



Edition 72 December 2020/ January 2021

A Look Back at 2020

2020 will forever be remembered as the year of Covid-19, a virus that began in Wuhan in China at the end of 2019. The virus made its way across every continent and brought the world to its knees.

Ireland's first case of Covid-19 was in late February. From then cases grew so quickly that by March 12 the government decided that all schools and colleges would close for 2 weeks. However they did not reopen until the following September.

Leo Varadkar who was Taoiseach at the time spoke to the Irish nation from Washington DC, where he was attending the annual St Patrick's Day event at the White House. In his speech he asked that we would all stand together to slow down the spread of the virus. It was a St Patrick's Day like no other, with all parades and gatherings cancelled.



All non-essential shops, restaurants, bars and public buildings closed. Where possible, workplaces allowed staff to work from home. Church services were held behind closed doors, weddings were cancelled and only 25 people were allowed to attend a funeral. All those over 70 years of age were asked to cocoon. All air travel stopped except for essential travel. Hand sanitisers, frequent hand washing, wearing face masks and keeping a 2 metre social distance became part of our everyday lives.

In February we had a general election. Although Sinn Féin was the party who won the highest number of seats they did not have enough to form a government. It took 5 months of talks before a coalition government was finally formed between Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael, (for the first time ever) and the Green Party. The role of Taoiseach is being rotated between the two big parties with Micheál Martin taking on the role first.

Brexit, the name given to Britain's exit from the European Union, officially took place in January.

However, talks are still ongoing as to how this will affect Ireland's trade with Britain.

The death of John Hume took place in June. Hume was a politician from Northern Ireland. For more than 30 years he worked tirelessly for peace. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1998 for his role in the Good Friday Agreement that ended the troubles in the North.



Sports events this year were all held behind closed gates and without spectators. The GAA All-Ireland finals which always take place in September in front of a packed crowd of 80,000 people, this year took place in December in an empty Croke Park. In July, fans of soccer were sad to learn of the death of Jack Charlton, Ireland's most successful soccer manager.

During 2020 medical scientists all over the world worked day and night in a race to develop a vaccine to protect against Covid-19. In November, it was finally announced that vaccines have been developed, tested and by December were ready to be rolled out. Vaccinations have already begun in Britain. 90 year old Irish born Margaret Keenan was the first person in the world to receive the Covid-19 vaccine.

Margaret Keenan receiving the vaccine



The vaccine will be given to residents in long-term care facilities first. Then frontline healthcare workers, people 70 and over and then other groups. However, it is hoped that by Summer 2021 the vaccine will have been rolled out to everyone. However, we must still continue to protect ourselves and others by keeping a social distance, washing and sanitising our hands often and wearing our face masks in all indoor and public places. We look forward with hope to 2021 being a year of new beginnings.



2020 Quiz

1. Name the recent winner of the US presidential Election. _____
2. Who is the current Taoiseach? _____
3. Name the former Northern Irish politician who died in 2020. _____
4. Name of woman who was the first to get the Covid-19 vaccine. _____
5. Who presents the Late Late Show? _____
6. Name the comedy series that was 25 years old in 2020. _____
7. Known as the "Voice of the GAA", the 100th anniversary of his birth was in 2020.

8. Who is the leader of Sinn Fein? _____
9. The TV show Coronation Street is how many years old in 2020?
a. 40 years b. 50 years c. 60 years
10. Davy Fitzgerald is the manager of what county hurling team? _____
11. Name the president of Ireland. _____
12. This Former Irish soccer manager died this year. _____
13. She is the top female boxer in the world. _____
14. Name the Chief Medical Officer who gives us the latest Covid-19 information everyday on the TV. _____
15. In what Irish county does Donald Trump own a golf course? _____
16. 2020 was a leap year, how many days in a leap year? _____
17. In Ireland December 26 is known as St Stephen's Day, what is it called in Britain?

