

GALWAY ISSUE NO. 3

AUGUST 2011



NEWSLETTER

'To share, educate and have a voice!'



Galway Club to host BPW National Conference

Sponsored by:



Celebrating 25 years, BPW Galway will host a National Conference on The Family, in the Hotel Meyrick on Thursday 22nd September.

Entitled "The Family in Ireland 2011, Challenge or Opportunity", the conference will bring together leading national thought leaders on family law, child and family research, human rights, sociology, consumer protection and gerontology. A key focus of the conference will be an exploration of the rapidly changing dynamics of the family in the current society. The conference will be officially opened by Mrs. Fionnuala Kenny, wife of An Taoiseach.

We are letting you know as the topics and the speakers will be of particular interest to you. If you can, please do come along but we would also ask you to share this information with those interested in listening to and engaging in discussion with:

Professor Pat Dolan of the Child & Family Research Centre at NUIG, who will provide insight into the sociological issues impacting the Irish Family at this time.

Mr Geoffrey Shannon, Chairman of The Adoption Authority, sharing his extensive knowledge of Family Law and, in particular, the Law as it relates to Children.

Mr Bernard Sheridan, Director for Consumer Protection at the Central Bank of Ireland addressing the topical subject of financial distress with the Irish Family.

Mr Colm O'Gorman, Executive Director of Amnesty International in Ireland speaking on human rights issues impacting the Irish Family unit.

Mr Robin Webster, Chief Executive of Age Action, exploring the particular issues facing the older generation in Ireland today.

Ms Jennifer O'Connell, Journalist, highlighting the changing roles within the family unit and the impact within the Irish Family and Irish Society.

Among others, the Conference will be of interest to parents, older people, families under financial and other strain, immigrant families and professionals engaged with any of these groups.

The event is kindly sponsored by Costello and Tarpey Financial Services a Galway based Financial Services Company who provide independent advice on a wide variety of financial areas so providing peace of mind to people that they and their families are looked after in any eventuality.

Bookings can be made by logging into www.bpwgalway.ie and downloading the booking form *Or* email your booking enquiry to nationalconference@eircom.net or contact **Maureen Mooney on 087-2843493.**





NEWSLETTER

'To share, educate and have a voice!'

Launch of National Conference



NEWSLETTER

'To share, educate and have a voice!'

BPW Summer Lunch

Resilience is key to our future says Caroline Casey.

The annual BPW summer lunch which took place in the Ardilaun Hotel on Friday 20th May and was kindly sponsored by RDJ Glynn certainly was a unique occasion as BPW Galway celebrated 25 years since originally founded in Galway by Breda Ryan and her committee and has grown from strength to strength since then. On that morning Breda and John Ryan unveiled a plaque to commemorate the establishing of the club.

Imelda Tierney, Partner with RDJ spoke of their delight in sponsoring this wonderful event and their association with BPW Galway over the past number of years.

RDJ Glynn is the West of Ireland's largest commercial law firm and, as part of Ronan Daly Jermyn, is a leading Irish law firm offering specialist legal advice in diverse areas including banking, commercial transactions, property, general and commercial litigation, employment law, alternative dispute resolution and insolvency - the Chambers Europe Client Service Award for Ireland 2010.

Enable Ireland was nominated as the main charity to receive funds generated by the raffle on the day. Joanne Murphy (Regional Community Fundraising Manager) with Enable

Ireland addressed those attending and spoke about the important service they provide including therapy and services for children and adults with physical disabilities throughout Ireland. In Galway the Children's Centre and Hydrotherapy Pool, Located on Seamus Quirke Rd, provides essential services to children across Galway. These services are provided free of charge. Money raised through the BPW raffle would go towards the provision and development of these services in Galway providing vital support and intervention to children and their families.

Guest speaker Caroline Casey who founded Kanchi (formerly The Aisling Foundation) and the O2 Ability Awards inspired the audience with her witty and informative address highlighting the many challenges she faced through her own career from discovering that she was legally blind at the age of 17 as she was diagnosed with ocular albinism and continuing through her career despite her disability to secure and hold a successful high profile management consultant role in Accenture for a number of years.

However her sight deteriorated and there came a time she had to accept that she could no longer continue the role in Accenture. Whether or not you're disabled, Caroline reminds us that asking for help is difficult for any one of us. When she finally admitted to her boss and to herself that she needed help, she was finally able to pull herself out of a situation she wasn't truly happy in and discover her true calling.

