



## 2021 A Look Back

COVID-19 was still top of the news headlines across the world this year. Here in Ireland, as cases grew it was late March before the schools reopened after Christmas. We had to wait until June and July for restaurants, bars, cafes and hairdressers to reopen. The COVID-19 vaccination programme was rolled out for all adults who wished to be vaccinated. Once vaccinated a certificate was given out and this certificate had to be shown before being allowed into restaurants, bars, cinemas, gyms and other indoor events.



In January, the United States of America (USA) welcomed their new president and vice president. Joe Biden was sworn in as the 46<sup>th</sup>

President of the USA. At 78 this was his third time running for president and he is the oldest ever president to be elected. Biden's ancestors came from Mayo and Louth and he is very proud of his Irish background. Kamala Harris was sworn in as US vice president and in doing so made history as she became the first woman as well as the first American of colour to hold the second most important job in the US government. Outgoing president Trump refused to attend the ceremony as he still insisted that he won the election.

The Olympic and Paralympic Games were held this year in Tokyo in Japan. The games which are normally held every four years were postponed in 2020 due to COVID-19. The games were held within strict COVID-19 guidelines and spectators were not allowed attend.

Ireland sent teams to both games in which they brought home a total of six gold, two silver and three bronze medals. Among the gold medal winners was Dublin boxer Kellie Harrington who was taking part in her first Olympics.



Tipperary jockey Rachael Blackmore made history in April when she became the first woman to win the English Grand National in Aintree. It is regarded as one of the most difficult races in the world. Only the world's top horses and riders are allowed to take part. It is every jockey's dream to win it.



Limerick won the All-Ireland hurling championship for the second year in a row when they defeated Cork. However, it was heartbreak for Mayo once again when they were beaten by Tyrone in the All-Ireland Football final. Mayo have been in eight finals since 2004 and have not won an All-Ireland title since 1951.

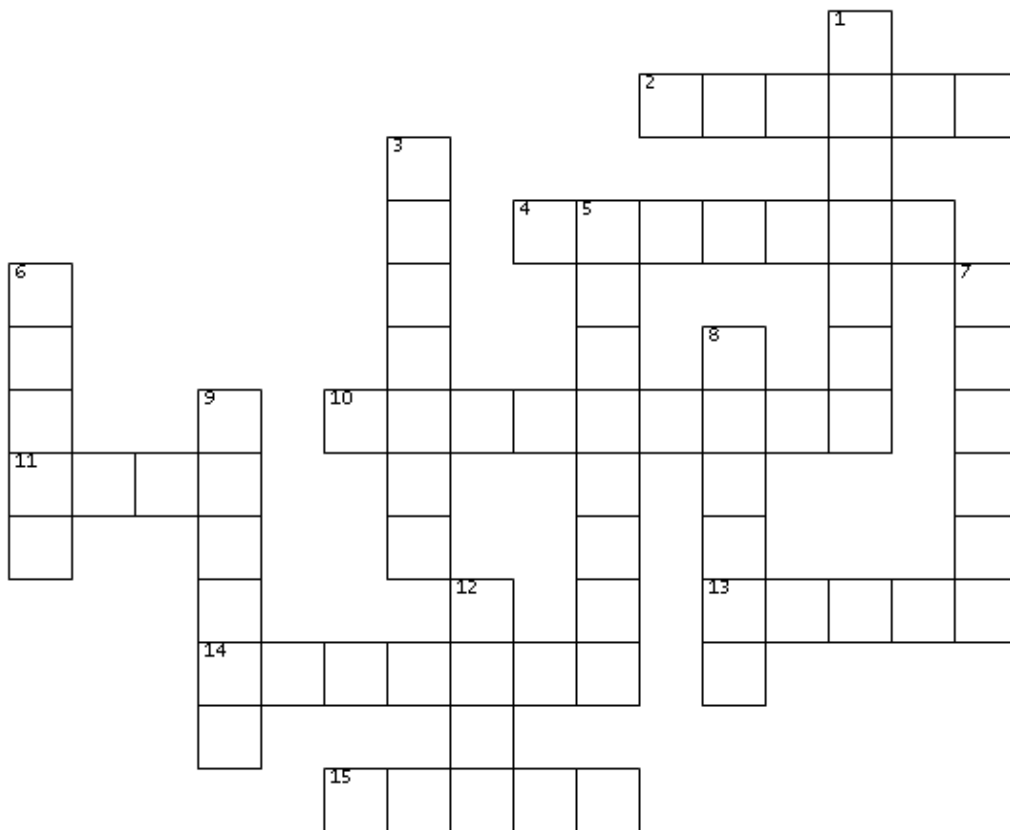
The All-Ireland Camogie title went west when Galway beat Cork while Meath won the All-Ireland Ladies Football final beating a strong Dublin team who were going for five in a row.

