

Broadband & Waste Surveys

The NAC and NEB undertook a survey of both Broadband services and Waste services around the country. These are very pertinent issues for many members countrywide. The results from both of these surveys are available for members to view in the private Member’s Area of the website under General Documents. For more information on how to access the Member’s Area please contact Central Office.



ANNUAL REPORT

IRISH COUNTRYWOMEN’S ASSOCIATION

**REPORT OF
THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD
TO THE ICA AGM 2015**

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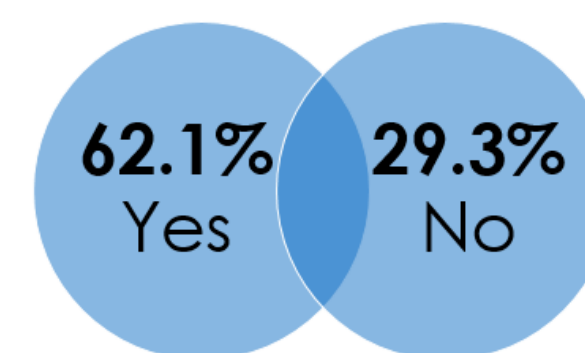
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An Grianán Attendance



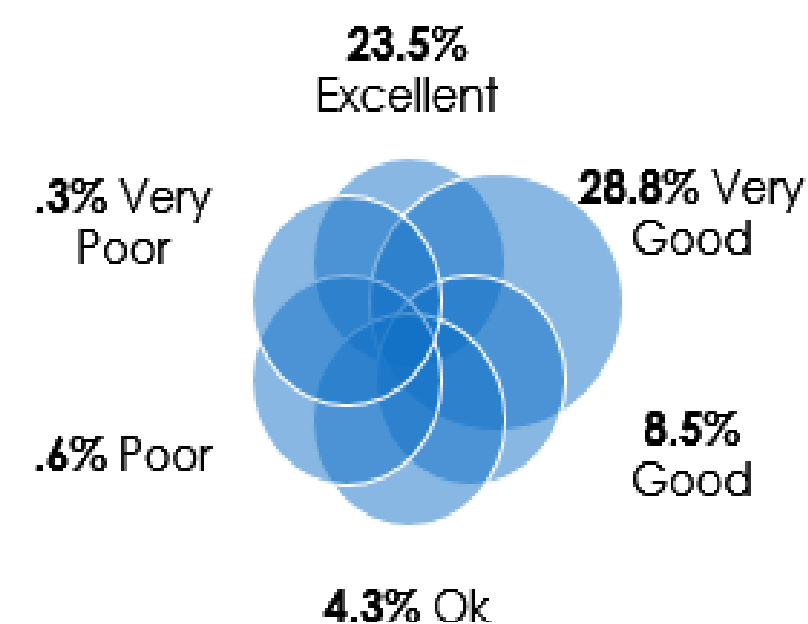
Would You Bring Family To An Grianán?

Responses

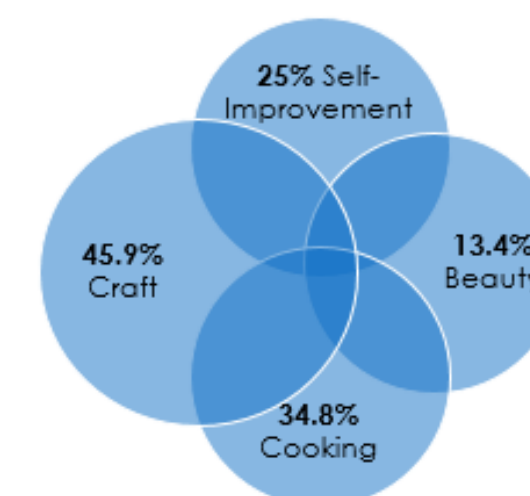
They wouldn't come

- Have their own lives
- Live too far away
- Too young
- Family members were male

How do you rate An Grianán?



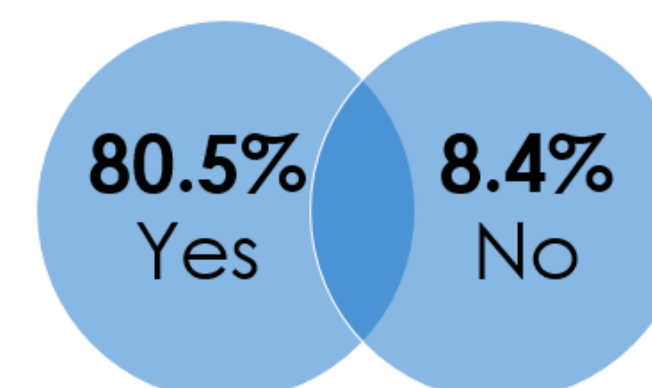
Courses of interest



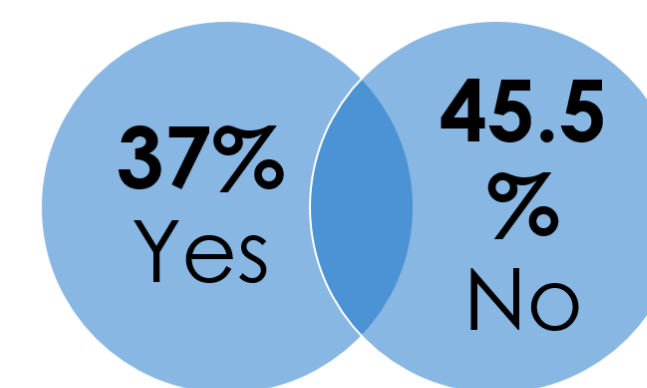
An Grianán Popular Member Comments

- Positive
 - Amazing garden centre
 - Relaxing
 - Workshops
 - Get out with friends & meet new people
- Negative
 - Good food but dated menu
 - Dated and draughty rooms
 - Too expensive
 - Too far away

