



# ICPO NEWS

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## Repatriation Figures for 2014 Report from the Minister for Justice and Equality

### What is repatriation?

Repatriation refers to the process whereby a prisoner returns to the country he is from to serve his sentence in a prison near his family and other social supports. Repatriation is an important issue for many ICPO clients who wish to serve their sentence close to their families. Transfer to an Irish prison also provides people with an opportunity to adequately prepare for their release, allowing them to access essential supports and services in Ireland. People should be aware that this is a long process and it can take up to two years or more to receive a decision on an application for repatriation.

### Those eligible to apply and how the process works

Transfers to Ireland are governed by the Transfer of Sentenced Persons Acts, which ratified the Council of Europe Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons. In order for a transfer to take place there must be three-way consent; the prisoner, the sentencing country and the prisoner's home country must all agree to the transfer.

There are four conditions that must be satisfied for a person to be eligible to apply for repatriation:

**The prisoner must be a citizen of the country to which they wish to be transferred.**

In some cases it may be sufficient to be a permanent resident of the country rather than a citizen.

**The sentence is final.**

A prisoner cannot apply for transfer until they have been tried, convicted and all appeals have been concluded.

**There must be at least six months left to serve on the sentence.**

**The crime the prisoner is convicted of must also be a crime in the country to which he/she will be transferred.**

The aim of repatriation is to allow for social rehabilitation so a major consideration is whether the prisoner has close family members in Ireland who would visit him/her in prison. It is unlikely that an application for repatriation will be approved if the prisoner's family will not be visiting him/her in prison in Ireland or offering them support in the community following their release.

The first step in the process is to inform the prison authorities that you are interested in being repatriated to Ireland. This will be considered by the relevant authorities in the country you are in.

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Dublin Castle

**ICPO 30th anniversary conference to be held in Dublin Castle  
on 1st December, 2015**

# The ICPO

It is estimated that at any one time there are up to 1,000 Irish people in prison overseas. The ICPO has contact with Irish people in prisons in more than twenty countries, the majority of whom are in the UK with many more detained throughout the US, Australia, Europe, South and Central America and the Far East.

The Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas (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 the ICPO has been able to offer a more comprehensive service to prisoners and to expand our existing services to prisoners' families. Currently the 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 objectives of the ICPO are to:

- Identify and respond to the needs of Irish prisoners abroad, and their families;
- Research and provide relevant information to prisoners on issues such as deportation, repatriation and transfer;
- Focus public attention on issues affecting Irish prisoners (ill-treatment, racist abuse, etc);
- Engage in practical work in aid of justice and human rights for Irish migrants, refugees and prisoners at an international level;
- Visit Irish prisoners abroad where possible both in the UK and elsewhere.

## STAFF

### Maynooth

Brian Hanley, Catherine Jackson, Claire O'Connell, Ian Hanna and Bernie Martin.

### London

Fr. Gerry McFlynn, Liz Power, Breda Power, Declan Ganley and Russel Harland.

### Volunteers

Maynooth: Sr. Agnes Hunt, Eileen Boyle, Joan O'Cléirigh and Sr. Anne Sheehy.

London: Sr. Maureen McNally, Jayne O'Connor, Sally Murphy, Sr. Agnes Miller, Sara Thompson, Sr. Moira Keane, Sr. Marie Power and Kathleen Walsh.

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How we may be contacted:

### ICPO, Columba Centre

Maynooth, Co. Kildare, W23P6D3, Ireland  
Tel: 01-505-3156 Fax: 01-629-2363  
Email: [icpo@iecon.ie](mailto:icpo@iecon.ie)

### ICPO, 50-52 Camden Square

London NW1 9XB, England  
Tel: 0207-482-4148 Fax: 0207-482-4815  
Email: [prisoners@irishchaplaincy.org.uk](mailto:prisoners@irishchaplaincy.org.uk)

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## Greetings from all in the ICPO!

This edition of the newsletter looks at some of the important issues to be considered when planning for your release and return to Ireland. The most important thing is to start getting organised in plenty of time. ICPO can assist you with this and hopefully help make the transition back to life in Ireland as smooth as possible.

We also take a look at the repatriation figures for 2014. Disappointingly, nobody was returned. However, those of you interested in returning to Ireland to serve your sentence here should not be deterred. There are lengthy delays in processing applications but if your family and other supports are in Ireland and this is where you believe your future lies you should continue to apply. Please write to our London or Maynooth office for advice on the process.

The past 9 months have seen quite a few changes in personnel here in Maynooth. After 3 years of wonderful service to the ICPO, Joanna Joyce has moved on to pastures new. She will be greatly missed. I have returned to the role of Coordinator and will endeavour to serve you as best as I can in the months and years ahead. We also welcome 2 new members to our team. Claire O'Connell is the new Caseworker and Family Support Officer assigned to those in prison in Australia, Asia, South and Central America, Africa and the Middle East. Ian Hanna has also joined us while Kate Jackson is on leave. His remit covers Europe, the US and Canada. They both bring a wonderful energy and competence to their work and we are delighted to have them on board.

This year marks ICPO's 30<sup>th</sup> year working with Irish prisoners overseas and their families. While much has changed in that time our commitment to you has not. We will be holding a conference in Dublin Castle on the 1<sup>st</sup> December this year - at which time two pieces of research will be launched. They focus on the resettlement needs of ex-prisoners returning to Ireland and on the needs of elderly Irish prisoners in the UK. A commemorative newsletter will also be sent to you before year end and we are running a number of competitions for poetry, short stories and art (the details of which are contained in this edition of the newsletter). Prizes will be given to the winners and I would encourage you all to consider entering.

I would also like to thank those of you who contributed to our poetry and letters page. We always want to hear from you so please keep your contributions coming in. There is a very interesting article on doing yoga in prison - provided to us by The Phoenix Trust. Perhaps some of you might consider giving it a go and letting us know how you got on. I would like to extend special thanks to Caitriona Ní Bhaoil, author of Smídín Gaeilge and to Bernie Martin for her wonderful story 'Hens'.

Finally, I would like to thank the ICPO staff and volunteers for their hard work in putting this newsletter together.

**Brian Hanley**  
ICPO Coordinator

## Repatriation (Continued from Page 1)

Should they agree in principle to your transfer, the Irish Department of Justice and Equality (DOJE) will then undertake a review of the application and this will include the preparation of reports by the Gardaí, the Probation Service and the Chief State Solicitor's Office.

Upon completion of these reports, a final report will be sent to the Minister who will decide whether to approve your request for transfer. Should the Minister consent, both the applicant and the sending country will be notified. Consent from both these parties is necessary to reach a concluded agreement. At this juncture the sending and receiving countries will liaise over how and when to affect the transfer. The receiving country (Ireland) will need to obtain a warrant from the High Court as part of this process.

*Table A  
Inward Transfers - Work Processed in 2014*

Number of Applications Received in 2014	24
Number of Applications from previous years active at start of 2014	24
Number Transferred in 2014	0
Number Refused	5
Number Withdrawn	2
Number Deemed Closed	5
Number Released	4
Number of applications active at end of 2014 (see Table B)	32

### **Transfer Figures for 2014**

#### **APPLICATIONS FOR TRANSFER INTO IRELAND**

Table "A" details the work processed in 2014 in respect of applications received for transfer into Ireland. In addition to the applications received in 2014 (twenty four), it also includes twenty four applications which were under consideration from the previous years.

