ICPO
IRISH COUNCIL FOR PRISONERS OVERSEAS

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ICPO NEWS

POPE FRANCIS 1936 - 2025

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ICPO

It is estimated that at any one time there are in excess of 1,100 Irish people in prison overseas. Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas (ICPO) has contact with Irish people in prisons in more than thirty countries, the majority of whom are in the UK, with many more detained throughout the USA, Australia, Africa, Europe, South and Central America and Asia.

The ICPO was established by the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference in 1985 in response to serious concerns regarding the number of Irish men and women in UK prisons. These deeply held concerns related to their trials and subsequent imprisonment.

In recent years ICPO has been able to offer a more comprehensive service to prisoners and to expand our existing services to prisoners' families. ICPO works for all Irish prisoners wherever they are. It makes no distinction in terms of religious faith, the nature of the prison conviction, or of a prisoner's status.

The vision of ICPO is of a world where the human rights of Irish prisoners overseas are respected and their dignity is honoured.

- We work with all Irish prisoners and their families wherever they are and at all stages of the imprisonment process.
- We treat everyone with dignity and respect.
- We ensure the privacy of everyone we work with.
- Everyone we work with is treated as an individual and the service provided is tailored to their needs.
- We stay with people on their journey maintaining a presence as long as needed.

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Maynooth Office Opening Hours

Monday to Friday:
9am—1pm
2pm—5pm

If you want to contact us outside these hours please phone us at 00353-1-505-3156 and leave a message. We will get back to you as soon as possible

ICPO Resources

We have a wide range of resources such as a resettlement handbook and Beo Beathach, a wellbeing guide with exercises to practice in prison that might be of interest to you.

All you have to do is ask and we will be happy to send them to you.

Penfriends

- The Penfriend Scheme is about giving you the opportunity to keep in touch with everyday life in Ireland.
- We do our best to match people with similar interests
- ICPO will provide you with prepaid envelopes so you don't have to worry about paying for stamps.
- Current clients say 'Having a pen-friend has been a fantastic help. It's great to receive a letter and to be able to write to somebody'

ICPO is greatly indebted to its funders for their generous support:

IRISH CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE
Government of Ireland Emigrant Support Programme
Society of St Vincent de Paul

Spring Greetings from the ICPO

As the days grow longer and brighter, I'm delighted to welcome you to the Spring edition of the Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas (ICPO) Newsletter. We always enjoy connecting with you all through these pages, and we hope this edition brings you news, support, and a sense of community, wherever you may be reading it.

This season, we also take a moment to acknowledge the passing of Pope Francis. Throughout his papacy, he was a steadfast advocate for the dignity of all people, particularly prisoners and those most marginalised. His legacy of compassion and justice will continue to inspire our work and remind us of the power of hope, even in the most challenging circumstances.

I'm especially pleased to introduce a new member of our team, Damian Kirwan, who joined us in Maynooth this March as a Caseworker. Damian brings with him a wealth of experience supporting Irish emigrants, and we are thrilled to have him on board. His dedication and compassion are already making a difference, and we know many of you will benefit from his expertise and kind approach.

This edition is packed with updates and articles we hope you will find both helpful and uplifting. Catherine provides important information on Returning to Ireland while on Licence and Repatriation, offering practical guidance for those considering these options. Bernie has penned a fascinating article exploring the connections between St. Patrick and St. Brigid, providing a timely reflection on two central figures in Irish heritage and spirituality.

As always, we are pleased to bring you the ever-popular Sports Shorts from our resident commentator Ian, who never fails to capture the excitement and heart of the games. Fr. Gerry also shares an important update from London, giving insight into our ongoing work in the prisons in England and Wales.

Our Casework and Family Support Officer, Ciara, offers thoughtful advice on the pros and cons of posting packages to loved ones, something we know many of you and your families think about often. Ciara is also launching a new initiative. Due to the success of the online monthly family meetings, we are hosting an evening online family gathering starting on Tuesday, 6th May at 7 pm for those of you who can't join our usual daytime sessions. We hope they will be a valuable space for support and connection.

A heartfelt congratulations goes out to the winners of our Greeting Card Competition, Chris Wray and I.L.B. Thank you to everyone who submitted artwork. Your creativity and thoughtfulness were inspiring, and we look forward to using some of the entries in our future greeting cards.

A special thank you to all who participated in the survey we sent in the Christmas supplement. Your feedback is incredibly important to us, and we will work hard to implement your suggestions wherever we can.

We are also very excited to announce the launch of our new ICPO website, which now features our new ICPO logo, which you will see on the cover. The logo design was inspired by an original image created by renowned Irish artist Robert Ballagh which is a depiction of light shining through bars, originally produced for a limited edition print to support an ICPO art competition in the late 1980s. We feel this image beautifully captures the hope and resilience that lie at the heart of our work, and we are proud to carry that inspiration into our logo and online presence.

I would like encourage you to continue sharing your letters, poems, stories, and even advice or tips for others. These contributions are a cherished part of our newsletter, fostering a sense of community and connection.

In this edition, you will find a particularly challenging quiz designed by Harry. We invite you to submit your answers using the enclosed pre-paid envelopes. It's a tough one- none of our team members managed to get all the answers right and we are eager to see how you fare! And don't forget to enter our next writing competition: *My Favourite Place in Ireland*. We would love to hear about the places that hold meaning and memories for you.

Finally, my sincere thanks to everyone who helped bring this newsletter to life: Eileen, Ian, Ciara, Catherine, Bernie, Harry, Fr. Gerry, and all our dedicated staff and volunteers who support the printing and mailing of each edition.

With warmest wishes from all of us at the ICPO.

Leslie Alcock
ICPO Coordinator

Pope Francis

Pope Francis who passed away on the 21st of April will be remembered for his "selfless service and dedication to the end of his earthly life". While Pope Francis was head of the Catholic Church and his loss will be felt most keenly among Catholics, his message of compassion and hope reached wider to people of other faiths and those with no religious beliefs.

Prison visits

One of the last actions of his life was a private visit to Regina Coeli prison in Rome on Holy Thursday where he met with 70 prisoners. In the words of Pope Francis to people he met in Regina Coeli prison "Every year I like to do what Jesus did on Holy Thursday, washing the feet, in prison. This year I can't do it, but I can and want to be close to you. I am praying for you and your families." Visiting prisons and supporting the rights of people in prison was a priority for Pope Francis during his Papacy which began in 2013. By 2024, the Pope had visited 14 prisons

Mistakes

Pope Francis was keen to emphasise that everyone makes mistakes and speaking to reporters outside Regina Coeli prison he said "Every time I enter here I ask, why them and not me?" Visiting another prison a number of years ago, Pope Francis said "I think to myself, 'I, too, could be here.' That is, none of us can be sure that we would never commit a crime, something for which we'd be put in prison." The Pope also recognised that many of us have 'wounds to heal' which come from 'paths very painful'. He also recognised the 'harsh reality' of prison life and encouraged authorities to create conditions in prisons that will facilitate rehabilitation and reintegration and asked on a visit to a prison in Venice "Please, do not isolate dignity, but give new possibilities!"

Death Penalty

Since the beginning of his papacy, Pope Francis has been critical of the death penalty and whole life sentences also known as life without the possibility of parole which he described as a 'hidden death penalty'. He also strongly criticised solitary confinement as a 'form of torture'. Pope Francis changed the Catechism of the Catholic Church to state that the death penalty is inadmissible in all circumstances, irrespective of the offence committed. It says that "Today, however, there is an increasing awareness that the dignity of the person is not lost even after the commission of very serious crimes. In addition, a new understanding has emerged of the significance of penal sanctions imposed by the state. Lastly, more effective systems of detention have been developed which ensure the due protection of citizens but, at the same time, do not definitively deprive the guilty of the possibility of redemption."