Benefits Awareness



Benefits Use

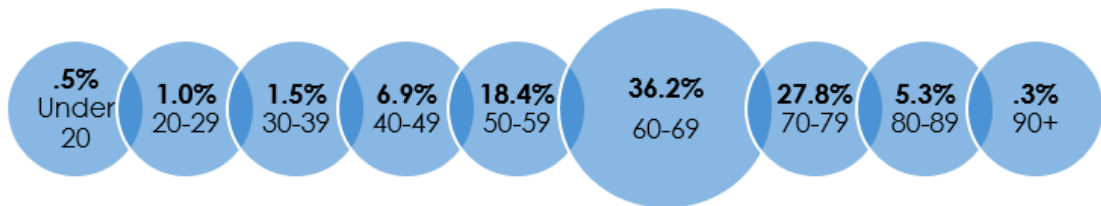


SECTION: 8 Getting to Know You Questionnaire

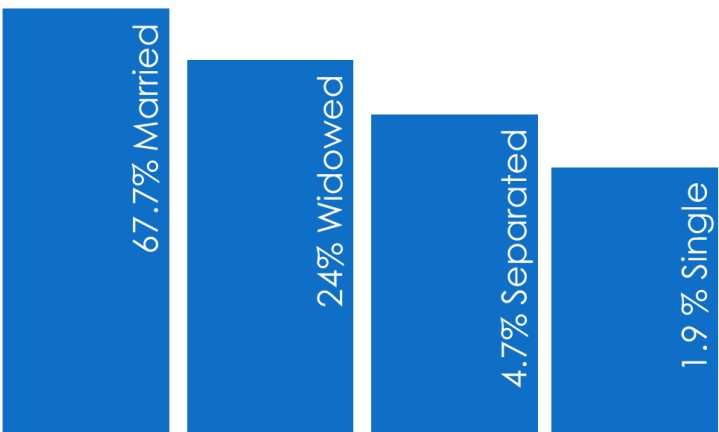
“GETTING TO KNOW YOU” QUESTIONNAIRE:

In 2014 the board invited individual Guild members to complete and return a “Getting to know you” questionnaire. The purpose of this questionnaire was to better understand the membership in order to be able to target certain companies to offer Member Benefits and to understand who visited An Grianán and why. Over 1,000 members responded, some expressed worry over privacy issues, no information that would cause the members to be identified was asked for and this report does not include percentages for unanswered questions.

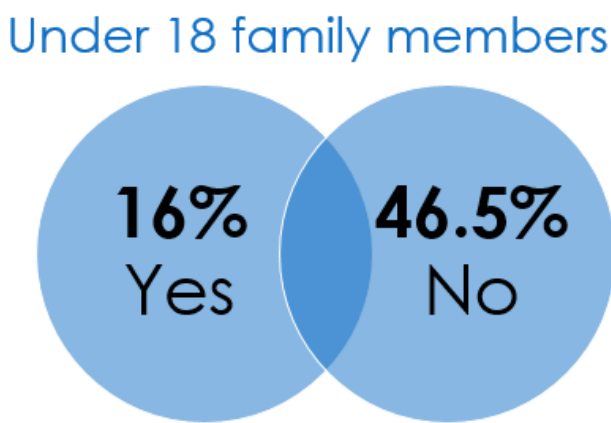
Members Age Demographic



Marital Status



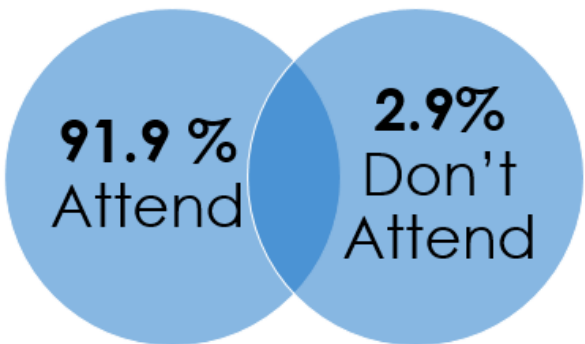
Members with Children under 18 Years



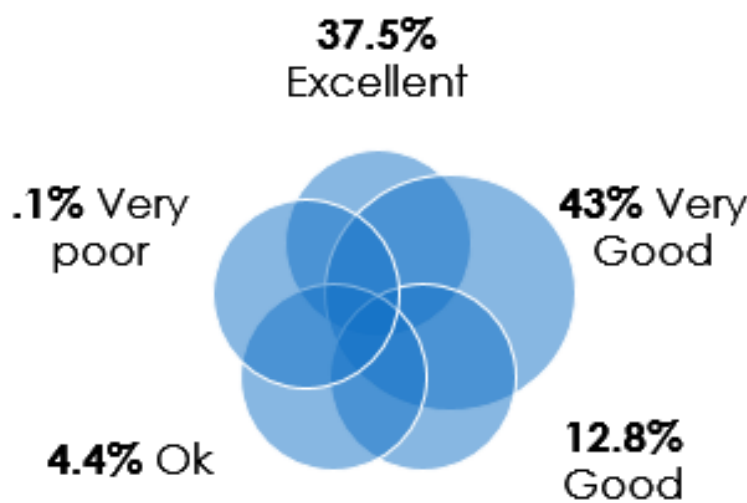
Why did you become a member?