Twenty Four applications for transfer into this jurisdiction were received in 2014. Of these applications, thirteen were from the United Kingdom, four from Northern Ireland, two from Spain, one each from

Sweden, Germany, Japan, Lithuania and Latvia. At the end of 2014, there were thirty two inward applications under active consideration. The status of these particular applications, which were at various stages of consideration (some more advanced than others), is listed in Table "B".

### **Outstanding questions**

The report also indicates that since 2010, 64 prisoners have applied to be transferred from the UK to serve their sentence in an Irish prison. Only 4 prisoners have been transferred during that time. Irish prisoners in the UK serving either determinate or indeterminate sentences will have their applications accepted by the Department of Justice and Equality (DOJE). However, owing to recent (and pending) court cases, these applications are not being fully processed and applicants are effectively in limbo. ICPO has raised its concerns about this with DOJE officials and will continue to work with them to see how this impasse might be overcome.

It is important to note that this does not impact on life sentenced prisoners in the UK applying for transfer. Life sentenced prisoners with a tariff can apply for repatriation to Ireland, but they should expect to serve at least the period of the tariff in an Irish prison and possibly longer, depending on the length of the tariff. Once you return to Ireland it will be up to the Irish Parole Board to decide when you should be released. Please be aware that in Ireland a life sentenced prisoner can now expect to serve approximately 22 years in prison.

Those applying from countries other than the UK are fewer and the above issues do not necessarily apply. However, they may experience added delays owing to the need for documents to be translated etc.

### **Conclusion**

These issues require further examination in future newsletters as there are simply too many to be addressed here. Please contact ICPO if you are considering applying for a transfer to Ireland so that we can provide you with the information you require in making your application.

**Brian Hanley**  
**ICPO Coordinator**

*Table B : Inward Transfers, Active Applications at end of 2014*

	Applied 2011	Applied 2012	Applied 2013	Applied 2014	Total
Awaiting advice from CSSO and other reports	-	1	4	8	13
Awaiting further papers from sentencing state	-	1	2	1	4
Awaiting further information from prisoner	-	-	-	4	4
Awaiting consent of prisoner and sentencing state	2	-	-	3	5
Awaiting Probation Report	1		-	-	1
Approved and pending transfer		3	-	-	3
Total	3	5	6	16	30

# Preparing for

We often hear that the time leading up to release is particularly stressful. You may have a great many questions about your future; about where you will stay and what you will do. Some of you will opt to remain in the country you find yourself presently (such as the UK), others will opt to return to Ireland voluntarily; while a small number will be deported here. Irrespective of which category you find yourself - it is good to plan for your release as best you can.

It is not possible to address every grouping mentioned above in one article, so this piece will focus on those of you returning to Ireland (voluntarily or otherwise); the practical things you need to consider and what supports might be available to you.

## 1. Pre Release Preparation

If possible, you should begin preparing well in advance of your release date.

### *Proof of Detention*

You should gather and keep any documentation you have in relation to your detention. This documentation will be helpful if you return to Ireland and wish to access social welfare.

### *Travel Documents*

If you are planning to return to Ireland and do not have a passport or it is now out of date, you will need to apply for one through the local Irish Embassy. The ICPO can assist you with this and in gathering other documentation that you may need, such as your birth certificate.

If you will be travelling on an emergency passport or temporary travel document, you should make a photocopy or ask the Embassy to provide you with a photocopy. The original may be taken from you when you enter Ireland and a photocopy will help to verify your identification.

### *Preparation for Applying for Social Welfare in Ireland:*

Along with gathering documentation that can prove your detention, anything you can do to gather documentation that can prove the time you spent living abroad and in Ireland previously, is advised.

### Contact Us:

ICPO can provide information, advice and referrals around employment and accommodation. There are a small number of residential programmes in Ireland that are available to help people who have recently been released from prison. The ICPO may be able to refer you to one of these programmes if it is suitable to your needs. Please note that referrals to these programmes must be made well in advance of your return to Ireland. We can also set up a meeting for you with Crosscare Migrant Project (CMP) who can advise you about social welfare, healthcare or emergency accommodation.

## 2. Release and Return to Ireland

### *Deportation*

In some countries foreign national prisoners are deported by the authorities upon the completion of their sentence. Whether or not you will be deported will depend on the country in which you are detained. Some countries will automatically deport an overseas prisoner if they have served a certain amount of time in prison or if they have any previous criminal convictions. Please contact the ICPO for more information about this. Save in the most exceptional of circumstances Irish prisoners in the UK will not be deported.

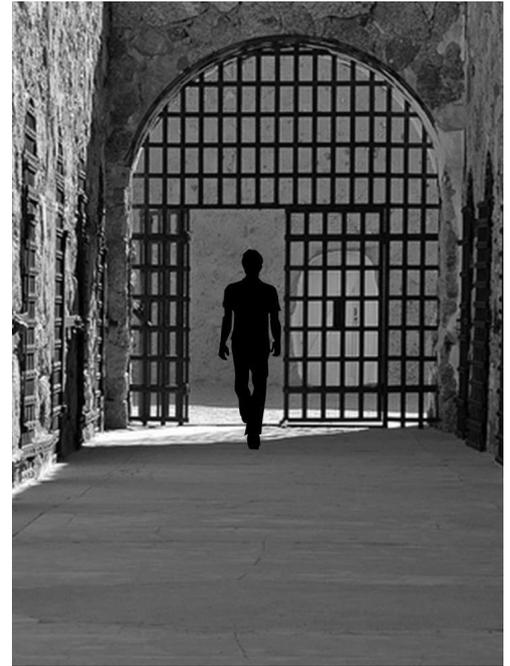
It is very important that you hold on to whatever documentation you are given in respect of your imprisonment and subsequent deportation. This material will be helpful in obtaining benefits when you return to Ireland.

# Release

In some countries prisoners will be required to pay for their flight back to Ireland. If this is the case you will need to prepare for this ahead of time and if possible, begin saving. You may need to liaise with your family or other supports in relation to this. Unfortunately, the ICPO is unable to pay for these flights.

## ***Transfer to Ireland while on Licence***

If you have been released on licence in the UK, it may be possible to return to Ireland under the supervision of the Irish Probation Service whilst still on license. This is decided on a case by case basis. Please contact the ICPO for further information about this. It is important to note that there may be serious consequences for leaving the UK without permission, while on licence.



## **3. Arriving in Ireland**

Where necessary and appropriate (for example if you do not have any family support in Ireland) an ICPO caseworker can meet you when you arrive in Dublin airport if you wish. This will provide an opportunity for you to sit down with the caseworker and to discuss what will happen over the next few days.

## **4. Finding Accommodation and Accessing Benefits**

The ICPO can make an appointment for you to meet an Information Officer from Crosscare Migrant Project, which is based in Dublin city centre. Crosscare Migrant Project provides advice and support to returned Irish emigrants in areas such as access to social welfare, accommodation and healthcare.