Message of Hope

2025 has been declared the Jubilee Year of Hope with its message of 'Hope does not disappoint.' Jubilee Years occur every 25 years. As part of this Jubilee Year, the Pope visited Rebibbia prison in Rome and opened for the first time a Holy Door at a prison. The opening of Holy Doors is part of the Jubilee Year celebrations going back over centuries and the opening of a Holy Door in a prison was a gesture by the Pope to invite people in prison wherever they are to be part of the Jubilee of Hope. As part of this year Pope Francis designated 14th of December this year as the Jubilee of Prisoners. While Pope Francis will not be there to celebrate this day, it is hoped that whomever succeeds him will continue his message of hope and his dedication to the rights and dignity of people in prison.

Catherine Kenny
Caseworker, Policy & Information Officer

[1] Statement by Bishop Fintan Gavin on the death of Pope Francis | Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference
[2] Pope defies medical advice to visit prison on Holy Thursday - Catholic Herald
[3] Pope Francis in Venice: "Every time I go into a prison, I say: why them, and not me?" - Catholic news – La Croix International

Returning to Ireland while on licence

Decline in numbers permitted to return

In the last few years, very few people released on licence in England and Wales have been permitted to return permanently to the Republic of Ireland during their licence period. In particular, if you do not have residential ties in the Republic of Ireland and do not have close family ties, it is very unlikely that your application to return to resettle while on licence will be successful.

It is still possible to apply to return to Ireland and Policy Framework *Travel and Transfer on Licence and PSS Outside of England and Wales* outlines the process. Under this Policy Framework, people released on licence can apply to transfer their licence to another UK jurisdiction or to travel temporarily or permanently outside of England and Wales.

Please note: the information in this article is only relevant if you are an Irish citizen released or due to be released on licence in England and Wales. It does not apply if you are in Scotland or Northern Ireland.

The Policy Framework and Irish Nationals

The Policy Framework states that while Irish citizens are not excluded from temporary or permanent travel outside the UK while on licence, "additional and careful consideration" must be given to applications from Irish citizens travelling permanently to the Republic of Ireland due to the lack of border controls and ease of travel between Ireland and the UK allowing for return to the UK. This does not mean however, an additional test for Irish people seeking to travel permanently to the Republic of Ireland. Family and community connections must be considered in order to ensure that the person intends to settle permanently in Republic of Ireland.

Transferring supervision

The Policy Framework notes that while there is no means of transferring an individual on licence to the Republic of Ireland for them to receive supervision similar to that in England and Wales, it lists two additional possible ways of additional engagement for the person once they have returned permanently to the Republic of Ireland. Such voluntary engagement can be according to the Policy Framework, either through the Irish Probation Service or the Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas (ICPO). However, we aware that in recent years the Irish Probation Service has not engaged with individuals returning from England and Wales while on licence.

The Irish Probation Service

The Irish Probation Service does not have a statutory obligation to provide additional engagement, including voluntary supervision of people on licence resettling in Ireland. It had been the practice until recent years; However, for the Probation Service to agree to supervise such individuals on a voluntary basis. Currently, the Probation Service does not have any engagement with people returning on licence and the main reason provided is the lack of agreement between England & Wales and Republic of Ireland so they therefore cannot supervise people who have been permitted to return while on licence, even on a voluntary basis.

The ICPO

The ICPO is a charity and therefore cannot supervise, care-take, act on behalf of UK Probation Service or report on compliance. The ICPO is a small organisation and it is therefore not possible for us to advocate on individual applications. We understand the difficulties facing Irish people released in England and Wales, particularly in situations where they have no family support or other networks. We are focusing our limited resources on seeking to bring about a change of policy in both jurisdictions leading to an agreement which would facilitate the small number of Irish people on licence who wish to return to Ireland to be able to do so. We have recently written to the Minister for Justice in relation to this.

If you have been permitted to return to the Republic of Ireland, our office in Maynooth may be able to offer supports by way of advice and information, regular telephone contact, signposting to services and making referrals to specific/specialist services.

Catherine Kenny
Caseworker, Policy& Information Officer

FAMILY MATTERS

This section is for families who have a loved one in prison.
Do you have useful information that may be helpful to other families?
Have you a question you would like to see answered on this page in the future?
If so, please contact Ciara Kirrane, Casework and Family Support Officer, ICPO Maynooth. Email: ciara.kirrane@icpo.ie or call on +353-1-505-3110

To post or not to post….

How we all send and receive parcels to and from other countries has changed a lot over the past few years, and posting something to your loved one in prison overseas can be a complicated and costly process.

We've had numerous queries from families in recent years about this, sometimes about a parcel never reaching the prison, or being stuck in a postal warehouse for months or in some cases the parcel being returned to Ireland. This can be very frustrating, both for the person waiting for the parcel and the person sending it, not to mention expensive.

Understanding the rules and requirements for sending items abroad can save you a lot of time, money and stress. All items (other than letters) posted from the Republic of Ireland to a country outside the European Union must be presented to the Customs authorities in that country. In order to pass through customs checks, the contents of the parcel must be detailed using the correct form and the value of the items declared. If the parcel is over a certain value, it may result in customs charges and/or VAT being applied to the parcel. These charges are normally collected from the person receiving the parcel, but when it's being delivered to a prison generally the prison will not take any responsibility for the charges. The parcel is then rejected and usually either sent to a postal warehouse until the charges are paid or returned to sender.

The biggest difference for most of those we work with relates to sending parcels to Britain, following their departure from the EU. However, similar rules about customs declaration forms, customs charges and VAT apply to parcels being sent to countries such as the United States, Australia, and European countries that are not in the EU (e.g. Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, etc.). If you are posting to these countries, you must provide information on the contents and value of the items in the parcel.

In general, you should consider the following when thinking about sending anything to your loved one in prison overseas:

- First and foremost, check if the prison allows prisoners to receive parcels. Many prisons no longer allow items to be sent in to the prison, or they may only allow certain items, or at certain times (such as during the person's first month in custody, or the month of their birthday). Your family member in prison should be able to tell you the rules, but it is also advisable to contact the prison directly for more information, or look up the prison website.

- Consider if there is an alternative way to get the items your loved one needs, e.g. by ordering the items through the prison catalogue/canteen/ commissary. Some prisons allow parcels from certain online retailers, such as Amazon or Waterstones for books.

- Check the customs rules for the country you are posting to and try to find out as much information in advance. Your local post office may be able to advise you. Keep in mind that the value at which customs charges apply varies from country to country.

- If you decide to send a parcel having checked the above, declare it as a gift. Gifts under a certain value are not subject to customs charges or VAT. However, try to be accurate in the value of the items you declare. If you undervalue it, customs authorities may return it.

- If you know that the value of the parcel will result in customs charges, using a courier may be an option. While more expensive than standard post, you can usually opt to pay the customs charges yourself instead of the receiver being charged for these. However, do check that the prison will accept a parcel from a courier.

- If in doubt, contact the ICPO and we will try to advise you. In some cases, it is just not possible to send items and we are happy to explain this to your loved one.

One Mother's Story

(Her son's name has been changed to protect his identity)

The middle of February, 2022 Joe had gone missing for a week. I contacted the Gardaí and they contacted their counterparts in the UK. It took about 4 days before I found out Joe was in prison in the UK. I was in so much shock but I was relieved Joe was alive. I contacted Joe's solicitor and he put a bail app in to have Joe released. £5,000 and an address in the UK were needed and got. Joe's court case was 1st March, 2022, a Pancake Tuesday I will never forget. I flew to the UK the day before and travelled from London to Bournemouth for the hearing. When I got into the court, Joe was not there. He was refused bail pending information needed and a date was set for 4th March. This time Joe was in the dock. I had not seen Joe since January 2020 as Covid was just after happening. He had no idea I was in the court. I got a shock, he was so skinny and grown up looking. Joe got bail that day and I brought him back to London after giving him a massive hug. At this stage I still had no idea how serious the charges were. Joe had been charged with conspiracy to deal Class A drugs.