From the wonderful molding she received from her parents early in her childhood - her resilience and 'can-do' attitude



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ensured she dusted herself down, followed her dreams and travelled across the world which involved taking an elephant ride across India. This gave time to think about what direction to take in her life – and she asked how could she embrace her disability while providing an understanding to employers that disability can be embraced openly so the o2 Ability Awards were created by Caroline to recognize businesses for Best Practice in the inclusion of people with disabilities, both as customers and as employees. The Awards are all about thinking differently – in an uncertain world, thinking differently and adapting to change through innovation helps organisations to not only survive, but thrive.

Caroline has received several high profile awards in recognition of her work worldwide including becoming the first Irish person to be appointed a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum and was awarded an honorary doctorate from NUI Ireland. Caroline informed the audience about how the concept of the O2 Ability awards had captured imaginations across Europe and she has recently signed a multi-million contract to roll out similar Awards in Europe.

What carried Caroline Casey through most of her life was the belief her parents instilled in her, the belief in her ability (not disability) and her potential. When she harnessed that self-belief again, she discovered what she was passionate about and achieved much more than she could have ever imagined. She lives by the golden rule that 'if you truly believe, and I mean believe from the bottom of your heart, you can make change happen'.

Caroline said she was so impressed by the women attending the event and commented that the atmosphere was like none she experienced before. She noted that those attending were the best dressed women she had ever seen at a business lunch and promised she would return for a shopping trip to Galway in the very near future.

Caroline received a standing ovation and provoked questions from the audience about her parents approach to coaching her through her disability to follow her dreams - the lunch concluded by a vote of thanks to this witty and extremely inspirational speaker.



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TRIP TO ARAS an UACHTARAIN

The end of the year Social event turned out to be two outings instead of one this year.

In June of this year after much anticipation we were delighted to hear our request to attend one of President McAleese's Garden Parties at an Aras a Uachtarain was granted. Seven spaces were allotted to BPW Galway. Three spaces were given by vote of the Executive Committee; one to the current president, Michelle Murphy, and one each to Carmen Taheny and Karen Roberts as chief organizers of the event. The remaining 4 spaces were put into a lottery for current and interested paid up members. The 4 lucky names drawn were: Peggy Carty O'Brien, Mary Dooley, Maresa Wren, and Grainne Murphy. On Thursday, July 7th, 2011 our great day commenced with the arrival of 6 members at Heuston Station from Galway. A quick stop was made at the Aishling Hotel to liaise with Carmen Taheny, have a small bite to eat and drink, and to ready ourselves for the trip over to the Aras. We took a taxi to the Phoenix Park to Ratra House-so named as this was the name of the residence in Roscommon of the



1st Irish President, Douglas Hyde-for a check-in with a Gardai Siochana. Lovely Garda Gavin Murphy of Claregalway took very good care of his "Galway women". We were then shuttled by bus to Aras an Uachtarain and after a short, independent tour around the grounds with photos taken we were placed in the receiving line to meet President and newly appointed Senator McAleese. A Galway Crystal BPW engraved vase was presented to the President. She shook hands and spoke to each one of us and there followed a group photo with the



TRIP TO ARAS an UACHTARAIN



President and her husband, Martin. They were so gracious and accommodating. Once outside we made our way to Hyde House for tea, coffee, and beautifully presented savouries, sandwiches, fruit, and desserts. A short break outside in the sunshine on the grounds with a glass of wine was followed by a speech from President McAleese in the Marquis tent. MC for the day was the beautiful and very gracious Mary Kennedy who presented the rest of the afternoon's entertainment which included the St. John's Choir, Ciorrus, a trad band formed by Donal Lunny, and a 23yr old baritone soloist, Benjamin accompanied by a 23yr old pianist from Hong Kong, Yun Wok. The Celtic Choiristers, an all male choir, followed and the day's entertainment ended with a rousing medley by Red Hurley. Those who wanted could avail of a tour of the private quarters at Aras an Uachtarain. It was a magical day and there was much reflection on the 7:15 train back to Galway. For those who could not attend there is a small photo album capturing the day for you to peruse. It will remain a part of the Social Committee records. Thank you.