### ***Social Welfare***

For returning emigrants, the main qualifying criteria to be aware of is the Habitual Residence Condition (HRC). The HRC is essentially a test to see if you have made Ireland your home. Residency and employment history, family ties and future intentions are key aspects of your situation which are examined by a deciding officer.

### ***Accommodation***

If you are arriving back to Ireland with no pre-arranged accommodation or only temporary accommodation, we strongly advise that you access the supports of ICPO and CMP.

### ***Healthcare***

If you return to Ireland to live you will be entitled to access the public health care system. Depending on your income you may also be entitled to a Medical Card which would mean you would generally not be charged for any public health services including GP visits and most prescriptions.

## **5. Post Release Support**

The ICPO invites all former clients to visit our office in Maynooth, Co Kildare after they have been back in Ireland for a few weeks/months. This gives former clients the opportunity to meet our staff and to discuss any issues or problems they are facing with an ICPO Caseworker. We are also contactable by phone as people try to get things organised in the first few weeks after their return.

A well thought out plan, made in good time, will greatly reduce the stress and anxiety associated with returning to Ireland. ICPO is more than happy to help you in your preparations.

**Brian Hanley**

# Update from London ICPO Office

Summer 2015

The past twelve months have been a very busy time for the ICPO London office. All twelve London prisons are visited on a regular basis and we also have prison visitors for the south, the south-west and Merseyside. We are fortunate to have a team of dedicated volunteer prison visitors including long-serving ICPO worker, **Sr Maureen McNally**, who covers the south of England, **Jayne O'Connor** based in the south west and **Sally Murphy** who visits the prisons on Merseyside. These visits generate a considerable amount of follow-up casework the bulk of which is handled by **Liz Power** with help from part-time caseworker, **Russel Harland**.

**Breda Power** is responsible for visiting the London prisons and the follow-up casework. Other volunteer helpers are **Sr Agnes Miller** who looks after the female prison of Bronzefield in south west London and **Kathy Walsh** who takes care of Holloway. **Sara Thompson** visits Send, the only other female prison close to London. The team is augmented by the services of **Sr Maire Power** who visits The Mount prison just outside London while the work of **Sr Moira Keane** in keeping records and files up-to-date and taking phonecalls is invaluable. We are particularly fortunate in having the help and support of **Noeleen Curran** at the Irish Embassy. In addition, to her own prison-visiting, Noeleen keeps in regular contact with our office in relation to issues, etc.

With prisoners from a Traveller background comprising almost 40% of the Irish prisoner population, we work very closely with the Irish Chaplaincy's Traveller Project. Here the help and support of **Conn MacGabhann** and **Ellena Costello** are invaluable. **Declan Ganly** as office administrator is adept at providing the IT backup required for all this work.

**Prison-visiting** throughout the length and breadth of England and Wales is now proving difficult and expensive in terms of time, travel and accommodation. Irish prisoners now vie with Polish prisoners for the unenviable title of the largest

ethnic group within the prison system. Most visits are made via the prison Chaplaincy. However, increasingly in recent months visits are being made via the prison Diversity and Equality Department which is responsible for the welfare of foreign nationals.

## **Register as "Irish" in prison to facilitate ICPO visits**

It is crucially important that Irish prisoners register as "Irish" in the prison; otherwise, the prison may not consider them eligible for visits from the ICPO. This is particularly true of those prisons in the high security estate. So make sure you are signed up as W2 and/or W3.

We also continue our important **advocacy work** on issues affecting Irish prisoners such as repatriation, deportation, the plight of IPP prisoners and the serving of life sentences in Ireland. All this is in addition to the daily count of letters, phonecalls and emails.

Please be realistic in what you ask us to do. There are many issues that are of a legal nature which we cannot deal with as we are not a LEGAL organisation. Also, we cannot find or recommend solicitors for prisoners. The best advice here is to trawl through the pages of Inside Time.

## **Repatriation and Transfer**

**The repatriation process** continues to be painfully slow. The criteria remain the same: strong family ties (parents, spouses and children) all resident in Ireland. Other family members simply don't count. Please notify the ICPO if you wish to be considered for repatriation.

**Transfer to Northern Ireland** is also a problem. The three prisons there - Maghaberry, Magilligan and Hydebank Wood (Female and YOI) are currently full with priority given to prisoners with current addresses in Northern Ireland.

## **Deportation and TERS**

At present the policy is that **Irish nationals cannot be deported** (except in exceptional

# Update from London ICPO Office

Summer 2015

circumstances). No Irish prisoner has been deported since the agreement between the British and Irish governments in February 2007. As a consequence of that agreement, Irish prisoners cannot benefit from TERS (Tariff Expiry and Release Scheme).

## **Bullying**

It has come to our attention in recent times that a number of Irish prisoners are being pressured or threatened into joining prison gangs with a particular religious radicalism attached to them. This is bullying and utterly unacceptable. Irish prisoners experiencing any such bullying, intimidation or proselytising should contact ICPO at the earliest opportunity.

## **Steer clear of Spice**

Spice is just one of a growing multitude of brand names for synthetic cannabis - designer chemicals that mimic the psychoactive effectiveness of marijuana. The drugs are designed to have a structure similar to THC, the active ingredient in cannabis, meaning that they bind to the same receptors in the brain

and produce a similar "high". Last year's Global Drug Survey, which surveys users about their experiences, suggested that users of synthetic cannabis were seven times more likely to need hospital treatment than those smoking the traditional form of the drug. So be aware and steer clear of it!

## **The Recent General Election**

The result of the recent General Election has filled many people within the criminal justice system with dismay and a sense of foreboding. For the past five years the Tory-led Coalition has taken a hard line on the re-structuring of the Probation Service, the abolition of legal aid and the unchecked progress of privatisation. The rhetoric about improving performance and efficiency has given way to an ideological obsession with market forces. Will the wisdom and advice of reform groups such as the Howard League and the Prison Reform Trust fall on deaf ears? It will be interesting to watch developments in the coming months.

**Fr Gerry McFlynn  
July 2015**

## **ICPO Penfriend Scheme**



**The aim of the scheme is to enable Irish people in prison abroad to keep in touch with everyday life in Ireland. It can also help with any loneliness and isolation that you might be experiencing.**

**If you do not already have a penfriend and would like to maintain a friendly correspondence with one of our volunteers, please write to us for an application form.**

**Our contact address is:**

**ICPO  
Columba Centre  
Maynooth  
Co Kildare  
W23 P6D3  
Ireland**

# FAMILY ISSUES



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?

## Introductions

My name is Claire O'Connell and I am delighted to be able to introduce myself as the new Caseworker & Family Support Officer here at the ICPO. As you will know, my predecessor Brian Hanley is now our ICPO Coordinator and I would like to thank him and all at the ICPO for making me so welcome and ensuring such a smooth transition.

I assist Irish prisoners in Australia, South America, Africa and Asia (including the Middle East). I also work to support families with loved ones in prison in the UK, working closely with our London office. Many family members and prisoners will already have had some contact with me since I joined the ICPO in November 2014, but this is my first

opportunity to formally introduce myself and tell you a little about myself.

