

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2015

SPECIAL
'Croke Park Lunch'
EDITION



Est. 1949

**Laois Association
Dublin**

**Cumann na Laoiseach
Baile Átha Cliath**

www.laoisindublin.com

MISSION STATEMENT

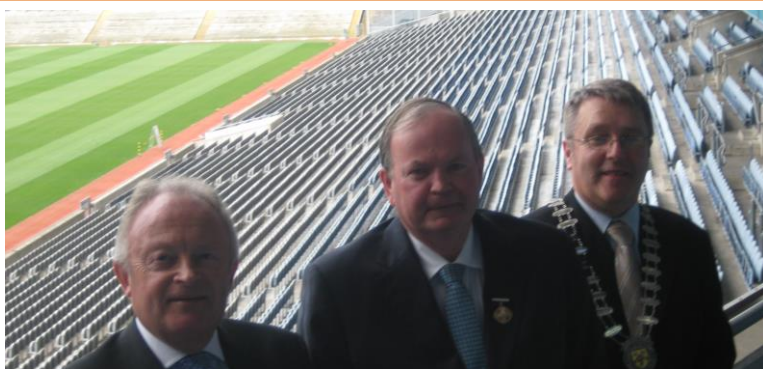
'The purpose of the Laois Association is to foster the origins of Laois people of all traditions and of all ages in Dublin, through cultural, educational, sporting and social contact, developing the traditions of the past while embracing and contributing to the Ireland of the New Millennium'

WELCOME to the Spring 2015 Newsletter of the Laois Association – Dublin. We hope you enjoy the photographic memories of 2014, our 65th Anniversary year. 

As we begin our 66th year, the Chairman and the President commend to you the events planned for 2015, and ask you to reward the efforts of your officers and committee with your continued support.



The 65th Anniversary Return Match!



'Our' President (L.A.D.), Sandy Metcalfe, 'Our' President (GAA), Laois man, Liam O'Neill, and 'Our' Chairman (L.A.D.), Gerry Thompson

Having celebrated our 60th Anniversary with a very successful lunch in Croke Park in 2009, it was obvious that a 'return match' celebration lunch to mark the 65th anniversary was the way to do it! It was another hugely successful, memorable and enjoyable occasion on the 16th May last made all the more special by the attendance of 'one of our own', GAA President, Liam O'Neill. The inaugural Laois Association - Dublin Achievement Award was presented to him to mark the fact that Liam is the first Laois-born person to hold this office.

See PHOTO GALLERY inside - with extensive coverage of the day.

2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Sunday 8th March 2015

The 3 'L's - LUNCH, LAUNCH & LEARN
- *Launch OF Calendar of Events*
- *Guest Speaker: Mr. Ger Lynch, Mountmellick World War I Research Group*

Sunday 19th. April 2015

AFTERNOON TABLE QUIZ
(Jackson Court Hotel, Harcourt Street)

Friday 22nd May 2015

DAY TRIP: BELFAST / TITANIC QUARTER
(by train)

Sunday 4th October 2015

LUNCH & LEARN
Guest Speaker: '1916 - The Laois Connection'
(Jackson Court Hotel, Harcourt Street)

Monday 9th. November 2015

ECUMENICAL SERVICE & AGM
(Jackson Court Hotel, Harcourt Street)

Thursday 3rd. December 2015

CHRISTMAS PARTY
(Jackson Court Hotel, Harcourt Street)

Members will be notified of final details in advance of each event

*Please pay your membership NOW, thank you.
Call Colm Healion - 01 8332570*

1949 - 2014



GALA LAUNCH - CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday 19th March

Guest Speaker, Anna May McHugh, MD,
National Ploughing Association



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We were delighted to welcome Anna May McHugh, MD of the National Ploughing Association (NPA) as our Guest Speaker at the launch of our Calendar of Events in September. Anna May has literally devoted her life to excellence in the field in her capacity as the long serving MD of the National Ploughing Association.

In a most enjoyable address, she recounted her own involvement with the association dates to 1951 when her grandfather suggested her as an assistant to the then director, JJ Bergin. JJ passed away in 1958, but Anna May just kept going. From tillage farming stock, the Brennans, she married into a tillage family, combining her NPA work with the busy life of a tillage farmer's wife, and becoming MD of the Association in 1973.

These days, Anna May, operates in tandem with daughter, Anna Marie. There is no denying their organisation the NPA has adapted with remarkable success to changed times, and is a unique phenomenon in the farming world - at home and abroad. In the process, Anna May has become something of a legend as a result of her unstinting work for the NPA.