Respectfully submitted,

Karen Roberts, Chair
Social Committee

An Evening at the House Hotel

Normally, the last social event of the season finds us leaving Galway for parts exotic and unknown-like Dublin. This year, because of the excursion to Aras an Uachtarain, we decided to stay closer to home. On Friday, 8th July, 2011 approximately 25 members and guests descended on the House Hotel, Galway's premiere boutique hotel for a BBQ night. A pink champagne reception was followed by lovely BBQ foods of burgers, kebabs, salads, and roasted veg. The meal was capped off by trays of delicate and oh so scrumptious chocolate treats. We were then treated to the sight of Johanna Downes making her own Margherita cocktail with the able, and patient assistance of one of the hotel bar staff. Karen Roberts was on hand to record the event with much photo taking-keep an eye on the website. The photo album with pics of the previous day's adventure to Aras an Uachtarain was passed around to the delight of all. There was, of course, much laughter and camaraderie, and as usual the group looked beautiful. A big thank you is due to Margaret of the House Hotel for her organization and care of us at the House Hotel on the night. It was a fabulous night out with the ladies of BPW and a great way to end the season. Happy Summer and I'm sure we'll see ALL of you at the first general meeting in the fall.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the social committee who helped me with the year's activities. It was greatly appreciated. They are: Michelle Murphy-never gets



enough credit for her help, Sabien Brennan, Tina Monroe, and Joanne Murphy. Get ready girls, the Christmas Party will be here before we know it.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Roberts, Chair
Social Committee



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An Evening at the House Hotel





NEWSLETTER

'To share, educate and have a voice!'

Letter from our European President

Dear BPW Ireland...

I wanted to congratulate all Irish women on the ongoing changes in the Irish justice system with the nomination of a woman Chief Justice and a woman General Attorney.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/frontpage/2011/0720/1224301011023.html>

I am pleased to see women getting into decision making positions in justice systems, which are at the moment mostly lagging behind in this respect.

I hope that such nominations will lead to better integration of gender issues in the justice processes and better enforcement of legislation regarding domestic violence and crimes against women.

I hope everything is all right with you, since I am really worried not to have any news from Ireland in the past year. As indicated in my previous general message, the new European Regional Coordinator is Sabine Schmelzer. I hope you will be able to establish close working relations with her.

Best regards

Amélie Leclercq

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Money Matters Finance Event

Marriott (Pillo) Hotel

B.P.W Money Matters Personal Finance Event in conjunction with the Galway Chamber of Commerce took place on Thursday April 21st at the Marriott (Pillo) Hotel Galway.

Deirdre Costello, a qualified Financial advisor and partner in Costello & Tarpey Financial Services was the main speaker for the evening.

Deirdre presentation covered the benefits of personal Life Cover and its importance in the event of a sudden death in the family environment. Anyone with loans best advice would be to cover the full amount of an individuals home loan. Debts do not die with the borrower. Dependants need to be considered and their future planned.

Anyone in Business need to consider taking out life cover on each others life(should one of the partners die)

Points to be considered with life cover is it for the right amount

Is it for the correct term

An awareness of options increase/ Decrease/ Conversions

A life cover policy should be reviewed every few years.

Income protection:

Covers the gap without income until retirement advice is not to leave it to chance most people survive a serious illness however their family finances may not.

A wide range of options were discussed around Specific Illness

and the importance of having cover in the event of a long term illness the implication that would have on a family financial circumstances in the event of the illness lasting longer than six months. The benefits include a tax free lump sum paid on diagnosis of a specified illness. It is important to have a awareness that different companies differ widely on the scheme.

Discussion took place around different forms of personal Life cover the awareness of what Life Cover people have whether it is adequate and cove the needs of individual families.

Retirement Planning was discussed in detail to allow clients to prepare for retirement the future changes in government planning in relation to raising the retirement age from 65 years to 68 years the impact that this will have on state pension entitlements and how people need to be planning for this adjustment. A tax efficient savings plan allows a tax free sum at retirement which provides an income for life or a post retirement fund to draw down an income from.

Finally Deirdre recommends that All Plans need to be reviewed regularly

**Because things change in
Your World
Our World
And in the World.**

Impact Media

Our Members... Their News...

Impact Media a division of H+A Marketing + PR is an integrated marketing and PR agency based in Galway, Limerick and Cork.

We challenge the norm by delivering marketing and PR solutions that are not only original and creative, but most importantly, measurably improve business performance.

As a full-service marketing and PR agency, we look after all aspects of business communications – from marketing and PR strategy, media relations, branding and advertising campaigns, through to graphic design, web development and digital – all under one roof. We offer our clients a complete solution from strategic consultancy through to fully managed Marketing and PR campaigns.

Complete Solutions

Unlike most other agencies, we combine Marketing and PR consultancy at the highest international level with an extensive offering of in-house design and digital services to deliver fully integrated communications solutions.



Local, National & International

Based in Galway, Limerick and Cork, we operate locally, nationally and internationally with an extensive client list of indigenous Irish companies and multinational brands throughout the UK, Europe and the United States.