Before coming to the ICPO I worked in the legal profession in the UK and Ireland for a number of years and through that work met many individuals and families dealing with difficult and upsetting issues. I have also lived and worked abroad (in East Asia) and understand some of the challenges and dangers that expats can face and the difficulties of dealing with a foreign system. I am delighted to take up this role and be in a position to help some of our most vulnerable Irish and their families. I look forward to getting to know more of you in the coming months...

### Examples of the family work that ICPO do:

- ◆ Advising families on the processes around arrest and detention and specific country information.
- ◆ Setting up lines of communication between family members and their loved ones.
- ◆ Talking to family members about how they are feeling.
- ◆ Liaising with DFA and local embassies on behalf of families.
- ◆ Meeting with families in person around the country.
- ◆ Family Information Day - where families can get together, listen to guest speakers and enjoy a relaxing lunch.

### Creative Communications!

**Email a Prisoner Scheme.** Signing up to this scheme allows people to send emails to those in UK prisons. You can also add credit to the prisoner's account meaning that they can then reply. For more details see <http://www.emailaprisoner.com/>

**Facebook.** Although prisoners cannot usually access the internet, some provide their Facebook login details to their families who can then print off Facebook messages and comments sent to the prisoner and mail a copy to them.



## Your Worries - Our Concern

**Q** *I can't talk to anyone about my son being in prison. I'm afraid someone in our village will find out and spread gossip. I feel embarrassed by the whole thing. I can't believe it's happening to us.*

**A** The experience of having a loved one in prison can be frightening, confusing and destabilising and if you have no one to talk to about what you are going through you could feel very isolated. It is important both to recognise that you are not alone and also to find someone you can trust to talk to. That might be a family member, friend, member of the clergy or one of the team at the ICPO. Many families like to talk to us as we can provide an objective and confidential ear. We can often meet people in person too. You might also consider attending one of our family information days where family members can meet others in the same situation, listen to some guest speakers and enjoy a relaxing lunch. Remember to look after yourself too and ensure that you have the chance to de-stress. Walking is an excellent way to help clear your head. Other people enjoy yoga, mindfulness meditation, prayer or even a new hobby. Many families feel that they are "doing the time" alongside their loved one but it is important not to lose a sense of who you are or stop doing the things you enjoy.

## Families Visiting Loved Ones in UK Prisons

The UK exchange rate continues to be unfavourable and many families are telling us of the added financial strain that this creates when travelling to the UK to visit loved ones in prison. We also understand that the booking system of each prison differs and it can be difficult to get visit dates well in advance meaning flight prices can be high by the time tickets are booked. A few tips on arranging prison visits:

**If you live in Ireland and are in receipt of benefits or on very low income.** In this case you can apply to your Community Welfare Officer for an Exceptional Needs Payment to assist with the costs. These payments are discretionary and not all CWOs will give them. The ICPO can provide a letter confirming your loved one's imprisonment and asking for the CWO to look favourably on your request. If you are turned down please ask for the reason in writing and let us know.

**If you live in England, Wales or Scotland and are in receipt of benefits.** You may be able apply for financial assistance under the Assisted Prison Visit Scheme. You can contact our Maynooth or London offices for details or contact the Assisted Prison Visits Unit at APVU, PO Box 2152, Birmingham, UK, B15 1SD. Telephone: 0044 (0)300 063 2100. Email: [assisted.prison.visits@noms.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:assisted.prison.visits@noms.gsi.gov.uk)

**If you live in Northern Ireland and wish to visit a relative in England, Scotland or Wales.** Different rules apply in this case and you should contact the Assisted Prison Visit Unit for an application pack and further guidance (see above for contact details).

**If you are unable to obtain financial assistance elsewhere and cannot afford the costs of a prison visit.** In this case, please enquire with the

ICPO as we have a small hardship fund which may be able to assist you with your visit.

**Always make sure that you have a visiting order (VO) before booking your trip.** Prisons have different systems for booking visits and you should contact them directly to ask for details. You could also visit the Inside Time website for information on the visiting protocols of each prison. ([www.insidetime.org](http://www.insidetime.org))

**Look online for deals on flights and accommodation.** If you don't feel confident with the internet then consider asking a relative, friend or ICPO to help. Try to read online reviews of accommodation so you can check you are getting value for money.

**Try to visit midweek if possible.** Flights and accommodation tend to be more expensive at the weekend.

**Check the rules on what you can bring into the prison directly with the prison.** These rules may vary depending on the prison and the regime level that the prisoner is under (ie prisoners under the enhanced regime may be allowed more items). It is always best to check with the prison to avoid disappointment.

**Claire O'Connell  
ICPO Maynooth**

## Pope offers hope to inmates during visit to Palmasola - a notorious Bolivian prison

While on a three day visit to Ecuador, Bolivia and Paraguay in early July, Pope Francis chose to visit the Palmasola Detention Centre in Bolivia as his main public event in Bolivia. Palmasola houses some of the most hardened criminals in Bolivia, however, the inmates there said that Pope Francis would be safe: "His visit is a benediction for us," said one prisoner, who is serving a 15-year sentence, "So we will look after him."

The boundary of the prison is policed by armed guards but the inside is controlled by the prisoners themselves. Most of the inmates are crammed into one area which is like a Latin-American slum. People speak of the stench of human waste that hangs heavily on the air with children playing barefoot in the mud and dirt. It was here that the Pope met with the inmates, their wives and children.

On the days leading up to the Pope's visit inmates in ragged clothes worked hard, giving the dilapidated prison a facelift, paving a new walkway, clearing huge piles of litter, building walls and embroidering the Pope's face on flags. Many inmates also wanted the Pope to see the hard reality of the detention centre. Palmasola was built to house 800 offenders but now has a population of over 5,000 (4 out of every 5 are awaiting trial). Pope Francis greeted the prisoners one by one, clasping hands and kissing children. "We, too, are human" one inmate told the pope. In a large open space at the centre of the prison thousands of inmates sat on plastic chairs and waved yellow and white balloons while they listened to the Pope.

*"Here, in this rehabilitation center, the way you live together depends to some extent on yourselves. Suffering and deprivation can make us selfish of heart and lead to confrontation, but we also have the capacity to make these things an opportunity for genuine fraternity. Help one another. Do not be afraid to help one another."*

Pope Francis finished his address with these words: "I ask you, please, to keep praying for me, because I too have my mistakes and I too must do penance."

**Bernie Martin**  
ICPO Maynooth



Female prisoners cheer on seeing Pope Francis through the fence



Inmates assemble to listen to Pope Francis

# NOTICEBOARD



## ICPO 30th Anniversary Conference To be held in Dublin Castle 1st December, 2015

In our 30th year in operation, ICPO is hosting a conference on December 1st, 2015, in Dublin Castle. This will provide a unique opportunity for those working with Irish prisoners overseas and those directly impacted by the imprisonment of a loved one in a foreign country to come together to discuss the many issues and challenges they face.

ICPO intends to launch two pieces of research at the conference relating to:

1. the elderly Irish imprisoned in Britain and
2. The resettlement needs of ex-prisoners returning to Ireland.

Our next newsletter will keep you informed of any developments arising from the conference and the findings and recommendations of the two reports.