- Joined for friendship, stayed for friendship.
- Feel more involved in the Community
- Time out of the house
- Meetings were missed due to clashing dates.

Attending Weekly Meetings



ICA Rating



Who We Are

THE ICA YEAR IN FIGURES:

AGE: 105 years old this year
Website: 263,501 views of the ICA Website pages an increase of nearly 10% on 2014
Facebook: 2,416 “likes” on the ICA Facebook pages
Twitter: 778 followers
Membership Enquiries: 531 Women sent an enquiry to Central Office about joining the ICA
Mail Chimp: 1,451 Mail chimp subscribers
New Guilds: 9 were opened

ICA NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD:

National President Liz Wall
National Secretary Kathleen Gorman (deceased), in office until May 2014 Shirley Power co-opted in July 2014. Iris Farrell represented Kathleen Gorman on the platform at AGM 2014.
National Treasurer Mary Harrahill
Cathaoirleach NAC Peggy O’Brien

REGIONAL PRESIDENTS:

Border Midlands and West	Iris Farrell
Border Midlands and West	Mary Harkin
South and East	Aloma McKay
South and East	Norah McDermott

FEDERATION PRESIDENTS SERVING ON THE NEB:

Mary Mulligan	Iris Farrell	Bridgid Keane
Alice Varley	June Lawless	Patricia Cavanagh
Shirley Power	Iris Connell	Maureen Quigley

The responsibilities of the NEB are set out in the section 59 of the ICA constitution. The NEB met on 9 occasions between April 2014 and March 2015

ICA NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

National President Liz Wall
National Secretary Kathleen Gorman (deceased) in office until May 2014 Shirley Power co-opted in July 2014
National Treasurer Mary Harrahill
Cathaoirleach NAC Peggy O’Brien

FEDERATION PRESIDENTS:


Carlow: Nicola Byrne	Cavan: Leila Beatty	Clare: Jackie Slattery
Cork: Phil O’Leary	Donegal: Louie Taylor	Dublin: June Lawless
Galway: Josephine Helly	Kerry: Breda Browne	Kildare: Mary MacNamara
Kilkenny: Shirley Power	Laois: Betty Gorman	Leitrim: Helen Rutter
Limerick: Phyllis O’Halloran	Longford: May Campbell	Louth: Iris Farrell
Mayo: Barbara Meer	Meath: Dolores McGrath	Monaghan: Patricia Cavanagh
Offaly: Iris Connell	Roscommon: Patricia Blake	Sligo: Mary Mulligan
Tipperary: N: Alice Varley	Tipperary: S: Peggy O’Brien	Waterford: Bridgid Keane
Westmeath: Eilish McDonnell	Wexford: Breda Banville	Wicklow: Maureen Quigley

The responsibilities of the NAC are set out in Section 72 of the ICA constitution. Since the last report to the AGM the NAC has met on 3

Who We Are - continued	
<u>FINANCE COMMITTEE:</u>	
Liz Wall	National President
Kathleen Gorman	National Secretary deceased in office from July 2014 Shirley Power co-opted
Mary Harrahill	National Treasurer
Mary Harkin	Regional President of the BMW
Iris Farrell	Regional President of the BMW
Aloma McKay	Regional President S&E
Norah McDermott	Regional President S&E
June Lawless	Dublin Federation President
Press Officer for the South and East Region: Ena Howell	
Press Officer for the Border, Midlands and West Region: Ann Devlin	
<u>PROCEDURES COMMITTEE:</u>	
Rita Clohessy	Cork Federation Chair of Procedures Committee
Maureen Milligan	Donegal Federation
Marguerite Cashman	Cork Federation
Angela O’Byrne	Dublin Federation
<u>WORKING GROUPS and COMMITTEES:</u>	
The Handcraft working group were delighted with the response to the competition to find a new name for the Handcraft Awards which had been previously known as Bhronnaire. Donegal Federation was the Federation that submitted the most entries and the board were given the task of choosing from the suitable contenders. The new name of the Handcraft Awards is ICA DUAIS. The handcraft committee were also responsible for Initiating the monthly Handcraft taster classes that take place in Central Office. These classes are held on a Monday and there is an average of 30 people in the class.	
To date members have been given taster classes in:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crochet• Embroidered Cards• Hairpin Crochet• Card Stamping• Ribbon Embroidery• Sugar Craft• Christmas Robin• Beirs Bont embroidery• Lumra• Blackwork	
The Procedures Committee: The main work of the procedures committee in 2015 was to oversee the National Elections. As such they held 3 meetings including the Election Candidates briefing in December 2014. It is the responsibility of the Procedures Committee to ensure that the National Elections run smoothly.	
The Garda Vetting Project: The Board are particularly grateful for the work of Board Member Maureen Quigley of Wicklow Federation for the work she undertook to ensure that Guilds with members between the ages of 16 and 18 who are considered minors are under the protection of a Garda Vetted Guild member to be in line with National Child Protection Policies. The board are currently drawing up a child protection policy to be published in due course.	