18. What is the name of the company that runs the Postal Service in Ireland?

19. What name is given to a person who writes nasty comments online about others?

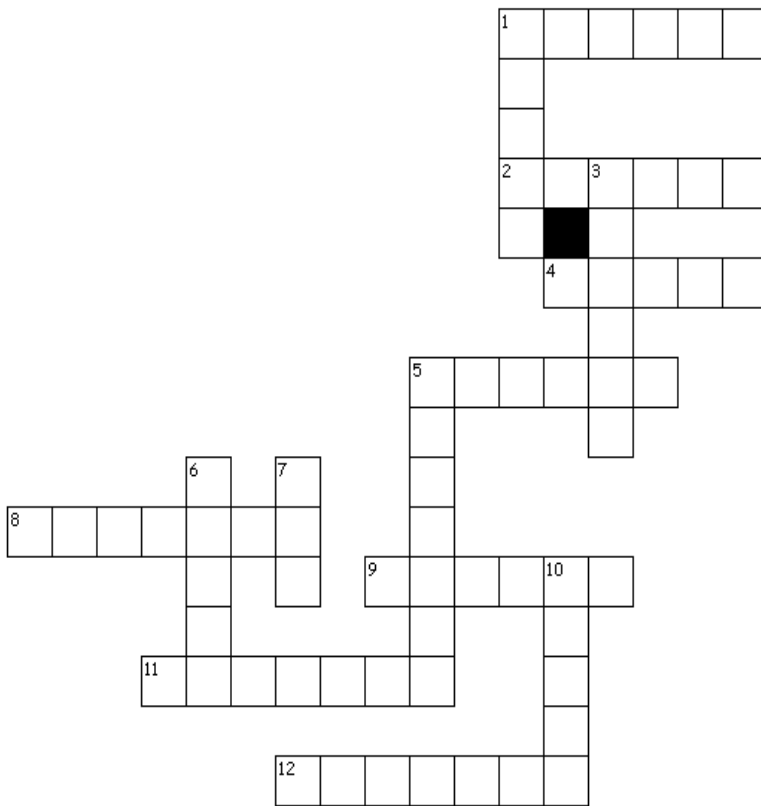
20. Name the former Beatles member, who was shot in New York 40 years ago.

Answers are on the next page.



Crossword

The answers are all types of food



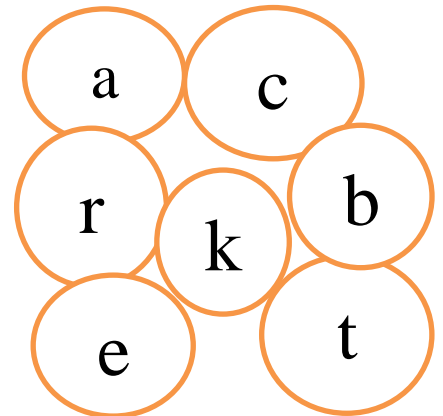
Across

- 1. Crackers and _____
- 2. In Ireland we call it a spud
- 4. Apple pie and _____
- 5. Would you like tea or _____
- 8. Plum _____, a dessert for Christmas
- 9. An orange vegetable _____
- 11. Rasher and _____
- 12. _____ nuggets

Down

- 1. Fish and _____
- 3. Roast _____ and ham, for Christmas Dinner
- 5. Bacon and _____ is an Irish dinner
- 6. A popular Italian dish with lots of toppings _____
- 7. You might like a boiled one for breakfast _____
- 10. Taytos, cheese and _____ crisps

Using the letters below to make as many words as you can.



Put the letters below in the correct order to give us some well-known Christmas songs.

injleg ellbs _____

Sentil ignht _____

O olhy nghit _____

Answers to quiz

- 1. Joe Biden
- 2. Micheál Martin
- 3. John Hume
- 4. Margaret Keenan
- 5. Ryan Tubridy
- 6. Fr Ted
- 7. Micheal O'Hehir
- 8. Mary Lou McDonald
- 9. 60 years
- 10. Wexford
- 11. Michael D. Higgins
- 12. Jack Charlton
- 13. Katie Taylor
- 14. Tony Holohan
- 15. Clare
- 16. 366
- 17. Boxing Day
- 18. An Post
- 19. A troll
- 20. John Lennon



December 2020

Dear Reader

We hope you are all keeping safe and well at the end of this very strange year. We hope you are enjoying our monthly worksheet “The Distance Learner” and thanks to everyone who has sent us some nice comments and ideas.

We would like to invite you to enter our Christmas competition the closing date will be January 30 2021.

Wishing you and your family a very happy Christmas and we hope 2021 will a better year for us all.



Kind regards

The NALA Distance Learning Team

COMPETITION

We have two €25 book vouchers to give away. To be in with a chance to win, answer the following:

Who will be the next President of the USA? Is it:

- a. Joe Biden
- b. Mike Biden
- c. Pat Biden

Please send your answer and your name by

Text to 087 198 4228 or

email to jbutler@nala.ie

Closing date is January 30 2021

All correct answers will be placed in the draw. Best of Luck!