Fast forward to August 2022, Joe's court date for sentencing. I flew to the UK three days before and had arranged with the Solicitor and the Judge that Joe could stay in the hotel with me. We had a great few days. I was still so naïve about what was going to happen. We chatted a lot of the night before and I told him it would be fine. We travelled to Bournemouth and on the way down Joe wanted to go to the beach but I said no, you need a good breakfast. We were to be at court at 10am. Joe was not called until 4pm. I spoke to Joe's barrister beforehand and finally realised Joe was in serious trouble here. They had dropped the conspiracy charges but Joe was still looking at 4.5 years in prison. My head was pounding. At 4pm Joe's name was called. I felt sick. I gave Joe a massive hug and told him no matter what happened I loved him and I was going nowhere. We went in and Joe was taken to the dock and the judge came in. They read out Joe's charges. At this stage I was numb and frightened and so was Joe, I could see his face. I had written a letter to the judge and he said he had read it and took everything I said into consideration.

All I heard after that was "Joe, I am sentencing you to 4.5 years in prison." I went numb after that and heard nothing. The next thing I knew they were taking my son away. I just sat there with tears running down from my eyes as Joe blew me a kiss. The barrister brought me outside and explained everything. Four and a half years with 2 suspended and so many days off because Joe had been on tag for 6 months. Next thing, my phone was ringing, people asking how it went. I was on my own that day and it was horrendous. On the train back to London it hit me and I started crying inconsolably and I felt so much guilt about not bringing Joe to the beach. I flew home the next day and heard from Joe the day after.

On 26th August 2022 I contacted ICPO and it was the best thing I did. I can genuinely say I would not have made it without them. They are amazing. I went to my first Family Day in October 2022 and I had just got back from having my first ever prison visit with Joe. I felt so relaxed there with families in the same position as me. I met Fr. Gerry and he told me he would go visit Joe and he did. From the day Joe was sentenced my head went. I could not accept that my child was locked up like that and I owe a lot to ICPO. I was constantly texting or ringing Ciara and Fr Gerry. I even rang the prison every week if I had not heard from Joe. The visits were so hard, happy going in to see him and he could tell the time was nearly up and it was heart-breaking leaving him. The journey was long and so up and down with different things that happened but I had amazing friends that got me through it. Joe has a younger brother also and he came a couple of times to see Joe and so did his older brother. I never in a million years, when this first happened, thought I would be strong enough to deal with it. I cried myself to sleep every single night. On the 14th November 2024 I flew over with my sister to meet Joe at those gates on the 15th. When Joe came out, it didn't seem real and on the 16th November I brought Joe back to Ireland.

It's 2025 now and there is still a lot of ups and downs. It's not easy but at least Joe is back home. I would like to say a massive thank you to Ciara and Fr Gerry. You have no idea how you helped me get through this. I would like to thank all the staff at ICPO for all your support during what was the most horrible time of our lives. I will forever be grateful.

Sinéad

Sports Shorts

with Ian Hanna

In Ireland, February 1st marks the beginning of Imbolg (or Imbolc), a Celtic celebration heralding the arrival of spring and celebrating the end of winter. For centuries it is has been interwoven with St Bridget's Day which recently became Ireland's latest public holiday. Ireland's Gaelic calendar is quite different to what most people consider spring to be; they regard March 1st as the start of spring. Key questions here are whether or not has the Irish international soccer team has sprung into spring with their recent wins or is it another false dawn for the Boys in Green? Likewise with GAA football and their new rules aimed at making the game more exciting and less defensive orientated. Only time will tell.....

RUGBY

The 6 Nations championship lies safely in France where a very impressive Les Bleus won the championship but let a Grand Slam slip through their fingers by snatching defeat from the jaws of victory against a much improved English team. For the second year running Wales were wooden spoonists suffering some severe hammerings, especially against France, and England and losing all five games. They now hold the unwelcome record for a Tier 1 nation of losing 17 consecutive tests, breaking their own record each time they play. Ireland were favourites to be the first team to win three consecutive 6 Nations and after beating England, Scotland and Wales to secure the Triple Crown, all was set for them to beat France at home and Italy away. However, the stuttering win over Wales revealed serious cracks which the French exploited with a powerful display of pure Gallic forward power allied to absolute devastating backline play to win 42-27. Ireland restored some degree of respectability by scoring two tries in the last few minutes.

In December, Simon Easterby took over as Interim Head Coach to the senior team from current head coach Andy Farrell, who is taking charge of the British & Irish Lions 2025 tour to Australia. While Ireland won four of their five games, and a Triple Crown is nothing to be sneezed at, Irish ambitions were aiming to win the 6 Nations and even a Grand Slam. It wasn't to be and the games against Wales, France and Italy saw Ireland perform well below what is expected. As the Italian game moved into overtime, Italy threatened to score a try to draw the game when Ireland got a penalty. Instead of trying to create another score, the Irish outhalf, Sam Prendergast was relieved to kick the ball straight into touch thus ending a relatively successful but overall disappointing campaign. Where next for Ireland? Well a game against The All Blacks in Soldier's Field, Chicago on November 1st. Back in 2016, Ireland made history by defeating New Zealand for the first time ever in this very stadium.

Photographer: Stephen B.

On the club front only Leinster are yet again carrying any realistic Irish hopes of seeing an Irish club emerge victorious in the Heineken European Championship. They have lost the last three finals to French clubs; La Rochelle twice and Toulouse. To lose four finals in a row is unthinkable.

GAA

The provincial football championships started on April 5/6, with the All-Ireland Senior Football Final on Sunday, July 27. The Provincial Hurling Championships began on April 19/20, with the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final on Sunday, July 20. The competitive season began with no provincial pre-season competitions for the first time in many years as the National Leagues in football and hurling commenced in January. For the big ball enthusiasts it marked the introduction of a number

Sports Shorts

of new rules for a trial period, aimed at rewarding attacking football in place of the negative defensive tactics so evident in the past few years. Pitches are now lined with a new arc starting on the 20m line and extending 40m out from goal. A ball cleanly kicked from play or a free over the bar from on or outside this arc, and without touching another player on either team is worth two points. It is considered a success as the scoring rate has increased by 12%. However a 45m is still a 1 point score. Another rule is that during play, a team must have at least four players (which may include the goalkeeper) in their half of the field and at least three outfield players in the opposition half of the field. This has led to the curtailment of the blanket defence where teams withdrew all their players inside their own half when the opposition had the ball.

On the playing pitch Kerry defeated Mayo 1-18 to 1-12 in the League final on 30 March. Mayo were very poor even if the Kingdom never really got into their stride. They dominated and as the championship warms up, so will they. Tyrone and Derry are relegated to Division Two. Mayo last won the league in 2023 beating Kerry while Kerry's last success was the year before beating Mayo. In the competition that really matters the format for the All Ireland series has not changed thus allowing a number of serious competitors to win it. Armagh will defend their title vigorously with strong opposition from Kerry, Donegal and Tyrone. The Dubs are regrouping and unlikely to reach the summit. I think Donegal are dark horses under their excellent manager, Jim McGuinness, and they are very hungry to add to their successes in 1992 and 2012; the latter masterminded by Jim. So between Kerry and Donegal and I opt for the Kingdom, who have 38 senior All –Irelands crowns, their last one was in 2022.

HURLING

On 6th April, Cork defeated Tipperary by 3-24 to 0-23 to win the National League final, their first league title since 1998. The wait remains for Tipp who last won in 2008. However, don't be fooled, this is purely a warmer upper for the provincial round robin championships which commenced on 19/20 April. All eyes are on the Munster championship where all teams are capable of beating each other, where only three out of the five teams make it through to the All-Ireland series. Clare, defending All Ireland champions, Cork beaten by a point in the final after extra time, Limerick badly bruised after failing to win a record five All Irelands in a row last year, and not forgetting Tipperary and Waterford, more than capable of securing one of the three places. Meanwhile in Leinster, Kilkenny and Galway are regular finalists with either Wexford or Dublin chasing the third spot. Offaly and Antrim make up the other teams in the Leinster championship. Galway has gone back to basics, installing Michael O'Donoghue as manager for four years as they try to recover from the barren three years under Henry Shefflin. O'Donoghue led Gaillimh to their last All Ireland success in 2017 and it is far too long for a team of such talent and strength to be absent from hurling's top table. I take the Cats to win Leinster yet again but for Limerick to regain their title.

SOCCER.