International Mental Health Day: The World Mental Health Day was marked in An Grianán on Friday 10 th October 2014. ICA members were invited to a day “looking after your mental health”. The day-long event included examining your stress levels, knowing your own body, de-stressing techniques including exercises in diet and nutrition and ways to increase mindfulness in our daily lives.
The Official Diamond Anniversary Celebrations of An Grianán took place on Thursday 23 rd October. The event included a presentation by all former Presidents who spoke about their terms of office and their memories of An Grianán. All 27 Federation Presidents, local politicians and TDs, ICA sponsors Ian Donnelly of Hickeys Home Focus, Paddy and Bobby Mulligan of GemPack Foods and Jane McEvoy of Aldi Stores Ireland were in attendance. Eddie Downey and Maura Canning of the Irish Farmers Association, Irene Craig Vice President of the Northern Ireland’s WI and a representative of the Government also joined the celebrations. After the speeches the guests enjoyed a delicious buffet of light finger food and a tour of the recently refurbished Muriel Gahan Museum and the renovated bedrooms in An Grianán. That evening a 5 course Gala Dinner was held to celebrate the Diamond Anniversary.
The Twisted Thread Knitting and Stitching show 2014 took place in the RDS in Dublin 30 th October – 2 nd November 2014. The ICA stand enjoyed some excellent craft demonstrations including chicken scratching, blackwork, patchwork and hairpin crochet. More than 150 enquiries for membership were received over the course of the show.
The Winter Conference was held on Saturday 8 th November 2014 in An Grianán. The President, Treasurer and Secretary gave their reports with a particular focus on the success of the 60 th Anniversary Celebrations of An Grianán the previous month. The main theme of the afternoon was a presentation by Ryan Meade of the Wheel inviting ICA members and Guilds to become involved in the “People’s Conversation” towards active citizenship in 2016. Deirdre Roche of The Bank of Ireland also gave a presentation on the changing face of banking including the phasing out of cheques, banking on-line and the introduction of new Help Centres in branches around the country.

Section 7 - An Grianán Report—Ann Flanagan

	<p>In 2014 we celebrated the Diamond Anniversary of An Grianán. This was a great achievement for the ICA and could not have happened without the members support over the years.</p> <p>There have been many changes and developments in the college facilities and in the courses provided. Last year I was delighted with the development of some new en-suite bedrooms in the college. I would like to thank all the Federations that worked hard to raise money to fund this development. We have received more funding from some Federations and we will be starting work on more of the bedrooms later in 2015. I would like to thank all the ICA Members for their support over the years. We could not survive without you. Below is a taste of some of the events that are scheduled to take place in 2015.</p>
An Grianán Annual Golf Outing Wednesday 3rd June 2015 Play 18 holes at Seapoint Golf Club followed by prize giving and a Gala Dinner. €55.00 per person (€45 .00 optional B & B) Book early to avoid disappointment.	An Grianán Lace Convention 2015 21 st – 25 th September 2015 Carrickmacross Lace Romanian Lace Bobbin Lace- Jewellery & Home Decorations Youghal & Other Irish Laces
The Garden Party 26th June 2015 This would be a lovely way to end your Guild break for the summer and come to enjoy a lovely relaxing day with us: Showcase of Crafts, Flowers, Needlework Art work and assorted Gifts. Hot & Cold Buffet Al Fresco on the lawn with wine and lots of good food. Fashion show prizes for the most suitable dressed lady on the day. Dancing till late Raffle for lots of prizes. Tickets €55.00	Wednesday 23rd September 2015 Evening of Lace: Come and get your lace identified and enjoy our Fashion Show dedicated to the beautiful art of Lace Making.
	Tickets - €10.00 pp (Evening meal option – €20.00)

TURN OFF THE RED LIGHT CAMPAIGN:

Due to the hard work of the 72 organisations which form the TORL alliance the campaign to force the Irish Government to criminalise the buyers of sex was successful in that in December 2014 the Government decided to push ahead with the decision to enact the legislation that will criminalise the buyers of sex and help to put organised criminals involved in trafficking and prostitution out of business. Minister Frances Fitzgerald has prioritised the issue of exploitation, trafficking and prostitution since she came into office and she has studied the research and agreed that the best way to tackle these crimes is to change the focus of the laws onto the buyers of sex. It is of great importance that members continue to contact their TDs and Senators by using the ACTION PAGE – the page is LIVE and has been updated www.turnofftheredlight.ie/action <<http://www.turnofftheredlight.ie/action>> Members are invited to log in and use the Action page.

PEARLS OF WISDOM CAMPAIGN:

European Cervical Cancer Prevention Week took place from 25th – 31st January 2015. This week long campaign promotes the importance of screening and preventing cervical cancer. This is the third year that the board has supported the campaign and have encouraged all women from 25 – 60 to avail of free screening. The Pearl of Wisdom emblem pin and print material was given to all Board Members. More information see <http://www.pearlofwisdom.eu/home/>

BREAST CHECK EXTENSION:

The ICA has been part of the recent campaign to extend the BreastCheck to women aged between 65 and 69 years of age. In January 2015 Minister Leo Vradakar TD announced that BreastCheck will be extended to women in this age group. Screening of the extended group will commence towards the end of 2015. Those aged 65 will be the first to be invited. For more information see <http://www.breastcheck.ie/locations/news/254>

WOMEN AND RURAL ELECTRIFICATION SOCIAL HISTORY:

The National Museum of Ireland – Country Life based in Castlebar Co. Mayo invited the ICA to get involved in a project to collect memories and stories related to the rural electrification of Ireland. The essence of the project is to record the stories and memories related specifically to the role women played in the rural electrification of the country. The first stage of the project has been completed with a number of Guilds and individual members getting involved. The board looks forward to seeing the finished project in due course.

