please contact Central Office for more information about the “Take Pride” Competitions and visit their stand at the Annual Garden Party in An Grianán in July. All competition information is available on the website and will also be available at the National AGM in Portlaoise on 25th May 2013.

## Chief Executive - John O'Callaghan

I would like to take this opportunity to update you as to the ongoing work in An Grianán regarding the cost management strategy. The purchasing system at An Grianán has been consolidated and we have signed a contract with a provisions provider which will be responsible for all purchasing of provisions in An Grianán. In this many providers are still with us under improved contracts and a number have been replaced by keener prices. A key underlying principle of this tender process was securing Irish providers and products as much as possible. We expect this to make significant savings to the purchasing costs on an annual basis. Following the completion of the sewage treatment plant in An Grianán I am pleased to inform you that this project came in on budget and in time. Unfortunately one negative aspect of the work to the treatment plant was the disturbance to the walled Garden. The walled garden had to be dug up in certain areas and my apologies to anyone who visited recently and saw the unsightly mess, I am pleased to inform you that we now have a horticulture intern working on the repair of the garden and we are finalising the plans for planting and potting.



The National President and the National Executive Board have resolved to work on 4 key areas of perceived decline in some communities namely Health, Safety, Education and Development of local economies. We are sending out a Questionnaire with this mailing to inform us as to the situation in each Guild location in regard to these 4 key areas. I would urge all Guild secretaries to make time for this questionnaire in your next meeting. The more Guilds that answer this questionnaire the better the National Executive Board will be able to represent you the member. Finally I received approval from the Board to begin discussions about a possible road show with Bord Bia. I hope to have more information about this for you in the next mailing.