She has spent all her life within a two to three mile radius within Co Laois, close to Athy. A onetime camogie player with caps for her county, on the evening with us, Anna May enjoyed renewing acquaintances with a number of our members with whom she grew up and/or went to school.

In expressing our appreciation, a presentation (including our history book and hurley) was made by our Chairman, Gerry Thompson.



In her closing remarks, Anna May invited members to consider a trip to the National Ploughing Championships in Ratheniska, near Stradbally in September. It didn't take much persuasion!

See below ... and continued on PAGE 7.



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Celebration Lunch & Achievement Award

Croke Park - Friday 16th May 2014



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PHOTO GALLERY

The Celtic Suite



This Event Was Possible Thanks to Our Sponsors to Whom We Are Indebted

Ulster Bank

ZURICH®

Jackson Court Hotel

Congratulations are due to the organising committee of this event - Mary Doyle, Joe Dowling, Eugene Donoghue, Vincent Rafter, our Treasurers, Margaret Kennedy & Carmel Campion, all led by our Chairman, Gerry Thompson and our President, Sandy Metcalfe - for delivering a hugely ambitious project to celebrate our 65 years in such a professional way, and for providing such an enjoyable & memorable occasion for members and friends.

THANK YOU
Very special thanks to our Chairman for his energy and leadership in organising another hugely enjoyable calendar of events throughout 2014. Well done, Gerry.

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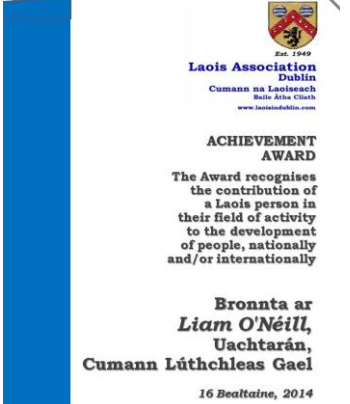
Celebration Lunch & Achievement Award

Croke Park - Friday 16th May 2014



PHOTO GALLERY

The Formalities



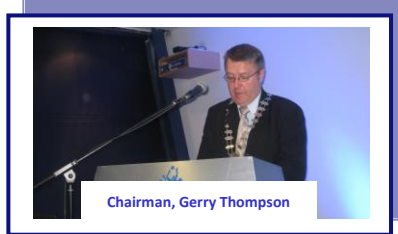
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ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

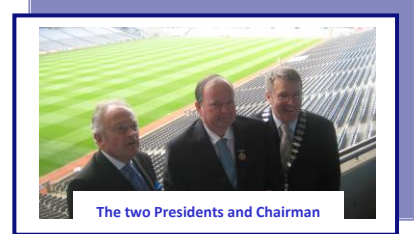
The Award recognises the contribution of a Laois person in their field of activity to the development of people, nationally and/or internationally

Bronnta ar Liam O'Neill, Uachtarán, Cumann Lúthchleas Gael

16 Bealtaine, 2014



Chairman, Gerry Thompson



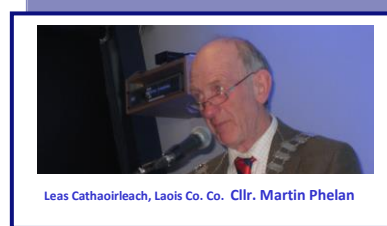
The two Presidents and Chairman



The Set and the Award



Award Recipient, GAA President, Liam O'Neill



Leas Cathaoirleach, Laois Co. Co. Cllr. Martin Phelan



The President meets Mrs Thompson and her boys



President meets the O'Meara brothers



President meets loyal GAA supporters, Fintan Walsh, Joe Dowling and Bill Kelly

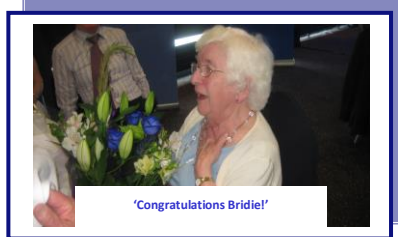


... and Tony Whelan



Louise Phelan (Rathdowney), VP, PayPal, and President, American Chamber of Commerce, with our President

Presentation to Our Founding Member, Bridie Healion



'Congratulations Bridie!'