Section 6 Conferences & Events

Presentations of Long Service Certificates: These certificates are presented by the National President to individual Guild members with more than 15 years of service to the ICA. This became very popular throughout 2014 and 2015 and Liz Wall visited every one of the 27 Federations and has presented in excess of 5,000 certificates throughout the year. The feedback from this very popular initiative has been very positive and the recognition of the service of ICA members is very worthwhile.

The Annual **Garden Party** took place on Friday 18th July the Hickeys Make and Model competition was held and this was for the best handmade Hat and Fascinator. The competition was won by Mary O’Gorman of Maynooth Guild Kildare Federation, Caroline Power of Rathoath Guild in Meath Federation took second place and Anne Brennan of Ballingarry Guild Tipperary North Federation was the third place winner. The fashion show was held outside as the weather was so warm. Members enjoyed a display of Irish Dancing by local children. It was the biggest annual garden party with over 350 ICA members in attendance.

One of the most important events in the ICA calendar is the **National Ploughing Championships**. This year the championships took place in Ratheniska in Co. Laois from Tuesday 23rd to Thursday 25th September. The highlight this year was the finals of the Brown Bread Baking Competition held in conjunction with the National Ploughing Association and Aldi Stores Ireland. The competition was won by Betty Williams of South Tipperary Federation. The ICA marquee was a hive of activity with a strong programme of events coordinated by Betty Gorman President of Laois Federation. Demonstrations in heritage crafts, butter making, style and image consulting and flower arranging were very popular and celebrity chef Edward Hayden joined the stand doing a variety of demonstrations and practical tips during the week.

The Recruitment Weekend: The Annual Recruitment weekend took place on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th September 2014. All Federations were invited to set up an information stand in a local supermarket, shopping centre, parish hall etc to promote the work of the ICA locally.

The NAC Training weekend: This training weekend took place from Friday 3rd October to Sunday 5th October. All Federation Presidents took part in the training weekend giving a short presentation on what had been happening in the Federation and the plans for the future. The attendees benefitted from presentations from the National Officers.

Introduction—National President, Liz Wall

Dear Members,

I am delighted to introduce my third and final Annual Report to the members which provides a comprehensive overview of the work over the last year. As always in ICA, the year has been very busy.



Firstly it was with great regret that we announced the death of our esteemed National Secretary Kathleen Gorman who passed away on Friday 30th May 2014. Kathleen held the office of National Secretary since May 2010 and the office of Laois Federation President. Prior to that Kathleen held the roles of An Grianán Teachta, Guild President, Guild Secretary and many other roles as well.

Kathleen lived a remarkable life, one that inspired many of us. As some of you will know, she was involved in a great many organisations and charities, always ready to give of her time to work on behalf of others. Her broad range of interests and happy demeanour made her a wonderful person to know. She was patient and generous with her time and affection. She always took an interest in the people she met. Kathleen loved ICA and her loss is keenly felt across the association. Shirley Power of Kilkenny Federation was co-opted as the National Secretary in August 2014.

2014 was the year when the ICA celebrated the 60th Diamond Anniversary of the tenure of our Adult Education College An Grianán, you can read more about this overleaf. The ICA tent at the Ploughing was a highlight for me in 2014 as the showcase of crafts by our members was excellent as always. Another highlight of 2014 for me was continuing the focus on mental health, working with See Change on the Green Ribbon Campaign and participating on the Agricultural committee with See Change. Our two new books, The Book of Tea and Company published by Gill and MacMillan and the ICA book of Crafts published by Mercier Press were two other great successes this past year and you will read more about that overleaf. Our staff member Joanne Dunne left to take up another role and Colette Downing joined the ICA Central Office staff team in January 2015. I hope you enjoy reading this annual report and I look forward to your feedback as always.

Liz Wall – National President

Financial Report - National Treasurer, Mary Harrahill

Section 1 - Guilds and Membership

ICA Guilds and Membership:

The ICA National Executive Board was delighted to welcome 9 new Guilds to the ICA during 2014 – 2015.

- 3 new Guilds in Galway Federation * Innisboffin Guild * Loughrea Guild * Maree Guild
- 1 new Guild in Kerry Federation * Ardfert Guild
- 1 new Guild in Kildare Federation * Athgarvan Guild
- 2 new Guilds in Longford Federation * Ardagh Guild * Lanesboro Guild
- 1 new Guild in Westmeath Federation * Loughnavalley Guild
- 1 new Guild in Wicklow Federation * Wicklow Town Guild

Membership Enquiries Received by Central Office April 2014 – March 2015:

The ICA receives many enquiries for membership and these are referred to the Federation Liaison Officer in each county who follow up and welcomes women to Guilds. In 2014 - 2015 over **531** women made enquiries to join the ICA.