Ireland secured their place in Level B of the Euro Nations League with recent wins home and away against Bulgaria on 2-1 score lines, coming from behind in both matches. Ireland played well and fully deserved their success, playing a brand of direct attacking football using width to force the Bulgarian defence to provide goal scoring
opportunities, four of which were converted. Ireland needs to tighten up its defence as they conceded soft goals which against better teams, would have been more costly. It also gives a huge boost to their confidence as they commence their 2026 World Cup qualifying matches against Portugal, Hungary and Armenia in a four-team group with the campaign set to start in September and concluding in November. This expanded 48 team World Cup will be held in USA, Canada and Mexico. The 12 European group winners will qualify directly for the World Cup, with the 12 runners-up entering the playoff system. Most likely Ireland will finish second

Sports Shorts

behind Portugal so once more the playoffs could be our downfall as our success in winning play-offs is dismal. So will this new Irish Spring yield a good crop come the autumn qualifiers or will it fade in the blistering heat of World Cup qualification.

The Woman's International team are trying to regroup after their disappointing loss in, yes a play-off final to reach the European finals by embarking on their UEFA National League campaign. A home 1-0 win against Turkey was overshadowed by a 4-1 defeat away against Slovenia. Their back to back games against Greece will have a huge bearing on their chances of progressing. The FIFA Women's World Cup is in 2027 and will be solely hosted by Brazil. Ireland will plan on repeating their qualifying success for the 2023 World Cup and this time making it through to the knockout stages.

On the European Club front full credit is due to Shamrock Rovers who represented the League of Ireland with great aplomb in the UEFA Conference League by qualifying for the knockout stages. They were knocked out by Norwegian giants Molde 4-5 on penalties. They won 3 of their 6 games to reach this stage and apart from only won defeat, 5 -1 away to Chelsea, set new standards for Irish clubs to follow. It is estimated that the total prize money they won is in excess of €6.5m which the club will be ploughed back into facilities, youth academy and business enhancement. On the domestic front Shelbourne won the Premier league for the first time since 2006. Their manager, Damien Duff, is a former Irish international who has interesting views on the direction Irish soccer should be heading.

GOLF

AT LAST, AT LONG LAST! Rory McIlroy, from Hollywood, Co Down in Northern Ireland finally won the one major that has eluded him throughout his career. AT LAST Rory won the Masters in Augusta, Georgia in what was his 17th time competing. It was the only major tournament he hadn't won and in doing so he joins an elite roll call of five golfers who have claimed the Grand Slam of professional golf. These are Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan, Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus, and Tiger Woods. To do so a player has to win the four majors during his career. McIlroy is now a five-time major winner, his previous titles coming at the 2011 U.S. Open, 2012 PGA Championship, 2014 Open Championship and 2014 PGA Championship. In the eleven years since 2014 when he won The Open, he came close but could never win the Masters until now. In a thriller of a final round where he double bogeyed at the first hole to throw away his overnight lead, then to lead by four shots on the back nine, to lose this three holes later, yet managed to gain the outright lead again with a birdie on the 17th hole. On the final hole needing only a par to win, he missed a five foot putt to end with a bogey and a playoff against Justin Rose from England. He held his nerve, while ours were all gone, winning the title on the first play-off hole with a birdie putt while Rose could only manage a par. Rory brought us through the wringer, through the roller coaster of emotions, the ups and downs as the lead changed hands, despair and elation wondering if he had blown it, only for him to recover and eventually win. Rory won the Players Championship in a play off a few weeks prior to the Masters which was a huge boost to him. This was Rory's second time winning the Players, one of the most prestigious events outside the four Majors. Shane Lowry, from Offaly played well until the last round where his game faltered finishing up tied 42nd place.

OTHER SPORTS

Ireland recently enjoyed podium finishes in the European and World Indoor Championships, continuing the success of Team Ireland at the Paris Olympics last summer. Sarah Healy, Mark English and Kate O'Connor each claimed a medal during the final day of action in the European championships held in Holland. Sarah from Dublin, won gold in the 3,00m, Mark English a son of Donegal, bronze in the 800m and Kate O'Connor from Dundalk, bronze in the Pentathlon, a five discipline event. Sarah's success was the first time an Irish woman won gold in these championships, while Kate's bronze was the first medal won by any Irish athlete in a senior multi-event. Just 12 days later in the World Championships in China, Kate O'Connor, from Dundalk, Co Louth went one better winning silver in the Pentathlon. This was Ireland's first medal in these championships in 19 years.

Once again space is at a premium and I hope you enjoyed these musings from the world of Irish sport. All the best to each and every one of you, take care and be safe.

Update from London ICPO Office

As with last year's Spring newsletter, by the time you receive this one, another Easter will have come and gone! Hopefully, the weather will have changed for the better. It has been a particularly long and cold Winter. I'm reminded of the line by the poet Shelley, "If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind". Let's hope not!

General News:
The prison estate continues to cause concern. A report released by the Public Accounts Committee on 14 March, 2025, said that male prisons were "alarmingly full" and will run out of space again by early 2026 despite early release measures. Prison expansion plans are currently running five years late and £4.2bn over budget.

Also, prisons are being prepared to cope with a sudden influx of offenders in case there is a repeat of last year's summer riots. Hundreds of extra makeshift cells will be in use by the end of this year.

Re-Release Scheme:
Prisoners who have reoffended or broken probation restrictions are being re-released from prisons early on the government's direction under new measures to ease overcrowding. More than 1000 inmates are under consideration for the new scheme which has alarmed the probation service as it bypasses the parole board's evaluation of whether prisoners can be safely re-released and instead sees them freed by the justice secretary's representatives.

New Prison:
The MoJ has announced that a new 1500 capacity prison, HMP Millsike at Full Sutton near York, will be operational shortly and that other jails are being expanded. While this will certainly ease overcrowding, an emergency contingency plan to hold prisoners in police cells has been triggered recently in parts of England.

Cost of Living Crisis:
The cost of living crisis continues to impact prisoners and their families. In practice it means that some families are unable to afford visits to their loved ones in far-flung parts of the country which only adds to the levels of distress for all concerned.

Family Days:
As is well known, family contact is crucial to prisoner rehabilitation and one cannot put a price on what it means to all concerned. I get a sense of this every time I attend one of the excellent Family Days in Dublin. We try to ensure that members of the London team attend these events as often as possible.

Prison moves:
Please keep us informed of your prison moves. We have no other means of keeping track of your whereabouts. Also, remember that the Irish embassy cannot get involved in legal matters relating to your case. These are solely for your solicitor and legal representatives.

Staff changes:
Jolande Tanushi and Kaileigh Green are the new people working on the probation project in the London area. Ellena Costello, who has worked with the Traveller project for several years has officially joined the ICPO. She will now be our Traveller worker on the team.

Advocacy work:
We continue to engage with the Irish Prison Service and the Irish Probation Service in relation to Repatriation and the Transfer of Licence Supervision. You can read the latest information on these elsewhere in this newsletter.

Home Work:
The pattern of working from home which began during Covid is still the norm for staff members and will continue into the future. However, the office is covered for most of the week with Mahrukh Sabir, our new admin assistant, in the office on Monday and Thursday and other staff members operating a rota for the other days.

Finally, always remember that we are here for you and your families, willing to reach out and help in any way we can. So keep in touch and let us know how best we can help you. And remember that this is your newsletter, so please let us have your ideas and suggestions for improvement. Stay safe and keep well.

(Breda Power, Liz Power, Ellena Costello, Sally Murphy, and Gerry McFlynn.)

Transfer of Sentence (Repatriation)

It is just over two years since the Criminal Justice (Mutual Recognition of Custodial Sentences) Act 2023 was passed into law. This Act brought the EU legislation governing transfer of sentence between EU countries into Irish law and also made amendments to existing law on transfers to facilitate the transfer of Irish prisoners from non-EU countries including the UK.

It is very disappointing, therefore, that no transfers back to an Irish prison have yet been completed. We recognise that the law passed two years ago is lengthy and complex and new to the officials in the Irish Prison Service and elsewhere that are dealing with it. There are often good reasons why an application can take longer than expected to process to completion including requirements for further information from the sentencing country.