Our Vice President, Mary Doyle making the presentation to Bridie & Colm



Presentation of Raffle Proceeds

Presentation of €1000.00 (Proceeds of Raffle) to Ellen O'Malley Dunlop, CEO, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre



RCC The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre
Preventing and healing the trauma of rape and sexual abuse



Ellen O'Malley Dunlop



'The Rathdowney Mafia' .. Ellen O'Malley Dunlop and Mick O'Meara

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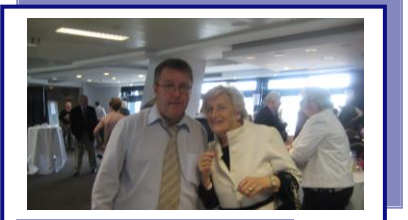
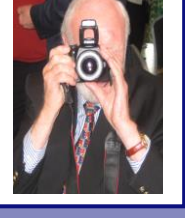
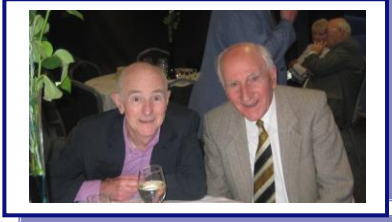
Celebration Lunch & Achievement Award Croke Park - Friday 16th May 2014



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PHOTO GALLERY

Bia Agus Oí



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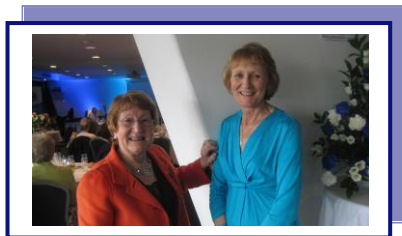


Celebration Lunch & Achievement Award Croke Park - Friday 16th May 2014



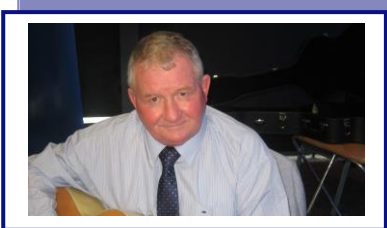
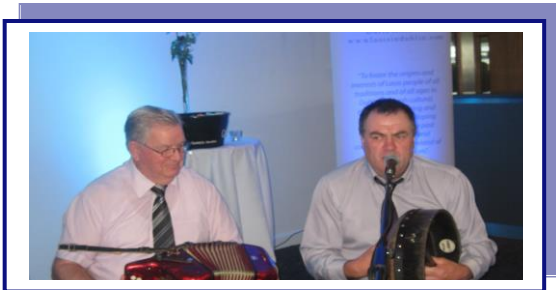
PHOTO GALLERY

Craic Agus Ceol



Appearing in Croke Park a week before 'One Direction'!!

The LADS - Laois Association Dublin Showband





Christmas Party Time!

Thursday 4th December 2014

The Laois Association Dublin Showband Starred Again!



Final News For 2014



R.I.P.

It is with deep sadness and regret that we record the loss of loved ones by several members during 2014, and we extend our heartfelt thoughts and sympathies to them all:

- To our former Treasurer, Tony Brophy on the loss of his beloved wife, Catherine after a long illness. Catherine was a regular attendee at Association functions, and will be missed by us all.
- To Tony and Rosemary Whelan on the tragic loss of their daughter, Karen.
- To PJ King on the death of Margaret (PJ's wife and Lucy O'Meara's sister).
- To Vincent Rafter on the loss of his sister, Anne Conroy.
- To Frances Quinn on the death of her brother, Edward Campion.

Ar Dheis De go raibh a nAnam

ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Our annual service (held prior to our AGM) was particularly poignant given the loss of loved ones of members during the year. As always, we are indebted, to our 'Laois clerics', Canon David Moynan (originally from Ballinakill) & Fr. PJ Cunningham (from Mountmellick) for their work and attendance to make this another occasion of fitting remembrance & reflection.

CONGRATULATIONS, TONI,
Our chairman's wife, Toni Thompson, graduated in September from University of Maynooth with a BA in English and Geography. Toni is now completing a 2 year MA degree in Community and Youth work.



A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS TO....

- Cathal & Paula Jackson, Jackson Court Hotel, Harcourt St. who generously provides a 'home from home' for the Laois Association in Dublin.
- Laois County Council for their continuing support
- The media (in particular the Leinster Express & the Laois Nationalist) for their interest.

OFFICERS 2015

President	- Sandy Metcalfe
Vice-President	- Mary Doyle
Chairman	- Gerry Thompson
Vice Chairman	- Vincent Rafter
Secretary	- Michael Butler
Asst. Sec.	- Daphne Metcalfe
Treasurer	- Margaret Kennedy
Asst. Treas.	- Carmel Campion
Membership Officer	- Colm Healion
PRO	- Rory Campion

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION TEAM

- Editor	Sandy Metcalfe
- Photography	Daphne Metcalfe Toni Thompson Bill Kelly Colm Healion Gerry Thompson
- Contributor	

Best wishes to all our members for a happy and healthy 2015 with special thoughts to those who are ill or indisposed at this time.