April 2014	9 enquiries for membership
May 2014	24 enquiries for membership
June 2014	27 enquiries for membership
July 2014	29 enquiries for membership
August 2014	34 enquiries for membership
September 2014	50 enquiries for membership
October 2014	40 enquiries for membership
November 2014	21 enquiries for membership
December 2014	11 enquiries for membership
January 2015	47 enquiries for membership
February 2015	24 enquiries for membership
March 2015	xx enquiries for membership

In 2014 - 2015 ICA participated at two national events in order to promote the organisation. The National Ploughing Championships in September 2014 produced **51** enquiries for membership. The Knitting and Stitching Show held in the RDS in November 2014 produced **153** enquiries for Membership.

To summarise, more than **530** women made enquiries at a National level about joining the ICA during 2014 and 2015.

Section 2 - Publications, Communications & Social Media

WEBSITE:

Central Office: since the AGM 2014 the ICA website has had 263,501 hits, an increase of 9.87%. the site seems to be attracting more interest particularly with regards to the Federation pages where local Guilds are attracting more members. In 2014-2015 there has been an increase of 16.21% in the number of users on the website: 38,066 versus 32,755 in 2013. There has also been an increase of sessions on the site; 56,279 versus 48,828 in 2013.

ACORN TO OAKS BLOG: 2014 saw the introduction of the ICA Blog Acorn to Oaks <http://acorntooaks.blogspot.ie/> This blog covers areas such as recipes, crafts and points of interest and is written by Anne Wall – Adderly and she posts once a week. A *blog* is a discussion or informational site published on the Web and consisting of discrete entries ("posts") typically displayed in reverse chronological order (the most recent post appears first).

Section 4 - Diamond Anniversary Celebrations in An Grianán

It was with great delight that the ICA celebrated the 60th Diamond Anniversary of the tenure of An Grianán throughout 2014. To enhance the celebrations the board introduced the Diamond Drama Festival held in October 2014 and the Diamond Golf Day which was held in June 2014. An Grianán is often referred to as the jewel in the crown of the ICA and it was all thanks to the foresight of Muriel Gahan and her fellow ICA members in the early 1950s. Summer schools had been organised by the ICA since the 1920s and they had become so popular that they could no longer be held in the big houses in the area as there was not enough space. Muriel had watched the numbers attending the summer schools increase over the years and in 1947 the summer school held in Galway was so oversubscribed and demand was so high that two more sessions were held that summer. A conference was held in 1951 and it was agreed to make the purchase of a residential house an immediate priority. One of Muriel’s colleagues on the Arts Council informed her that Dr Emory Morris of the WK Kellogg Foundation was expected in Dublin so Muriel went along to meet him for lunch still not entirely clear what the Kellogg Foundation was or if there were any shared interests. It turned out however that the foundation was interested in developing co-operative programmes in the field of Agriculture and that they had a particular interest in Adult Education. Muriel impressed Doctor Morris immensely and he described her as “a daring visionary willing to bet on new ideas”. Muriel spoke passionately about the ICA’s desire for a place of their own. Muriel continued her relationship with Dr Morris and together they went to view Newtown House and Muriel always maintained that it was the view of the mountains of Mourne that clinched it for him. Muriel Gahan was indeed a visionary and it is thanks to her and the ICA members on her committee that on 23rd October 2014 the former national presidents, the 27 Federation presidents, local politicians and invited guests came together to celebrate the 60th anniversary on An Grianán.

Section 5-Advocacy and Campaigns

MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL WELLNESS: Mental health and mental wellness has been at the centre of the National President Liz Wall’s presidency since she came into office in 2012. The ICA has sought to address the stigma associated with mental illness. In 2014 the ICA continued working with **Pieta House** and offered each Guild an information leaflet informing members about the Buddy List , spotting the signs of suicide, signs that people are undergoing mental stress and finally how to help. The ICA also continued to work with **See Change** and took part in the Green Ribbon Campaign in May 2014 and will do so again at AGM 2015. Together with **St Patrick’s Mental Health Foundation** Guilds around the country have continued to take part in a fundraising initiative called “Walk in my shoes”. This initiative encourages members to wear mismatched, decorated or funky shoes and donate €2 to the cause. To date €4,988 has been raised by ICA Guilds for St Patrick’s Mental Health Foundation. ICA was represented on the **Agricultural committee** of See Change and produced talking cards which were distributed at the Ploughing 2014 encouraging people to speak openly about their mental health.

CALICO DOLLS FOR TEMPLE STREET HOSPITAL: The Play Therapists in Temple Street Hospital for Sick Children contacted the ICA in early 2014 inviting Guilds and Members to make calico dolls for use with their young patients – by allowing them to colour in and make the dolls unique to themselves including their illness/condition this allowed them to express feelings of being in hospital. The Hospital Play Specialists aim to prepare children for invasive procedures such as cannulation. This procedure can be mirrored on their doll and empowering them to know step by step what will happen – and they can become the nurse/doctor. There was a huge response to the call for Calico dolls with nearly one thousand dolls made and donated to Temple Street. The board were delighted with the positive response to this campaign as were the Play Therapists in Temple Street Hospital.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY: The ICA was approached by the EPA to help with their campaign to inform anyone in Ireland with a private well or a septic tank on the risks from contamination and how to check a private well and to test it for pollution. The EPA also provided members with information on how to access grants and funding to take action to eliminate sources of contamination, avail of testing and installing treatments.