## COMPETITION

### Poetry, Short Story, Art and Craft

€100 prize in each category

Winning entries to be published in the ICPO Newsletter and all entries to be displayed at the ICPO 30th anniversary conference in Dublin Castle on 1st December.

#### Short Story

Where I see myself a year after my release

or

A day in my life

#### Poetry

A topic of your choosing

#### Art or Craft

Any style, theme or topic.

**Closing Date: Friday, 16th October**



# Hens

My granny had the cure for the pip (a disease of hens characterised by a thick mucus discharge that forms a crust in the mouth and throat). I don't know how she discovered that she had the cure but she had. My mother tells tales of people coming from all over the place to bring their hens to her for the cure.



In those days a hen was a valuable asset to any home; you didn't need a farm or acres of ground to keep a few hens. They laid eggs for eating and for hatching new chickens and an old hen would make a nice dinner for a special occasion or for Christmas. Country women often traded eggs and chickens and this income provided extras for them like a piece of cloth for curtains or a new dress or some sugar to make a sweet cake. Hens played a vital economic role in Irish rural life so it was no wonder that someone would travel miles to cure what was a fatal disease to a hen.

A marriage was arranged for my granny but she had met and fallen in love with my grandfather and they ran away and got married. He was a fine carpenter and a kind and generous man. They worked hard and whilst they weren't wealthy they had enough. I always remember what a happy home their's was. Each day the Irish Independent was delivered to their home by the postman and my grandfather would come up from his workshop, read *Curly Wee* and *Gussie Goose* and go back down to his workshop. He would read the rest of the paper later. *Curly Wee* and *Gussie Goose* was a comic strip which was read as far away as Australia and South Africa. It is still published in the Irish Independent daily and has an avid readership. *Curly Wee* was a detective of sorts and over

the course of a few weeks of comic strips managed to solve some mystery or other in *Fur and Feather Land*.

My grandparents had a simple life. My granny had a prayer for everything from the moment she got up in the morning to her going to sleep at night. She wouldn't have been a daily mass goer but she had a connection with nature and like most people in rural Ireland at that time, they would see the value in each blade of grass and leaf on a tree. They nurtured nature and were kind to the land on which they lived. If they grew vegetables or crops on the land then they nourished the soil with compost or manure and dug it in to get it ready for the following year. At evening when she turned on the light she would say *"God give us the light and glory of heaven, Amen"*. If there was a storm or inclement weather she would say *"O Lord, be between us and harm and protect us from the harm of the world."*

My grandparents lived in a cottage with a big



kitchen immediately inside the front door. The room was dominated by a big open hearth fireplace above which was an oak mantle. This was covered in a piece of oilcloth which fell down a few inches on front of the mantle. On each end of the mantelpiece was a white china dog with a gold chain coming from his collar and a gold snout. A picture of the Sacred Heart hung above the fireplace and red oil light burned below the picture. The fire was always lit in the fireplace, even in the summertime. Granny made bread daily and did all her cooking on the fire. In rural Ireland it was important to keep the fire burning at all times and it was considered very bad luck to let it out. Some believed that there would be a death in the family if the fire went out. Each

# Hens

night the embers would be raked through, a sod or two of black turf would be put on top of them and all would be completely covered in ashes. There was a prayer said while raking the fire.

*"I save this fire, as noble Christ saves;  
Mary on the top of the house and Brigid in its  
centre;  
the eight strongest angels in Heaven preserving  
this house  
and keeping its people safe. Amen"*

In the morning the ashes would be gently raked through and a couple of sods of turf would be added to the embers. Slowly the fire would light and soon be hot enough for the big old black kettle to boil and make the morning mug of tea.

The tradition of praying for everything can be traced back to the ancient Celts. The ancient Celts practiced Animism which encompasses the belief that there is no separation between the spiritual and physical (or material) world and souls or spirits exist, not only in humans but also in some other animals, plants, rocks, geographic features such as mountains or rivers, or other entities of the natural environment, including thunder, wind, and shadows.

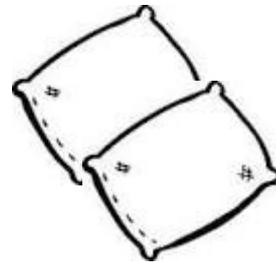
The Celts said prayers to their Gods to ward off evil and dark forces and to protect them from the forces of evil. When Christianity came to Ireland the ancient traditions of the pre-Christian religion were respected and in many cases adapted by the growing church. The Catholic faith grew up in communities around the many monasteries throughout the country and not through the dioceses as is the focus now. Celtic artistry and motifs were included in the illuminated manuscripts like the Book of Kells and in the stone crosses and church buildings still dotted throughout the country. The monks who wrote the manuscripts had a respect for



the earlier traditions and it was they who first wrote down the stories and tales from early Ireland.

In a way Christianity adapted itself to the Irish people and because of this the transition from their Celtic pagan beliefs to the belief in the one God was not awfully difficult for them.

The roar of the Celtic tiger is now a distant memory and many people are looking for something deeper and more meaningful in life. Many are practicing meditation and yoga to find their inner being; others are exploring Celtic spirituality and mindfulness (a mental state achieved by focusing one's awareness on the present moment). Really what they are looking for is simplicity—a freedom from the complexity that is modern life. They search for the ability to be able to go into a space within, where they will find peace and tranquility for even a short space of time. I think my granny and those of that era had it all solved in their simple lives full of hens and vegetables and ordinary everyday tasks.



The pillows I sleep on at night are made from feathers gathered from ducks and geese that my granny gathered up for a downy tick for my mother when she was getting married. Through time the tick fell apart and the feathers were used for a bolster pillow. The bolster became worn after some years and my mother and I put the feathers into pillows and she gave two of them to me. Sixty two years after those feathers were gathered from my granny's birds I am sleeping on two lovely comfy pillows. Each night as I get into bed I say a little prayer. *"Thank God for this comfy bed and for those who made the pillows."*

**Bernie Martin**  
ICPO, Maynooth



The Prison  
Phoenix  
Trust

## At Home

There are times when all of us feel like we don't quite belong in our own skin: physically restless, not quite able to pay attention fully to what we're doing, and maybe not really wanting to be in whatever situation we're in.

But, as Bo Lozoff says in his book *We're All Doing Time*, "It's alright here." Right here is perfect, even if we're banged up all day every day; nothing much to look forward to and noise from our neighbours

driving us crazy. You may ask: how on earth do you expect me to believe it's alright here? One way is through your body and your breath.

The movements and postures here are typical yoga sequences and may help you reconnect with yourself. While you do these, breathe slowly and deeply, really concentrating on the breath and feeling the air flow in and out. Remember that your body, breath and mind are actually one, even though we might think of them as separate.



### TREE

Look at a spot a few feet away from you to help you balance. If you wobble or fall, don't worry! Just keep trying. Hold for five breaths on each foot.