It is essential that the length of time it takes to process applications is reduced significantly. Delays discourage people from applying and lead to frustration among prisoners and families where the application process drags on. There are a number of other agencies involved in the processing of applications, in particular the Chief State Solicitor's Office (CSSO). This agency is responsible for providing legal advice to the government and government agencies. The majority, if not all, applications are sent to the CSSO. It is essential that agencies like the CSSO are fully resourced to avoid lengthy delays. We have recently written to the Minister for Justice to express our concern about the length the application process is currently taking and are currently awaiting a reply.

Applications form the UK

The number of applications for repatriation from England and Wales in particular has declined in recent years. Now only 5 or 6 of the 25 applications currently being dealt with by the Irish Prison Service are from England and Wales. For many years, the number of applicants from the UK including England and Wales was higher than for any other region.

It has come to our attention that some Irish prisoners have been advised in the prison where they are that the Irish authorities are not accepting applications. This is no longer true and you can apply for repatriation if you wish.

Applications were put on hold after the Irish Supreme court judgment in 2016, so some prison staff might think that this is the case. The Irish authorities now accept all applications for processing. Each application is dealt with on a case by case basis.

If you wish to apply for repatriation back to an Irish prison and you are told in the prison where you are that the Irish authorities will not accept your application, please contact our London office and let them know. They will be able to advise you and may be able to contact the prison on your behalf.

Life Sentence Prisoners

If you are serving a life sentence, the UK authorities are very unlikely to approve your transfer to Ireland irrespective of whether you have served your tariff period or not. This is because unlike in the UK, life sentenced prisoners in Ireland do not have to serve a tariff before they are eligible for release. Life sentenced prisoners are eligible to be considered for review after they have served 12 years though few, if any, are released at that stage. The UK authorities have previously indicated that they might consider allowing transfers to Ireland if Ireland also had a tariff system.

There is currently a Bill (draft law) included in the Government's priority legislation called the Life Sentences Bill which will allow judges to recommend a minimum period to be served in custody before a person is released on parole, reflecting the circumstances of the case. It is not clear if this Bill, when it becomes law, will be enough to satisfy that UK authorities that there is a 'tariff system' in Ireland. It is unlikely the law will be passed for a few months, if then and we will let you know if there are any developments in our Autumn Newsletter.

Update March 2025.

Applications from EU countries

We understand from the IPS that about 18 of the 25 applications from prisoners overseas to serve their sentence in an Irish prison that the IPS is currently processing come from EU countries. This is a new development as previously mentioned most were from the UK.

I will highlight a few issues and these only apply if you are in an EU country.
These are listed below:

The Judgement and Certificate:

These documents are the judgement that was handed down to you in the EU country that you are imprisoned and the Framework Decision Certificate which is a document that will contain information about you and your sentence. To commence the application, these documents must be forwarded by the authorities in the country where you are imprisoned to the Irish authorities. If you have not lived in Ireland before your sentence or are going to be deported to Ireland after you finish your sentence, the Minister for Justice will have to give his consent before the judgement and certificate can be sent to Ireland. If the Minister does not consent to these documents being sent to Ireland, the transfer cannot take place.

Who can start the transfer process?

The sentencing country usually starts the process either because a prisoner has indicated that they wish to be transferred or on its own initiative. The Minister for Justice in Ireland on his own initiative or at the request of a prisoner may ask authorities in the sentencing country to forward the judgement and certificate to Ireland. However the sentencing country does not have to agree to start the transfer process.

Consent:

It is possible for prisoners to be transferred without their consent from EU countries. This may happen where they were living in Ireland before their sentence or will be deported to Ireland after their sentence. In all other cases, you must give your consent to be transferred, for example if you were living in another country before your imprisonment. You must be given an opportunity to provide your opinion in relation to the transfer whether or not your consent is required.

Decision:

Once the judgement has been forward to Ireland by the sentencing country, it must be recognised by the court. The Minister will make an application (or an application will be made on his behalf) to the High court for recognition of the judgement and enforcement of the sentence. The court may grant or refuse the application.

Applications from other countries:

Approximately 68 countries have ratified the Council of Europe Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons. These include countries such as Australia, Canada and the United States as well as European countries. The rules for application can vary from country to country but you must apply in prison where you are. If you are interested in applying for transfer from a country outside of the UK or EU and would like some more information, please contact your ICPO Caseworker.

Conclusion

We are continuing to have regular meetings with the Irish Prison Service (IPS) – our most recent meeting was in early March. If you would like us to request an update on your application from the IPS, you will need to fill in a consent form which we can send you.

Catherine Kenny
Caseworker, Policy & Information Officer

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[1]Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden

Harry's
Interesting Facts from the World of Sport

These are the instances where the intersection of talent, determination, and circumstance produces something truly extraordinary. Let's delve into the archives and revisit some of the most legendary sporting moments that have captivated audiences and inspired generations.

What is the biggest sporting event of all time?

In terms of the public watching, the 2022 Qatar World Cup had 5.4 billion viewers, making it the most-watched sporting event of all time. The top three are:
2022 Qatar World Cup 5.4 Billion,
2008 Beijing Olympics 4.7 Billion,
2024 Tour de France 3.5 Billion.

What is the oldest sport in history?

Wrestling, mankind's oldest and most basic form of recreational combat, traces its origins back to the dawn of civilization. Carvings and drawings estimated to be between 15,000 and 20,000 years old, found in caves in southern Europe, illustrate wrestlers in hold and leverage positions.

What is the newest Olympic sport?

The newest Olympic sport at the 2024 Paris Games was breakdancing but it has not been included in the initial sports program for the 2028 Summer Games in Los Angeles. That means breakdancing could very well be a one-and-done sport in the Olympics

Football

The current record holder for the largest football stadium is the *Rungrado 1st of May Stadium in Pyongyang, North Korea*, which has a capacity of 114,000 people and hosts its national football team.

What is the biggest stadium in Europe?

Camp Nou, FC Barcelona. Capacity: 99,354. The stadium is a home of FC Barcelona team, and it is Europe's largest football stadium. Croke Park is the second biggest capacity in Europe .

Legendry Moments and People

Throughout history, certain legendary sports moments transcended competition to become cultural touchstones, forever etched in the memories of fans worldwide.

Jesse Owens' Triumph in Berlin (1936)

Against the backdrop of Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime, Jesse Owens, an African American track and field athlete, seized the spotlight at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Owens defied racial prejudice and expectations by winning four gold medals in the 100-metre, 200-metre, long jump, and 4x100 metres relay, showcasing his remarkable talent and resilience on the world stage.

The Rumble in the Jungle (1974)

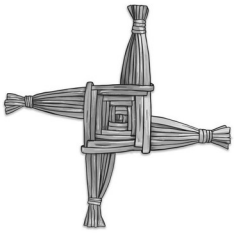
Kinshasa, Zaire, played host to one of the most iconic boxing matches in history, as Muhammad Ali faced off against George Foreman in "The Rumble in the Jungle."

Despite being considered past his prime, Ali employed his famous "rope-a-dope" strategy, absorbing Foreman's blows before staging a dramatic comeback to reclaim the heavyweight title and solidify his status as a sporting legend.

Sadly, George passed away on 21st of March this year at the age of 76.

The Hand of God: Maradona's Moment of Magic (1986)

The 1986 FIFA World Cup quarter-final between Argentina and England, Diego Maradona produced a moment of pure genius and controversy. His infamous "Hand of God" goal, where he covertly punched the ball into the net, was followed by a mesmerizing solo effort that saw him dribble past several English defenders before slotting the ball home. Maradona's brilliance encapsulated the highs and lows of sport, leaving an indelible mark on football history.



St Brigid and St Patrick

The Annals of the Four Masters record that legend has it that St Brigid was buried alongside St Patrick in Down Cathedral in Downpatrick. This may or may not be true, there is little known about the relationship between the two patron saints of Ireland. There is no proof that they ever met but there is no proof that they didn't either.