LIMERICK MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES: Limerick Lace. Historically Limerick was a major centre in Ireland for the production of lace. The city gives its name to a particular type of lace which is handmade on machine made net. Limerick Museum and Archive contacted the ICA to invite members to get involved in a project aimed at exploring the history of Limerick Lace. Members around the country who knew anything about Limerick Lace were invited to get involved.

An Grianán Diamond Anniversary Golf Competition 2014	
1 st Pauline Scully	Tallaght Guild Dublin Federation
2 nd Marie O’Toole	Lucan Guild Dublin Federation
3 rd Anne O’Dea	Blanchardstown Guild Dublin Federation
An Grianán Diamond Anniversary Drama Competition 2014	
Best Supporting Actress	Berna McEntaggert
Best Actress	Margaret Dinan
Best Set	Anyone For Drama
Best Director	Dawn Twomey
Adjudicator’s Award	A Candle on the table
Adjudicators Award	Ann O’Dea
Merit Award	Esther Casey
Merit Award	Miriam Verdon
Merit Award	Mary Mc Manus
Merit Award	Jean Regan & Ann Farrell
Best Drama	Positive Dead People
Social Media Poetry Competition	
Linda Nolan, Clough Guld, Kilkenny Federation	
Winners of Brown Bread Baking Competition 2014 at Federation Level in Association with Aldi and the National Ploughing Association:	
CARLOW	Valerie James
CAVAN	Imelda McCabe
CLARE	Pauline O'Neill
CORK	Sheila O Connor
DONEGAL	Ann Smith
DUBLIN	Elaine Finnegan
GALWAY	Patsy Kenny – Shortlisted to the Finals at the National Ploughing Competition
KERRY	Tina Boulton – Shortlisted to the Finals at the NPC
KILDARE	Joan Zinn Collis
KILKENNY	Joan McElwee
LAOIS	Monike McGuire
LEITRIM	Carmel Earley
LIMERICK	Bernadette Daly – Shortlisted to the Finals at the NPC
LONGFORD	Teresa Dooner
LOUTH	Ann Haws
MAYO	Margaret Jennings – Shortlisted to the Finals at the NPC
MEATH	Maureen Kelly
MONAGHAN	Pauline Carney – Shortlisted to the Finals at the NPC
OFFALY	Mary McRedmond
ROSCOMMON	Margaret Sexton
SLIGO	Maureen Davey
TIPPERARY NORTH	Berta Armitage
TIPPERARY SOUTH	Betty Williams – OVERALL WINNER OF THE BROWN BREAD COMPETITION 2014
WATERFORD	Mary Wilding
WESTMEATH	Margaret Kelly – Shortlisted to the Finals at the NPC
WEXFORD	Gretta O'Connor
WICKLOW	Statia Ivers – Shortlisted to the Finals at the NPC
Betty Williams of Tipperary South was the overall winner of the Brown Bread Baking Competition 2014	

PINTEREST:
2014 saw the introduction of Pinterest to the ICA Social Media portfolio https://www.pinterest.com/ICAireland/ Pinterest is a web and mobile application company that offers a visual discovery, collection, sharing, and storage tool. Users create and share the collections of visual bookmarks (boards). Boards are created through a user selecting an item, page, website, etc. and pinning it to an existing or newly created board.
FACEBOOK:
The ICA Facebook page has become very popular among members with more and more members joining the ICA Facebook page. Over the year the ICA Facebook page has received 2,416 “likes” which is the amount of people who have seen and liked the ICA Facebook page. To become a friend of the ICA Facebook page please log on to www.facebook.com/irishcountrywomensassociation
TWITTER:
2014 - 2015 was another good year for ICA on Twitter. Since the AGM in 2013 the ICA has increased its followers to 778 on Twitter and has written or tweeted 351 tweets. Twitter is used by the ICA to highlight an event or activity for example to view a press release or to sign a petition. Twitter is also used to support the work of some charities.
TELEVISION AND RADIO:
The National President Liz Wall was invited on numerous occasions to speak on local Radio in 2014. Topics included the changes to the laws surrounding prostitution, the decline of rural communities and the closure of post offices and banks.
At Your Service with the Brennan Brothers: In Spring 2014 RTE approached the board requesting that the Brennan Brothers filmed an episode of their programme “At Your Service” in An Grianán. Filming took place over the Summer and Autumn and a number of suggested improvements were undertaken. The programme was aired on Sunday 1 st March 2015 and there was a significant spike in new enquiries for membership in the days after the programme.
PUBLICATIONS:
The ICA Book of Crafts – 40 Projects to make at home. This book was published by Mercier Press in 2014 and it was commissioned as part of the preservation of the Heritage Crafts in Ireland. The book aims to share skills and expert knowledge that exists among our members, and it was great to see it come to fruition. So many members took a lot of time and effort making detailed submissions and the skill level of so many of the crafts was very high. Unfortunately not all of the craft work submitted was included usually because the pieces were so intricate, requiring an expert level of skill that they were beyond the scope of this took to try and teach them. Josephine Helly Galway Federation President was very involved in editing the submissions on various crafts and her help was invaluable. Many thanks to all members for their submissions.
The ICA Book of Tea and Company:
Following the success of the ICA Cookbook and the ICA book of Home and Family we were approached by Gill and Macmillan to do a third book namely the Book of Tea and Company. As Liz Wall said in her introduction the fantastic response to the first two books was reason enough to continue with the third. The ICA book of Tea and Company also published in 2014 and perhaps the most personal of all, shares ICA wisdom and recipes, not just favorite recipes but personal reflections and those treasured words held dear to our hearts which help us all through the day.
Aoife Carrigy returned as our General Editor and as we had worked with her on the ICA Cookbook and the Book of Home and Family we knew we were in good hands. The fourth ICA book to be published with Gill and Macmillan is the ICA Book of Christmas and submissions have now been sent to the editor for consideration and we hope to see it on the shelves in time for Christmas 2015.
We were delighted to have the skills of Joanne Murphy the photographer, Carly and Blondie Horan the stylists and Tanya Ross the designer working together again on the spirit of reflections and the delicious recipes in this book.
All ICA books are for sale from Central Office for €18 per book or €50 for three books.
THE MEMBER BENEFIT PROGRAMME:
The Member Benefit programme has proved very popular with Irish companies and organisations and in 2014 we now count more than 110 organisations or companies offering exclusive benefits to ICA members. The programme is constantly being improved and updated and members should check the mailing and website regularly for the announcements of new companies which have joined the programme. If members would like to suggest companies to join the Member Benefit Programme they may send their suggestions to Central Office for follow up.