### COBBLERS'S POSE

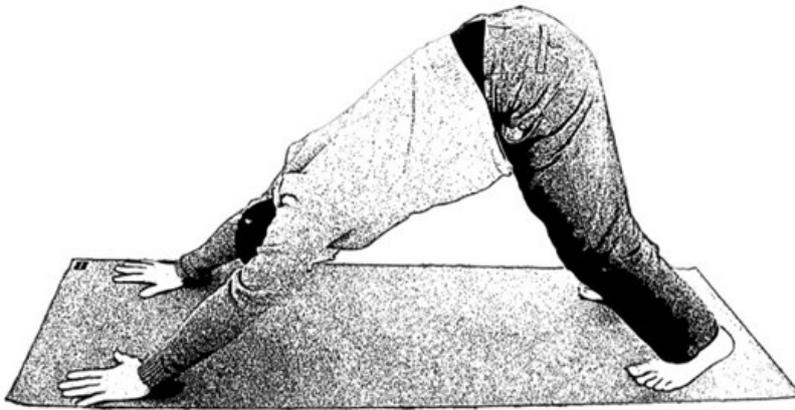
Hold position for 5-7 breaths. Do not curve your back.



# in Your Skin

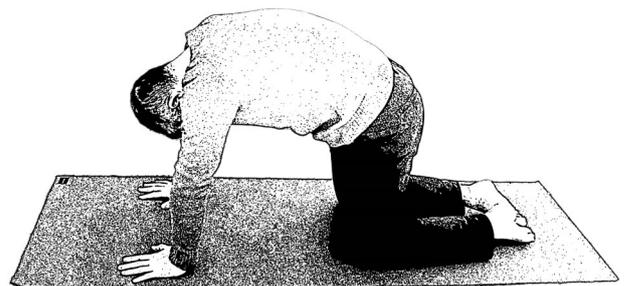
## DOWN DOG

Five slow breaths.



## HAPPY CAT/ANGRY CAT

Breathe in as you lift your head and move your belly downwards; breathe out as you arch your back and drop your chin towards your chest. Repeat ten times.



*If you have a medical condition please seek medical advice before doing these exercises.*

*For prisoners in the UK: If you want a free book to help you build and maintain a daily yoga and meditation practice write to: The Prison Phoenix Trust, PO Box 328, Oxford, OX2 7HF.*

*For prisoners outside the UK: Please contact ICPO Maynooth and we can arrange to have a book sent to you.*



# Sports

By Ian Hanna

Hi all

I am a new caseworker with ICPO since February 2015 and I just want to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. My name is Ian Hanna and I took over some of Kate Jackson's workload working with Irish people imprisoned throughout Europe, the US and Canada, while Kate is away for a few months.

Prior to working with ICPO I had just retired after nearly 40 years' with the Irish Defence Forces. It was a wonderful experience during which I made many friends, got to see many places throughout the world including Lebanon, Syria, Israel, Iraq, Chad, Ethiopia and included multiple tours of duty in the Middle East and the former Yugoslavia.

All of these missions involved engaging with local and international organisations but also with those whose lives were utterly changed by events beyond their control. What left an indelible mark on me was their spirit of survival, their refusal to give up, their strength of generosity and calmness in dealing with adversity. It was working with these marginalised people, no matter where they were in the world, that brought alive to me the teaching Christ found in 1 John 3:18 'My children, we should love people not only with words and talk but by our actions and true caring.'

It was these experiences which led me to think about my future and guided me to work with prisoners, specifically with Irish prisoners abroad and their families. So here I am writing the sports page and looking forward to supporting you in whatever way I can.

## SPORTS SHORTS

Here we go with the sports news that has the country buzzing. Pride of place of course always goes this time of year to our national games with massive interest in the GAA football and hurling championships.

### GAA

In Connacht Sligo faced up to hotter than hot favourites Mayo in the provincial decider and were well beaten on the day.

In Leinster Dublin strolled yet again to another title defeating surprise packet Westmeath by 13 points. Dublin has won ten of the last eleven Leinster Finals. The lack of serious competition in Leinster has done the Dubs no favours as they often struggle against teak hard teams like Kerry, Tyrone and Donegal in the All Ireland semi-finals and finals where their record is poor.

In Munster Kerry the reigning All-Ireland Champions defeated Cork in a replay.



In Ulster Monaghan defeated Donegal by one point and are worthy champions. Many pundits expected Donegal to win but Monaghan were the better team on the day .

The concurrent series of qualifying matches sees Tyrone, Galway, Cork and Donegal still in the All-Ireland race despite losing in their respective provincial championships. There is everything to look forward to and I reckon the winners will be either Dublin or Donegal.

In the hurling championship all the teams capable of winning the All Ireland are still there. Kilkenny recently retained



# Sports

By Ian Hanna

their Leinster crown by defeating Galway while Tipperary overcame the stiff challenge of Waterford in the Munster decider. As always Kilkenny are the favourites to retain their All-Ireland title but this year I have a feeling Tipperary will avenge last year's defeat.

## Soccer

In soccer our failure to qualify for the 2014 World Cup continues with some inept performances in our European qualifying group for the finals in France in 2016. The teams in our group are Germany, Poland, Scotland, Georgia and Gibraltar. Each team has now played 6 matches and the current group standing sees Poland on top with 14 points, followed by Germany with 13, Scotland with 11 and Ireland with 9. Ireland has to play Poland away and Germany at home which will be two very difficult games to get maximum points from. The management team of Martin O'Neill and Roy Keane have so far failed to develop whatever talent there is into a formidable team.

## Rugby

In rugby all the major rugby playing nations are making plans for the 2015 Rugby World Cup to be played in September in England. Ireland are in a group comprising, France, Italy, Canada and Romania. If Ireland top the group they will play either Scotland or Argentina in the quarter-finals. Lose to France and the most likely scenario is a quarter final encounter against New Zealand. We have never beaten New Zealand in rugby and as we have never before reached the semi-finals, the necessity of beating France is overwhelming. Ireland successfully retained the 6 Nations championship last season so hopes for a good World Cup run with a last four place are very realistic.

## Golf

The news of the golf front is not as good as last year as Rory McIlroy will be out for some months with an ankle injury from playing soccer with some friends. Zac Johnson won The Open after a three way play off to claim his second major. On the last day two Irish golfers, Padraig Harrington and Paul Dunne, an amateur from Greystones, Co Wicklow lead the field but both faltered on the back nine.



## Boxing

In boxing Ireland claimed two gold medals at the European Games with Katie Taylor winning the women's lightweight title, and Michael O'Reilly securing the men's middleweight crown, at the Crystal Hall, Baku. 28-year-old Taylor won gold with a unanimous decision in a performance of consummate class, to claim an 18th major international title.

Laois man O'Reilly won gold, in a fight that oozed athleticism and power from both men. Belfast's Sean McComb, won a lightweight silver medal losing to the eventual winner.

Once again it appears boxing will be our main source of hope for medal glory in the Olympics in Rio with an outside chance in the track and equestrian events.

No doubt there will be many slips and spills before the season is over. Stories about near misses, the referees that need glasses will abound. However it is usually the best team, just like cream, that rises to the top.

Ian Hanna  
Caseworker

# Poetry Corner



## Why

We're together all alone  
 Who's to say what went wrong  
 Mission advanced  
 Toes like to dance  
 Suffering in silence  
 O Baby what's wrong

Dreaming of flowers at your feet  
 Sky so blue, feel the heat  
 Nothing to eat  
 That's wrong o Baby, that's wrong.