President Michael D Higgins celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. He is currently serving his second term as president which will end in 2025. Before becoming president, he was a TD for Galway East, a Minister and a college lecturer. He is also a poet and a writer and this year finished writing his 12<sup>th</sup> book.

In October this year, Paddy Moloney founder of the famous Irish band The Chieftains, passed away at the age of 83. A talented and popular musician, he was very well respected and along with the Chieftains played in concerts all over the world including at the Great Wall of China. They were invited to play at Joe Biden's inauguration but due to COVID-19 were unable to travel at the time.



## Christmas Crossword



### ACROSS

2. All Ireland Football champions 2021.
4. The COP climate conference took place in this city in Scotland recently.
10. Jockey Rachael Blackmore comes from this county.
11. County that has lost 9 All Ireland Finals since 2004.
13. This Co. Clare town was named the tidiest town in Ireland this year.
14. The 9/11 Tragedy took place in this city, 20 years ago.
15. Surname of US President Joe \_\_\_\_\_.

### DOWN

1. Founder of the band the Chieftains, Paddy \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Name of the Irish President, Michael D \_\_\_\_\_.
5. All Ireland hurling champions 2021.
6. Surname of former US president Donald \_\_\_\_\_.
7. This American singer will perform in Croke Park in 2022, Garth \_\_\_\_\_.
8. First name of Donegal singer who turned 60 this year \_\_\_\_\_ O'Donnell.
9. Kellie Harrington won a gold medal in this sport.
12. Colour of the medal you win when you get first place.

These are words that we use when we think about winter.  
See if you can find them hidden in the word search below

Christmas	cold	storm	fog	woolly hat
darkness	frost	wind	fire	snow
hailstones	ice	boots	gloves	

o h z e b s b w r n r e d n k x b c h s  
e j v j r t o k r b w l w a y d j p z s  
r u g w w a o p y x g y r j r k w w c t  
j q b u o b t n t u y b l r m k i q x n  
s n p r i o s f o g r e s a g k n l b z  
n g u t q y l i p h c m m g n a d e x l  
o h c v g e k l c i p q s m k n m i s o  
w o e h w n d d y y d a q g m v e i x s  
w s f i r e f v a h w h w q c b p a s l  
y p f u y i s o j j a s r i b g c p z w  
z t s c f b s f v x r t m l k w r d c m  
v o h q v t v t r v o o r l y y p n e e  
x k z n s l n u m o x r o g u m u d u h  
p z w l z r l h m a s m n d b s t y n e  
y r x a t b h a i l s t o n e s t l h f  
p c i o q q e h f y j y k v e l c o l d  
m x m w f u y o i w l e o k r u w c b o  
u l m a q g e a w v z l a o o c r b d e  
w i o u y t o b a k g e p m p v o h u l  
q i y r k o q l a g x l c w v e z w b u

See how many small words you can make using the letters in the word

**Santa Claus**

nuts \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# The Distance Learner



December 2021

Dear Reader,

We hope you are keeping well and enjoying our monthly worksheet "The Distance Learner". Thank you to everyone who has sent us nice comments and ideas over the past year.

We would like to invite you all to enter our Christmas competition. The closing date for entries is 31 January 2022.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

Best Wishes,  
NALA Distance Learning Team

## Competition

If you would like to be in with a chance to win  
a €25 book voucher,  
please answer this question:

**What county won the All Ireland Ladies Football Final in 2021?**

Please send answer and your name  
by text to **087 198 4228** or  
by email to [distance@nala.ie](mailto:distance@nala.ie) or  
by post to **Freepost – NALA  
Competition  
Sandford Lodge  
Ranelagh, Dublin 6**

**Closing date is 31 January 2022  
Good Luck**