Section 3 - National Competition Results 2014

GemPack - Baking Competition 2014 2015- The contestants had to submit a menu for a 3 course meal for a celebration dinner using as many GemPack products as possible.

1 st Deirdre Hickey	Cork Federation
2 nd Kathleen Dillon Byrne	Carlow Federation
3 rd Mella Winters	Wexford Federation

GemPack – Prize for the Cake that used the most GemPack products

Niamh Headen	Kildare Federation
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GemPack – Prize for the most Dramatic Cake

Catherine Murphy	Limerick Federation
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GemPack – Special mention prize Gluten Free Cake

Mary Tighe	Dublin Federation
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Make & Model Competition 2014 – Contestants had to create a Fascinator and Handbag to match her outfit for the annual Garden Party.

1 st Mary O’Gorman	Kildare Federation
2 nd Caroline Power	Meath Federation
3 rd Anne Brennan	Tipperary North Federation

Table Quiz 2014

1 st Waterford Federation (Minaun Guild)
2 nd Cork Federation (Boherbue Guild)
3 rd Mayo Federation (Meelick Guild)
4 th Wicklow Federation (Ashford Guild)
5 th Carlow Federation (Leighlinbridge Guild)
6 th Kildare Federation (Maynooth Guild)

Short Story Competition 2014 – Meanwhile down on the farm....

1 st Noreen O’ Connell	Cork Federation
2 nd Emma O’Reilly	Cavan Federation
3 rd Myrtle Kenny	Longford Federation

Inter Federation Cup for Crafts 2014 (Cushion Cover)

Patchwork

1 st Eleanor Carleton	Monaghan Federation
2 nd Marguerite Cleary	Dublin Federation

Hand Appliqué

1 st Maura Walsh	Limerick Federation
2 nd Rena McClean	Donegal Federation

Knitting

1 st Rosemary Hanley	Kildare Federation
2 nd Diane Harkin	Donegal Federation

Inter-Federation Cup for Art 2014 (Photography in Colour)

1 st Linda Nolan	Kilkenny Federation
2 nd Rosemary Connolly	Galway Federation
3 rd Theresa Kilmurry	Dublin Federation

Inter-Federation Cup for Art 2014 (Photography in Black and White)

1 st Janet Edgely	Dublin Federation
2 nd Linda Nolan	Kilkenny Federation
3 rd Jenny Jones	Wicklow Federation

Overall Winner: Linda Nolan Kilkenny Federation

Baumann Cup for Art 2014

1 st Ann Roth	Louth Federation
2 nd Freda Mackey	Dublin Federation

ICA Trophy for Reporting 2014

1 st Diana Dungan	Meath Federation
2 nd Mairead Ni Mhuiri	Cork Federation

Muriel Gahan Rosebowl 2014

Winner Mary Higgins	Galway Federation
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Breda McDonald Trophy for Hobby 2014

Winner Margaret Mason	Cork Federation
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Pitch and Putt 2014

1 st Meath Federation with Ann Nugent, Vera O’Rourke, Kathleen Geraghty and Margaret McTigue.
2 nd Dublin Federation with Pauline Scully, Eileen Dunne, Kathleen Weafer and Winnie Neary.
3 rd Wicklow Federation with Beth Holmes, Margot Byrne, Pauline Silke and Jean Kelly.
4 th Cork Federation with Esther Cahill, Helen Creedon, Frances Murphy and Maureen Buckley.

BAUMANN SHIELD FOR MUSIC 2014

1 st Kiltale Guild	Meath Federation
2 nd Tallaght Guild	Dublin Federation

ELEANORA GIBBON SHIELD FOR MUSIC 2014

1st Ballinora Guild	Cork Federation
2 nd Ballybrack Guild	Dublin Federation

PATSY LAWLOR CUP FOR SET DANCING - FULL SET 2014

1 st Dunderry Guild	Meath Federation
2 nd Kill Guild	Kildare Federation

PATSY LAWLOR SHIELD FOR SET DANCING - HALF SET 2014

1 st Ardcath Guild	Meath Federation
2 nd Kill Guild	Kildare Federation