Brigid's father was a pagan chieftain and her mother was a slave who became a Christian after being baptised by St Patrick. Her father sold her mother while she was pregnant with Brigid and she was born into slavery. She endured much cruelty and hardship from slave masters but was reunited with her father at the age of 10. She dedicated her life to helping the poor and needy and stories of her healing and miracles spread throughout Ireland. As she grew older her commitment to the Christian faith inspired others to follow her and she founded many monasteries and nunneries where women could devote themselves to a life of prayer and service.

St Patrick's story is well known. His real name is Maewyn Succat, born to a wealthy family in Wales and captured at the age of 16 by Irish pirates and sold into slavery in Ireland. During his captivity he worked as a shepherd on Slemish mountain, His days filled with isolation and solitary prayer, he is said to have prayed up to 100 times a day. After six years he escaped his capture and made his way back home. He became a priest but felt a calling to go back to Ireland and spread the Gospel there. He travelled from place to place spreading the Gospel and converting people to Christianity.

Both St Brigid and St Patrick used symbols in their ministry to explain aspects of Christianity, St Patrick used a 3 leaf shamrock to explain the Trinity and St Brigid used a rough cross made from rushes to explain the crucifixion of Christ to a dying chieftain who later converted to Christianity. Each year groups of people weave St Brigid crosses and display them on their doors, many believe that placing a St Brigid Cross above the entrance of the home will protect it from fire and harm.

One legend associated with St Brigid is of a time she went to the King of Leinster and requested a piece of land to build her monastery on. He mockingly said that she could have as much land as her cloak could cover, when she laid her cloak on the ground it expanded to cover a large tract of land, more than enough to build her monastery.

St Patrick died on 17th March 461AD and St Brigid died in 525AD. It is likely they did meet at some point, and St Brigid was very possibly influenced by St Patrick. Whatever the truth might be, St Patrick was responsible for bringing Christianity to Ireland and St Brigid was one of the many who followed in his footsteps preaching the Gospel, helping the poor and promoting education, laying the groundwork for generations of Irish people to follow in her footsteps. St Brigid is a beloved saint of Ireland and the dedication in 2022 of 1st February as a bank holiday in her honour was a welcome event in recent Irish calendar, giving her the recognition she deserves as a patron saint of Ireland.

Bernie Martin, ICPO

ICPO Writing Competition

My favourite Place in Ireland

Let us know about your favourite place

- Why don't you let us know about a place in Ireland that you love.
- What makes this place so special to you?
- What is it about this place that makes you feel happy?

The competition is open to all ICPO clients. Entries should be no more than 600 words. Prizes of **€50, €30** and **€20** (or equivalent) will be awarded for the 3 best entries which will be published in the autumn edition of ICPO News. Other entries may be published in future editions.

So what do you say? Ready to share your wisdom and make a difference?

Your entries (which can be handwritten or typed) must reach us here at:
ICPO, Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co Kildare, Ireland,
Closing date: **31st July 2025**

We always encourage new writers so give it a go...

Did You Know.....

It's cheaper to film in Ireland than Los Angeles (for now)

Over 850 productions have claimed Irish tax relief since 2016 showing Ireland is a major player in the global film industry

Hollywood actor Rob Lowe is perhaps best known for his role as White House speech writer Sam Seaborn on the TV show *The West Wing.* Lowe said that his hit game show The Floor was actually filmed in Ireland. "It's cheaper to bring one hundred American people to Ireland", Lowe said, "than to walk across the lot at Fox, past the sound stages, and do it there"

Lowe explained that filming in Dublin was cheaper than filming in Los Angeles due to the myriad of tax incentives available here (amongst other things). Ireland has long operated a favourable tax regime for film production. Prior to 2015, there existed for many years a tax relief scheme for those eager to invest in film.

The Green Yard. The Long Mile

How? What? Why? Where? When? Who? How it began? What it began? Why it began? Where it began? When it began? Who began it? Questions to build my story. At best that's what a gastronomy teacher once said. So not in my tale.

My story is short. It begins as I tell you. Somewhere, right now, somebody is opening a door hatch. Anticipation builds. Minds query the welcome intrusion. My name is called here. My name is not so commonly known. Pronunciation can be problematic. Eochain comes close but it is John. It's the shop order form. Complete before lights out. Return to breakfast trolley. Shop items arrive several days later. Why couldn't I just walk to the shop? This is the story. Sherlock Holmes might even say 'My dear Watson, the game is afoot!' Which it is. Both are a size 9 ½.

There is a boxed in area. Like five aside football, four spaces stand either side of a foot path (the mid-field line). All spaces are constructed of concrete, painted white and have razor sharp bladed wire forming the ceiling in a latticed criss-cross assembly. Each space is 20 square metres in area, walls are 3 metres high, a centrally located section about 2 metres and 1 metre contains living grass. The grass is maintained but not like by the characters of John B Keane's book 'The Field'. This place is not where an inch is a mile and a dolphin is a man's best friend. An Bord Fáilte is not nearby. Nobody is going for a harp lager tonight. Nobody will fry an egg on any hot stones. There aren't any raw eggs. Salmonella is another story.

The ceiling of criss-crossed razor sharp lattice prevents lift off to outer space. This is the inner space. Where space matters. Where mind is more than matter. What matters is where mind matters. What does spatial area matter? It's a question. It bothers some, troubles others, generates exhilaration and hope in most. Space, the final frontier. It's not far from the Ukraine. Their front line is several hundred kilometres away. Air traffic draws attention. But back to earth.

The grass may be perennial rye grass. It grows, it survives in the concrete spaces. The soil beneath is compressed. Earth and mammals have co-existed for thousands of years. Grass likes to be chewed but not cut. Earth prefers mammals trodding on it. It's an interaction. It's evolved. Just like mice and humans having similarities in DNA because of evolutionary association, is grass DNA similar too?

Like grey hounds and horses at the start line waiting for the doors. They're off! Sprinting, galloping, running doesn't happen in the spaces. But still, they're off, and in, locked in but outside. .Alone or in a group. When alone space is infinite. When with others space is defined but not finite. Every centimetre is important. Fresh air is important. Nasal passage stinging from inhalation of fine concrete dust is important. Mother nature exists here too. Here she erodes the concrete walls. Thousands of paths about one centimetre in diameter have been formed across the entire area of those walls. Biodiversity and ecosystems co-exist in those carved out cavers. Mother nature is always at work.

Those caverns speckle the white concrete walls like star speckled galaxies. Passing swiftly by, can create a problem for the normally unfelt circular motions of both eyes. Here it can make one dizzy. Standing aside or sitting on a two seater bench helps recovery . Its occupants legs are obstacles and require agility to avoid. Those standing aside are inserted chess pieces. Roy Keane, Christie Ring and Jack Lynch would take personal pride in the foot work shown around the dolmen and ogham stones. New frontiers, to boldly go where no one has gone before. Like monoliths, the obstacles, if any, change during the hour at no notice. Both the paths continue. Like the four seasons, the four paths change with ice, snow, rain and sun. Wind-swept and hand swept concrete paths surrounding the grass patch make up no more than 20 metres in total length.

When the walls are hugged and the corners taken sharply to consume every centimetre a foot can take. 1,000 metres in a kilometre. 1610 metres in a mile. International standards are created. Measurements are scientific. Quantifiers have concluded 5 kilometres in one hour. Here, an advertisement by An Bord Fáilte is a fantasy and knowing where Inch is a mile is a memory. Here, there is the green grass, it's green, it's in the middle of the spaces where all things co-exist. For, my friend here you must know is the green yard, the long mile.

J. D.

Smidín Gaeilge

Haló! *Hello!*

Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú? *How are you?*

Tá súil agam go bhfuil tú go maith. *I hope you are keeping well*

Iompar

Transport

Carr	*Core*	Car
Trucail	*Truckle*	Truck
Tarracóir	*Taracore*	Tractor
Traein	*Train*	Train
Éitleán	*Ech-lawn*	Airplane
Rothar	*Ruhur*	Bicyle
Gluaisrothar	*Glooshruhur*	Motorbike
Tacsaí	*Taxi*	Taxi
Veain	*Van*	Van
Bus	*Bus*	Bus

Cén t-am atá an chéad bus eile le teacht?