Rat and lice eating you alive  
 Tears coming from your eyes  
 People on street with no feet  
 Who cares, who cares  
 Only the divine  
 That's wrong baby, that's wrong

Speak from your heart  
 Never let it start  
 Put the fire out  
 Until the day we part  
 O Baby that's right, that's right.

W McN (UK)

## Itsy Bitsy

'Is anybody there?'  
 Called the postman through the letter box;  
 'I've got this parcel to deliver;  
 You're not answering your bell!'  
 He paused to wipe the sweat away,  
 It was a hot and humid day,  
 Walking here and walking there  
 With parcels weighing half a ton,  
 Or so it felt when said and done.  
 He sat on parcel on the ground.  
 Why was no one ever around?  
 He didn't want to take it back  
 To the van its mail sack.

Inside the house, nothing stirred,  
 Not a sound from pet or bird;  
 Just a swinging pendulum  
 Made no noise, nor a hum;  
 And 'mid this silence - ever so deep -  
 Poor old postman fell asleep.

Then as he slept, a spider dropped  
 On silver skein until it flopped  
 Right on top of this man's nose  
 While he had his little doze;  
 Paused a moment as if to say,  
 'Nowt for me here today';  
 And made its way towards the feet  
 Of good old Postie still asleep, as  
 Eight legs wriggling, gently tickling,  
 One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight,  
 Postman slapped him, that's his fate.

A P (UK)

## Orange

Placed on the side near my stereo  
 Just a piece of fruit, no place to go  
 Orange in colour, orange by name  
 All from the same tree, no orange the same.

Fall off the table, watch it slide  
 No emotions or feelings, just juice inside.

## My Pen

The delicate texture it leaves when you script  
 Tells a story about the person and the pen you picked  
 Parker, ballpoint, Gel and Bic,  
 A pencil is best used if drawing a pic.

L K W (UK)



# Your Letters



I'm coming up to my 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in prison this summer and like most of us in for this long haul, it's been both a roller coaster and an eye opener in so many ways.

My coping mechanism is to detach myself from prison life as much as I can whilst I nurture my small circle of friends with whom I do a daily newspaper crossword. I read many, many books and I listen to Radio 4, The World Service, and of course, good old RTE on long-wave for information and self-improvement.

I commence each early morning with an hour of vigorous yoga stretches but that's a topic for another day. I've tried prison education a few times but I've found it to be a most frustrating experience, even more tedious than working in the so-called workshops.

After passing the mini exams in maths/english, I explained to the Head of Prison Education that I no longer wanted to do any further courses and I was declining her award of beautiful freshly laminated certificates ('No thanks - the cheek of it!) because, as I explained, I had already completed secondary school in Ireland some years ago for which I was awarded the Leaving Certificate. This senior prison education employee told me she'd never heard of the Leaving Cert and she declined the offer to take a photo-copy of my Irish education document. (By the way, lads, the ICPO assisted me in obtaining a copy of my leaving cert which I sat in the '70s.)

I think it's outrageous that this prison's Head of Education claims to never having heard of the Leaving Cert, while Irish prisoners are amongst the second highest of the UK's foreign national prisoner population. Furthermore, she claimed that I will have to continue 'engaging' with prison education if I wished to progress in my prison sentence.

Are you thinking what I'm thinking...? Could it possibly be that prison education employees like to recruit a number of sufficiently educated prisoners to artificially bolster the prison's exam success rate? (What a waste of tax-payers money!) While semi-literate prisoners continue to be excluded from education they are sent to the workshops and told to 'engage' with 'Toe-by-Toe' prisoner mentors on their wing (these are volunteers who offer to help with literacy/numeracy).

How did I get to be so cynical?

M P (UK)

Note: See our Book Review to read MP's book recommendations.

## Sound Advice

"When you get into a tight place and everything goes against you, till it seems as though you could not hang on a minute longer, never give up then, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn. "

*Harriet Beecher Stowe*

# BOOK REVIEW

I have re-read Donal Ryan's books 'The Thing about December' and 'The Spinning Heart' over the Christmas and I offer my review as follows:

Isn't it a fright to God that I never had time to read books before I came into prison? I was so busy holding down a job, sure the best thing about prison is to have the time to read a whole heap of books each month, far more than I'd ever read in the 5 years before I came into jail.

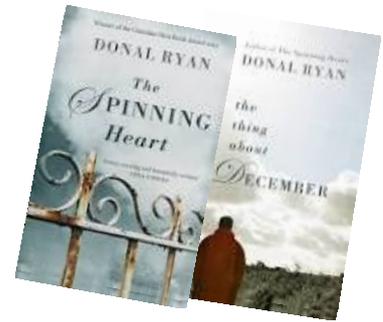
So I read a load of books this past year but the two best Irish books were written by the same fellow - a young man from Tipperary by the name of Donal Ryan.

'The Thing about December' is set in the time of Ireland's Celtic Tiger when people were getting into a right old state about property

speculation, land re-zoning and house prices. But what does all this mean to a young man in his mid-20s who lives with, what we would now call, special needs? The Thing about December is seen entirely through the eyes of Johnsy Cunliffe and his struggles to understand why his world is spinning out of his control.

Several years later 'The Spinning Heart' describes how Ireland's economic recession has effected the same small town but it is far more ambitious in scope. It is written in 20 chapters and each one takes the 'voice' of a man, woman and in one case, a child living in the town, so you've got 20 different people telling the story and two people even recal Johnsy Cunliffe from the earlier book and what happened to him (my lips are sealed!).

So even though both books are 'stand alone' novels, I'd recommend



you start with 'December' and then follow on with 'Heart'.

Both books are sprinkled throughout with gems of Irish slang and Irish speech idioms which make for hilarious reading. In fairness, I think it would be hard for a non-Irish reader to fully 'get' these two books or to recognise their brilliance, (perhaps that is their limitation) but I'd have no hesitation in recommending the two books to Irish readers.

M P

## Eating Animals

By Jonathan Safran Foer

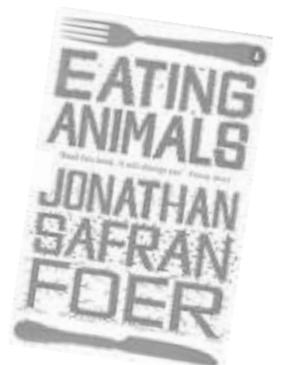
This book does not tell us how to eat animals and assumes that most of us are already doing so. In fact, we in the developed world are eating more and more animals than ever before. Industrialised factory farming has created a ready supply of animal flesh for us to eat at cheaper and cheaper prices.

The book is essentially the truth about eating animals. I would urge anybody who wants to take responsibility for his meat eating to read this book. As the author gradually reveals the truth behind factory farming (about which we would prefer to remain unaware). The shocking truth is that 99% of the

meat which we eat comes from animals who have had a miserable and cruel existence and as meat has, in real terms, stayed cheaper over the years so animal cruelty has proportionately increased.

I found the book both moving and disturbing but I feel better informed after reading this book.

M P (UK)





# Smídín Gaeilge

## Cad atá ar an Telefís?

What is on the Television?