We pride ourselves on being 'commercially creative'. Through marketing and PR, we aim to positively and decisively effect the commercial performance of our clients' businesses and drive value to their bottom line.

Please visit us at:

www.impactmedia.ie

or contact:

Caroline Downey, *Business Development Manager*
on 086 6676144



NEWSLETTER

'To share, educate and have a voice!'

There is no recession...on the internet!

Ann Halloran of In-Tuition set up her website (<http://www.practical-management-skills.com>) 2 years ago and the site is now in the top 2% of websites worldwide in terms of traffic (according to google-owned Alexa.com).

She is a trainer by profession and will be showing unemployed professionals and small business owners how to build an online business using the same system. "Our programme takes people from site concept all the way through to making money online. Building a website is only one part of the whole process. To be successful, all you need are basic computer skills and a determination to succeed!"

An introductory session funded by SWG Skillnet will be held at 7pm on 20 July entitled "Building a Business using the Internet" in the premises of Jigsaw (Galway). It is aimed at jobseekers but all are welcome to attend. Places are limited, so book early to secure a place:

<http://www.gaeltachtnetwork.com/viewevent.asp?id=223>

Heard it on the Radio...

**Deborah Fagan,
Chief Executive Officer, iRadio Group**

Deborah Fagan is a founding shareholder and Chief Executive Officer of the iRadio Group which broadcasts to 15 counties across Ireland. Based in Ballinderreen, Deborah co-founded the Wilton Radio Group (owners of iRadio) which was set up to apply for government allocated FM regional radio licenses. Deborah then set about raising 20 million euro from a number of private equity investors .

The group was awarded two licences to broadcast to 15-34 year olds in the West and North West covering the counties of Galway, Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim, Longford, Roscommon and Donegal and in the Midlands and North East covering the counties of Louth, Meath, Cavan, Monaghan, Kildare, Westmeath, Offaly and Laois. i102 104 was launched on 7 February 2008 and i105 107 based in Athlone was launched on 24 November 2008. The awarding of two licences back to back to the same consortium is the first time this has happened in the history of independent commercial radio in Ireland. Within 18 months of launching, i102 104 had achieved and surpassed audience levels that took peer stations six years to attain. As a direct result of the continued difficult economic environment Deborah received approval from the BAI for the syndication of programmes across the two stations which now broadcast from Monksland in Athlone. This rationalisation now puts the iRadio group in the best position possible to capitalise on any upturn in the economy and continue its' position as one of the most listened to radio station in Ireland. At the forefront of the radio industry, iRadio attracts 287,000 listeners every week. iRadio has won 6 Radio Advertising awards, 11 PPI awards (Oscars for Radio) along with numerous other accolades.

A Chartered Accountant, Deborah was a key member of Denis O'Brien's Communicorp Group Ltd (which owns Today FM, Newstalk and Dublin's 98 radio stations among others) travelling to Prague as Financial Controller for the Czech Republic operations. She was Chief Financial Officer with



direct responsibility for all group financial reporting for it's Irish and international businesses. Deborah helped launch four radio stations including Spin 103.8 and Newstalk 106 in Dublin and turned six loss making radio stations into profit. Deborah was Chairperson of Spin 103.8 and a director in Newstalk 106, Dublin's 98FM and Bus Media Ltd. Along with the Group CEO Deborah was responsible for the acquisition of 17 radio stations across five countries which saw Communicorp enter the media markets in Finland, Estonia, Bulgaria, Hungary and the Ukraine. Deborah is looking forward to becoming more involved with BPW Galway.

Heard it on the Radio...

Gráinne McMahon, Group Head of News & Sport, iRadio

Gráinne McMahon has headed up the news and sports department for the iRadio Group since it was established four years ago in 2007, where she developed a news and sports service broadcasting to 15 counties in Ireland. At the age of just 26, Gráinne was the youngest news editor in Irish radio at the time of her appointment. Since then, under Gráinne's leadership, the news team have produced several highly acclaimed documentaries and nominated for a number of awards for their promotion of road safety to 15-34 year olds. In May 2009 Gráinne produced a radio documentary on life in a Belarus orphanage after travelling there with the Sunflowers Chernobyl Appeal. Since i102-104 went on air in February 2008, the number of listeners to the station has increased dramatically so that iRadio now attracts 287,000 listeners each and every week.

Since Gráinne took up the position of Head of News and Sport at iRadio, she has remained at senior management level and leading an established team of journalists. In January 2010 Gráinne took over as editor for the Midlands and Northeast so she now oversees content for both the West/Northwest and Midlands/Northeast.