Cayn tom ataw on cade bus ella egg tockt?

What time is the next bus coming?

Tá an bus déanach inniu.

Taw on bus dane-ock in-you.

The bus is late today

Tá an farraige garbh inniu.

Taw on far-iga garuv in-you

The sea is rough today

Ticéad fillte chuig Baile Átha Cliath le do thoil.

Tickayd filcha quig Bol-ya aw-ha clee-a leh duh hell.

A return ticket to Dublin please

Cén costas atá ar thicéad?

Cayn custas ataw air hick-ayd?

How much is a ticket?

Tá tonnta móra le feicéail.

Taw tunta more-a le feic-awl

There are big waves out there.

Long	*Lung*	Ship
Bád	*Bawd*	Boat
Bád Farrantóireacht	*Bawn far-un-tore oct*	Ferry

The Big Quiz

Answer these questions and return to us in the envelope provided.

There will be three prizes of €30

ALL "TINGS" IRISH

1 What are the largest and smallest counties in Ireland?

2 Name the river that flows through Belfast?

3 Feargal Sharkey, Billy Doherty were members of which Irish band?

4 Fathers Jack, Ted and Dougal lived on which fictional island?

5 In the 1990s and beyond, what was the term given to rapid economic growth in Ireland?

6 Which Irish Soccer player has the most caps for Ireland?

7 How many gold medals did Ireland win at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris?

8 What was the name of the song U2 wrote about former chat show host David Letterman after his visit to Dublin?

9 In 1951 which film was shot on location in Cong, County Mayo directed by John Ford?

10 What traditional instrument does Sharon Corr (of The Corrs) play?

11 Which Irish city is also known as "the city of the tribes"?

12 How many times have Ireland won the Eurovision Song contest?

13 How many goals did Roy Keane score for Ireland 5, 7 or 9?

14 In what band did Niall Horan start his musical career ?

15. How many James Bond movies did Pierce Brosnan make?

16 How long is a term in office for an Irish president?

17 The first St. Patrick's Day parade wasn't held in the Republic of Ireland. Where was it held?

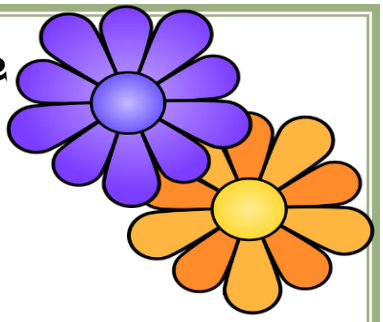
18 The Late Late chat show was first aired in what decade?

19 In what year did Roy Keane quit the world cup in Saipan?

20 In which country was St Patrick born?

Challenge yourself!

Word Scramble



MAY

A month when flowers bloom
And the weather gets warmer

EENRG	_____	IHSNNSUE	_____
GHITL	_____	LOFREW	_____
LLAIC	_____	OMSSLOB	_____
ASRSG	_____	LDABGUY	_____
BTRUTELYF	_____	PATLN	_____
OBLMO	_____	EGADNR	_____
SDSEE	_____	ISNRGP	_____
ICPINC	_____	PUITL	_____
RESO	_____	ANTWMR	_____
SRDIB	_____	MBULEEBBE	_____

Maths Riddles

A. I am thinking of a number.

If you multiply me by 4, you get 48.
If you subtract 5 from me, you get 7.
What number am I?

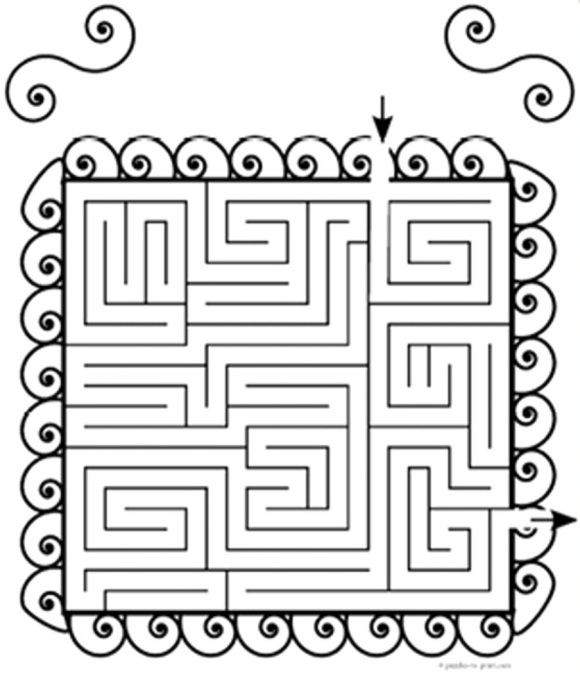
B. I am a number less than 100.

If you add 15 to me, the result is a perfect square.
If you subtract 9 from me, the result is a multiple of 5.
What number am I?

C. I am a two-digit number.

My ones digit is three times my tens digit.
The sum of my digits is 12.
What number am I?

Curlycue



Courtesy Puzzles to Print

Challenge yourself!

Fill in grid so that each column, row and diagonal add up to the given sum

The sum is 102

	42		
36	**21**	**18**	
24	**33**		
39			**48**

The sum is 34

			1
	11		**14**
3	**10**		
	5	**9**	**4**

The sum is 102

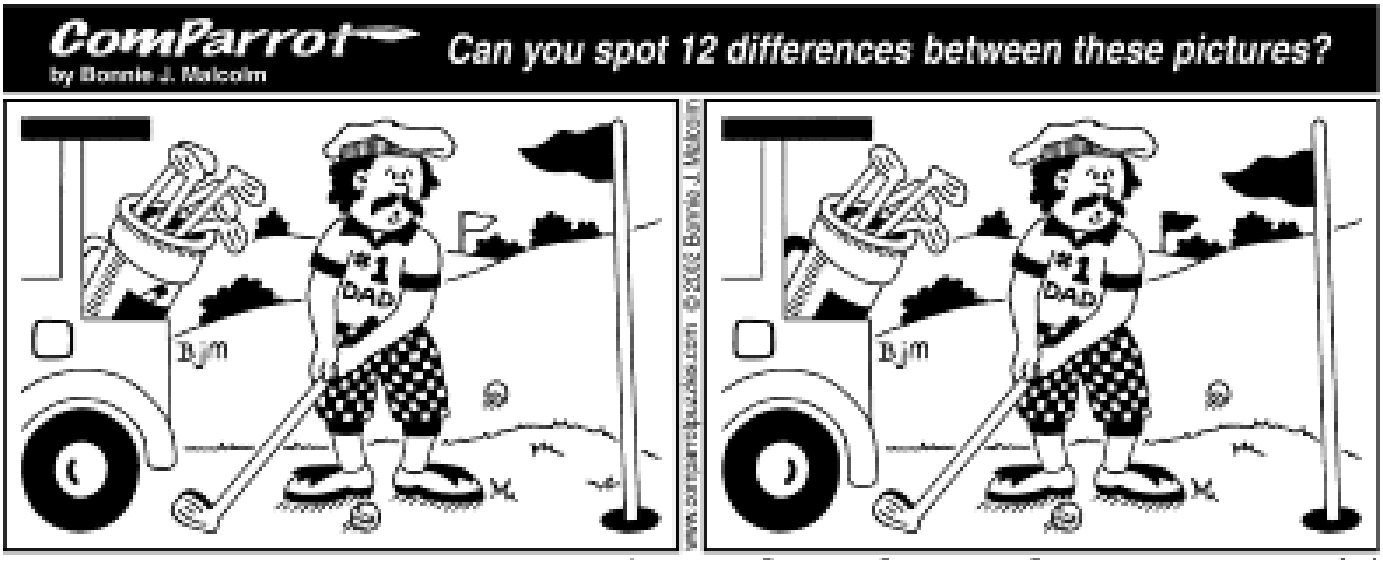
48			
	30	**33**	**24**
			36
	45	**42**	**3**

The sum is 136

		48	**4**
8			**56**
	40		
	20	**36**	**16**

James Bond Quiz

1. Which actor has played Bond the most?
2. What was the name of the bowler hat throwing henchman in Goldfinger ?
3. Which actor played Saramanger in The Man with the Golden Gun?
4. Which Irishman played Bond?
5. True or False One of Bonds gadget was Poison Chewing gum
6. Which Band sang the theme song a View to a Kill?
7. Name the film that was Daniel Craig's first outing as OO7?
8. How many actors have played Bond?
9. First Bond Movie to win two Oscars?
10. What rank does Bond have in the armed Forces?



