

April 2021.

SI. DROGHEDA.

The year 2020/21 has certainly been a different one. However we all strived to make the most of it and challenged ourselves in different ways.

2019/ 2020 the club hosted a monthly lunch open to anyone who cared to join us. Some of our Syrian friends from The Direct Provision Centre in Mosney joined us and shared their experiences, which were very interesting.

Adrienne Gallen took part in the homework club in Mosney.

We started a knitting group, spear headed by Maria Callaghan, knitting comfort blankets for the elderly patients some with Alzheimer's disease and also for those receiving chemotherapy, in Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital. They were graciously received and very beneficial for the patients. Unfortunately due to Covid 19 the hospital cannot accept them at present.

Following our real live local Public Speaking Competition and celebrations for International Women's Day in 2020, everything changed and since then we have adjusted to the virtual world.

Our business and social meetings have been held successfully via Zoom.

However some members continued to demonstrate their skills, making face masks and giving them to other members.

Together with **Louth Leader Partnership** we have enjoyed many events and education sessions on IT training (including zoom). Other events were on self-care and for International Women's Day.

They are also very interested in having a partnership with us for the 2021 White Ribbon Projects and Violence Against Women.

Presently we are getting involved with Drogheda & District Support for Older People Good Morning Drogheda Project.

Preparation is well under way for **STEM** for Girls which is a virtual event this year, the TY students who will take part are the students who were the first years from the 5 schools who took part in the first STEM event.

We were delighted to host the 2020 **Public Speaking** Regional final and to have a finalist in last years' **National Public Speaking** final.

This years' local heat is on Monday 12th.April. Due to the hard work of our convener Mary Hession and the public speaking committee we are looking forward to the new format. We have 6 schools taking part, we wish all the girls the very best of luck, we are grateful to them, their teachers and their families for their hard work in preparing and embracing the new format.

We supported a local **Connect Family Resource Centre**, by advertising their Christmas Trolley Appeal on our SI Drogheda Facebook page and on Drogheda Dolls. We received a donation from our local Rotary Club with whom we worked in partnership on their annual Memorial Remembrance Christmas Tree. Then presented our chosen charity the centre with a cheque for 2,000 Euros. We look forward to working with the centre again when restrictions are lifted.

We also supported the local Women's Refuge by supplying toiletries.

Also donating a cheque to them for 1,500 Euro from our Christmas wreath making at Christmas 2020, the cheque was presented on International Women's Day 2020.

We have engaged with the HSE Covid19 Community Network, attended all the meetings to date.

It was not all work, social events all be they remote were very much enjoyed. The social committee organised very interesting and entertaining evenings. Our Christmas event was a Christmas themed cookery demonstration by Tara Walker, which was different and gave us great ideas for some alternative cuisine.

In February, we had a very enlightening talk from the Reverend Katharine Poulton Church of Ireland who is the first female Canon elect to St. Patrick's Cathedral, telling us about life in the ministry and her own career.

In March, Deirdre O' Kane gave a talk on "Essential Oils for Emotional and Physical Well Being. Then this month we had a local author Nicola Cassidy to tell us how and where she researches her material for her books. All very interesting and different.

For International Women's Day, along with the Louth Leader Partnership event, some members joined SI Mullingar and some attended the Droichead Arts event.

The National Project, we have been in contact with a few local representatives and are looking forward to working with Louth County Council for guidance and advice.

Some members did some bird watching, taking note of the numbers and types of birds in our gardens.

As a club we are very proud of all our former founder member's, however we are delighted a founder club member the late Dr. Patricia McCaul Collins was honoured as one of the One in a Hundred for the centenary year. As a GP she worked tirelessly for the under privileged in Drogheda.

We have been lead and encouraged through a difficult year with enthusiasm by our President Siobhan Matthews. Our AGM is this month and Siobhan will hand over to incoming President Margaret Geraghty who is starting her second term as club President.

Geraldine Pigott, (Club PA Co-Ordinator)

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