A long established journalist, Gráinne completed a BA International in Legal Science and French at NUI Galway and a Masters in Journalism at Dublin City University. She has worked for the Galway Independent as a staff journalist and following her graduation, Gráinne took to the national airwaves at I.N.N before moving to Galway Bay FM where she worked for a number of years. Gráinne followed her love of entertainment and events when she produced, presented and directed her own television show 'Spotlight Galway' on City Channel which was broadcast in Galway and Dublin and focused on Galway's vibrant cultural and entertainment scene. Gráinne also wrote 'After Dark' a weekly out and about column for the Connacht Tribune Group, where she reported on Galway's social scene and furthered her love of writing with



weekly features in Tribune Life. In 2007, In 2009, Gráinne completed her LLB and has just sat the New York Bar which would qualify her as an attorney at law. Gráinne continues to freelance both on a local and national basis for publications such as GalwayNow, LimerickNow and Irish Tatler magazines. She has a keen interest in fashion and beauty and regularly MC's and judges fashion shows and charity events. Gráinne continues to play a key role in the promotion of iRadio and is looking forward to making a contribution to BPW Galway.



NEWSLETTER

'To share, educate and have a voice!'

**Business and Professional
Women's Clubs in Ireland**



HOWTH

Affiliated to the International Federation of B.P.W.

As you know we are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of BPW in Ireland this year. The actual date is November 18 and as the first meeting was held in the Shelbourne Hotel we have decided to mark the occasion with a

**Celebratory Lunch
on
November 18, 2011
in the
Shelbourne Hotel at 12.30 pm**

Cost €70.00 per person

Please contact Lilian Hunt, BPW Howth President on lilian@bpw.ie for more details.

PROFILE

Feeney Solicitors

Feeney Solicitors was established in 2006 by Áine Feeney McTigue with the intention to provide the comprehensive, efficient, client orientated service, specifically focused on building good client relationships, to ensure that all legal matters affecting individual clients can be dealt with under the one roof. The practice is fortunate that it has a good relationship with a number of experts in various fields where relevant advices can be sought as and when required for individual client needs.

Áine Feeney, originally from Athlone, undertook her studies at University College Galway and graduated with an honours degree in 1997. Áine subsequently undertook postgraduate studies and completed her LLB in 1999. Immediately thereafter she commenced her apprenticeship with the office of Bruce St. John Blake & Co. Solicitors located in Ballsbridge in Dublin, indentured to, Mary Grace Blake, within that practice. In the course of her time with Bruce St. John Blake & Co. Áine gained extensive experience in Employment and Occupational Injury Litigation, given that the Practice acted for a number of Trade Unions. This consequently afforded her the opportunity to deal with matters both from the perspective of the employer and employee. Towards the end of her training she transferred to the Galway Branch Office where she remained until she

qualified. Having gained experience in a mid sized Dublin practice she then went to work with the offices of Bernadette Burke & Co. located in Headford in Galway, where she gained invaluable experience in a rural practice which specialised in all areas of Conveyancing, Probate and the Administration of Estates. Áine then returned to work in the Galway office of Elizabeth Cazabon & Co. where she gained extensive experience in Family Law and Personal injury litigation. Áine has been approved as an Accredited Mediator since January 2009 and was enrolled as a Collaborative law practitioner in May 2008.

Áine practices extensively in Family Law and Litigation.



PROFILE

Feeney Solicitors



Áine is married to James McTigue from Kilmaine Co. Mayo and has two children.

David Mullin has been with the practice since it opened in May 2006. David, originally from Shrule, undertook a primary undergraduate degree in Public and Social Policy and graduated in 2006 with an Honours Degree. David subsequently undertook postgraduate studies and completed his LLB, graduating with an honours degree in 2009. David was enrolled as a member of the Irish Institute of Legal Executives in 2009, and specialises in Debt Recovery for the Practice.

Brid Tierney BA LLB is the most recent addition, joining the practice in November 2010. Brid, a native of Maunsells Road, Galway, studied at UCG and completed her LLB in 1993. She was apprenticed to Maura Keaveney & Co., Solicitors and gained much experience in Conveyancing, Probate, Litigation and Family Law and qualified as a Solicitor in 1997.

She worked for six months with Larry O' Connor & Co., Solicitors, immediately after qualifying and then went on to work for the late Jarlath McNerney Solicitor where she dealt with Conveyancing, Probate and Litigation. Brid spent 13 years working at McNerney Solicitors up until July 2010. Brid is married to Manolo Saez - Benito from La Rioja in Northern Spain and they have one daughter, Sofia. Brid practices mainly in the areas of Conveyancing and Probate.