Challenge yourself!

Wordsearch

The Countryside

BEACH
BEETLE
BOG
BUSH
BUTTERFLY
CROW
DEER
DUCKS
FISH
FOREST
FOX
FROG
FUNGUS
GRASS
HEDGE

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

HONEY BEE
INSECTS
LAKE
LANE
MAGPIES
MICE
PARKS
PIGEON
POND
RIVER
ROBIN
SEAGULLS
SPIDERS
STREAMS
TREES

Crossword

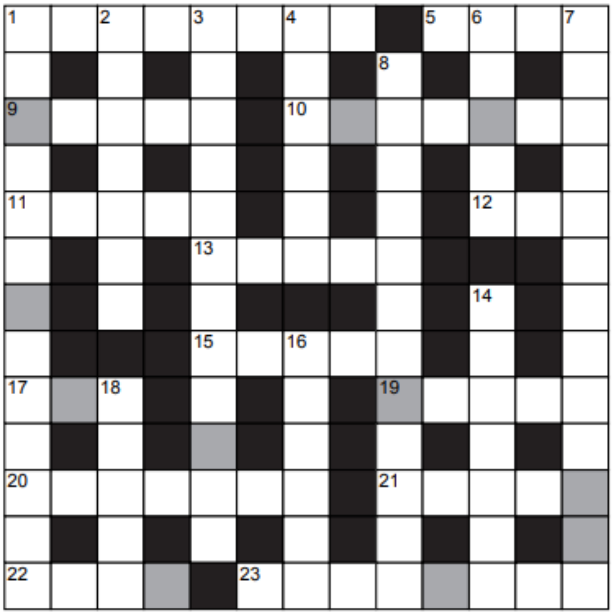
Across

1 Rays of natural light (8)
5 Having inherent ability (4)
9 Confusion (3-2)
10 Stinted (anag.) (7)
11 Church singers (5)
12 Recede (3)
13 Urge into action (5)
15 Follow on from (5)
17 Argument against something (3)
19 Pledge (5)
20 Land with fruit trees (7)
21 Brass instrument (5)
22 Before long (4)
23 Person who supports a cause (8)

Down

1 Partially awake (13)
2 Harmful (7)
3 Based on untested ideas (12)
4 Amusingly eccentric (6)
6 Illegal payment (5)
7 Institution (13)
8 Hard to fathom (12)
14 Nestle up against (7)
16 Protected from direct sunlight (6)
18 Tortilla topped with cheese (5)

Unscramble the letters in the shaded squares to reveal a themed word:



Courtesy: Richardson Puzzles and Games

Challenge yourself!

Word Puzzle Pictures

1

noon good

2

STORM

TH

3

etib

4

S
t
A
n
D

ME

5

6

STANDS ME

0,2,3,4,5,6

7

S
L
O
W

8

111

111

Other
Other
Other
Other
Other
Other

9

T T T
I I I
S S S

10

if

11

sochickup

12

SPOT

Sudoku

		6			8			4
5		1				9		8
			6	2	9		1	3
		8		1			9	
	4	2	8		5	7	3	
	7			9		8		
2	6		9	8	3			
8		7				6		9
4			2			3		

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Each Sudoku grid has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must ever 3x3 square.

Answers

Spot the Difference: 1. End of golf club in bag is missing. 2.Pencil in bag pocket is missing. 3.Grass beside flagpole is missing. 4.Bag strap is coloured in. 5.Flag in distance is coloured in. 6.Line on hubcap has moved. 7.Bush in background has moved. 8.Ball behind player has moved. 9.Fender on golf cart is longer. 10.Flag is lower on pole. 11.Mans hat is wider. 12.Cart roof is wider

Word Puzzle Pictures: 1. Good afternoon. 2. Thunderstorm.3. Backbite. 4. Stand by me. 5. Decide. 6.Noone understands me. 7.Slow Down.8. Six of one, half dozen of the other. 9. Sit Ups. 10.A big IF.11. Chicken Soup.12 X marks the spot. James Bond Quiz: 1. Roger Moore. 2. Odd Job. 3. Christopher Lee. 4. Pierce Brosnan. 5. True. 6. Duran Duran.7.Casino Royale 8. 7. 9.Skyfall.10.Commander

S	U	N	B	E	A	M	S		A	B	L	E		
E		O		X		A		U		R		S		
M	I	X	U	P		D	E	N	T	I	S	T		
I		I		E		C		B		B		A		
C	H	O	I	R		A		E		E	B	B		
O		U		I	M	P	E	L				L		
N		S		M				I		S		I		
S				E	N	S	U	E		N		S		
C	O	N		N		H		V	O	U	C	H		
I		A		T		A		A		G		M		
O	R	C	H	A	R	D		B	U	G	L	E		
U		H		L		E		L		L		N		
S	O	O	N		A	D	H	E	R	E	N	T		

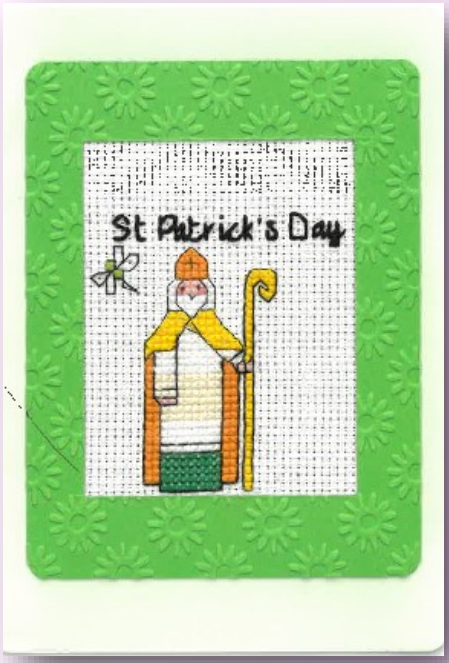
Keyword: ENVIRONMENT

Word Scramble: Green, Light, Lilac, Grass, Butterfly, Bloom, Seeds, Picnic, Rose, Birds, Sunshine, Flower, Blossom, Ladybug, Plamt, Gardner, Spring, Tulip, Warmth, Bumblebee.

Maths Riddles

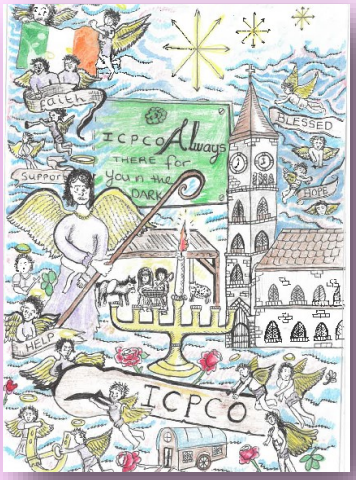
A..12.B.34.C..39

Design A Card Results



1st Prize

Chris Wray, UK



2nd Prize

I. L. B., UK

3rd prize

Chris Wray,

Online Family Meetings

Every month, the ICPO holds an online meeting for those with a loved one in prison overseas

Every month, the ICPO holds an online meeting for those with a loved one in prison overseas. Everyone is welcome to join and the meetings provide an opportunity for families and friends to share worries, ask questions and get advice & information for others who are in a similar situation.

They take place on the last Thursday of the month at 11am and last for approx. an hour.

We're now planning to hold an online evening meeting to facilitate those who can't make the day time meetings.

This will take place on Tuesday 10th June from 7-8 pm.

Depending on the levels of interest and availability, we will hold these evening meetings on a more regular basis. Details will be circulated by email so if you or your family member is interested in participating, please ensure that Ciara has the correct email address by sending it to Ciara.kirrane@icpo.ie or contacting the office in Maynooth.