Teilifís	Tel-i-feesh	Television
Clár	Clawr	Programme
Cláracha	Clawr-aca	Programmes
Cianrialtán	Ceen-realtawn	Remote Control
Scáileán	Scaw-lawn	Screen
Fógraí	Fow-gree	Advertisements
Staisiúin	Staw-shoon	Stations/Channels



Ag Féachaint ar	Egg Fecint ar	Watching
Is maith liom	Iss moh lum	I like
Is fuath liom	Iss Fuath lum	I hate
Cén t-am a thosnaíonn ____?	Cain tam a thusneen ____?	What time does ____ start?
Is fearr liom ____ ná ____.	Iss far lum ____ naw ____	I prefer ____ to ____



Clár Spórt	Clawr Sport	Sport Programme
Clár Grinn	Clawr green	Comedy
An Nuacht	On Nooct	The News
Réamhfháisnéas na haimsire	Rave-awshnays nu haimshira	Weather Forecast
Clár Dúlra	Clawr Doolra	Nature Programme
Clár Ceoil	Clawr Ceowl	Music Programme
Cartúin	Cartoon	Cartoons
Sobalchlár	Sobal-Clawr	Soaps
Clár Staire	Clawr Star-a	History Programme



Aisteoir	Ashtoor	Actor
Aisteoirí	Ashtoory	Actors
Láithreoir	Law-hrore	Presenter
Stiúrathóir	Sture-a-hore	Director

**Slán Anois**  
Goodbye Now

# challenge yourself!

## Spot the Difference

(We found 17—How many can you find?)



## Mind Teasers

1. There is father and son in a car. They have a terrible accident and both are seriously injured. Ambulances carry them to two different hospitals. The son is on a surgery table when the surgeon walks in and says: "I can't do the surgery on him he is my son!" How is it possible (assume relations are blood - no stepfather involved)?
2. Can you divide a cake in 8 pieces with three cuts?
3. There are 32 red socks and 32 blue socks in the drawer. It's dark and you are pulling socks out of the drawer. How many do you have to draw to be sure that you have a pair. (At least 2 socks of the same colour)?
4. You have two jugs - 5-litre and 3-litre and an unlimited supply of water. Can you measure out 4 litres?

## Word Puzzle Pictures

<p>ALL ----- AGAIN</p>	<p>BOOT  FOOT FOOT</p>	<p>✓ STICK ✗ </p>	<p>GET GO</p>
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## Answers

**Mind Teasers**  
 1. The surgeon is a woman, son's mother.  
 2 Four parts in two cuts are easy. Now just cut the cake horizontally (split the bottom and top part).  
 3 Three. At least two are same colour.  
 4 Fill the 3-litre jug and pour it into the 5-litre. Fill the 3-litre again and pour into the 5-litre jug. Because 3 litres are already inside one litre will remain in the 3-litre. Pour the water out of 5-litre jug and pour the one litre from the 3-litre jug into it and then fill the 3 litre jug again and add to the 5 litre jug.

**Word Puzzle Pictures**  
 1. All over again. 2. Put the boot on the other foot. 3. Wrong end of the Stick. 4. Get up and go.

**Spot the Difference**  
 1. Shutter on top window. 2. Different pattern on butterfly. 3. Tortoise going in different direction. 4. Bird in front of tree missing. 5. Flowers near tree missing. 6. Flowers on grass missing. 7. Single baby duck missing. 8. Window in roof missing. 9. Heron facing different way. 10. 3rd duck going in different direction. 11. Extra tall grasses. 12. Flowers in water changed to fish. 13. Extra flower basket. 14. 3 flowers under front branches missing. 15. Curlicues beside upstairs window missing. 16. Clothes on line added. 17. Extra tuft of grass to front

# challenge yourself!



## Pirates

- AHOY
- BLACKBEARD
- CAPTAIN KIDD
- DAGGER
- EIGHT
- JACK SPARROW
- MAST
- PORT
- SEA SHANTY
- SWORD
- WALK THE PLANK
- ARRGH
- CALICO JACK
- CROSSBONES
- DAVEY JONES LOCKER
- EYEPATCH
- JEWELS
- PEGLEG
- RIGGING

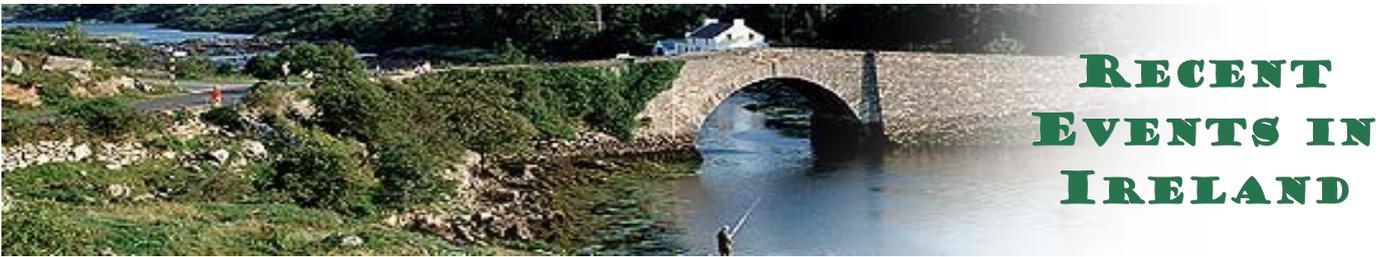
E B N D S E O Z H Z W H J R D F N B S O  
 M J S K R G C C L O Y O F D D C J P L E  
 V K U Y E A T S R D L Q Q A I R S H E I  
 M L O L O A O R Z L W Y W V K O N D W G  
 L U G O P H A B Y O M T T E N S O C E H  
 I E D E H P A R R G Z R Z Y I S O U J T  
 P S Y B S N O F I A E T T J A B L T S G  
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

- SKULL
- TREASURE CHEST
- YARDARM
- BANDANA
- CAPTAIN HOOK
- CUTLASS
- DUBLOONS
- GOLD
- JOLLY ROGER
- PIECES
- SAIL
- STARBOARD

## Sudoku

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 every 3x3 square.

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



# RECENT EVENTS IN IRELAND

## Historic Handshake



Prince Charles and Sinn Féin's Gerry Adams shook hands during an event at Galway University. The Prince of Wales, who is a pioneer in organic and sustainable farming spent time in the Burren and visited a farm near Corofin to hear about the challenges of farming whilst preserving the fragile ecology of the region.

## Two Much Loved TV Personalities who died suddenly in May: Derek Davis and Bill O'Herlihy



**DEREK DAVIS** has been a prominent figure in the Irish media for the past thirty years and a familiar household name. He died on May 13th after a short illness. Derek was 67.



**BILL O'HERLIHY**  
Bill was the anchor for much of RTE's flagship soccer and sports coverage, and a major player in public relations for many decades. He died peacefully at home on May 26th. He was 76.

## Irish People Vote in Referendum



In May a majority of Irish people voted to legalise gay marriage. The voters also decided to keep the age at which citizens may become President to 35 years of age.



This is the jersey that Ireland will be wearing at the rugby World Cup