

That's Interesting!



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Celebrating Irish women in sport



An Post, the Irish Postal Service, has just brought out six new stamps to celebrate some of Ireland's most successful sportswomen. You can find out more and purchase the stamps online at www.anpost.com/Shop. For far too long, women's sport has not been given the same recognition as men's sport even though women put as much time and effort into playing and training as men. All this is beginning to change as Irish sportswomen are not just successful here in Ireland but are also becoming leading lights in sport around the world.

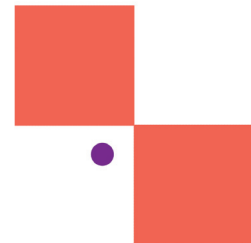


Sonia O Sullivan, from Cobh in Cork, is regarded as having been one of the top female athletes in the world. She was a track and cross-country runner. She holds world and European gold and silver medals as well as an Olympic silver medal.

She also broke two world records during her career. Now living between Ireland and Australia she is still very much involved in athletic coaching.

The success of boxer **Katie Taylor**, from Bray in Wicklow, has brought women's boxing to a new level as young women all over the world continue to be inspired by her. Women were not allowed to fight in competition until 1999 and women's boxing only became an Olympic sport in 2012, which was the year that Katie won her gold medal.





Katie is now a professional boxer and holds five world title belts at present. On 30 April this year, she will defend all of her titles against Puerto Rican boxer Amanda Serrano. They are both regarded as the best women boxers in the world. It will be held in Madison Square Garden in New York and is being called the biggest female fight in boxing history.



Women's boxing has become really popular here in Ireland and the country celebrated when **Kellie Harrington** from Dublin won a gold medal this year in the Tokyo Olympics. Kellie was already a world and European champion and gave the performance of her life in the Olympic final to win the gold.

Rachael Blackmore from Killenaule in Tipperary, is a national hunt jockey who in 2021 made history when she became the first woman ever to win the English Grand National. The race, which is regarded as the most difficult and dangerous race in the world, has been taking place for over 180 years.



She made history once again when recently she became the first woman to win the Cheltenham Gold Cup. She was also awarded the RTÉ and BBC sportsperson of the year for 2021.



Ellen Keane, from Clontarf in Dublin, has represented Ireland in swimming in four Paralympic Games. She was just 13 when she took part in her first games in 2008. She has an Olympic Gold and a bronze as well as many World and European medals. Ellen was born without part of her left arm.

She continues to inspire all young people to work hard for what they believe in. She is currently taking part in the TV show “Dancing with the Stars”. Ellen along with Kellie Harrington led the 2022 St. Patricks Day Parade in Dublin.



All of these women appear on the new stamps along with the **Irish Women's International Hockey team** who in 2018 were silver medal winners in the final of the World Cup. They also took part in the 2021 Tokyo Olympics and have again qualified to play in the 2022 world cup.

Other Irish women who are leading lights in international sport include professional golfer **Leona Maguire** from Cavan. Leona, who is 27, is the most successful Irish female golfer of all time.



Last year she played for Europe in the Solheim Cup, which is a major tournament held every year where Europe take on America. They beat the American team and Leona broke the world record for the most points scored by a first-time player in the tournament.

Very many Irish women footballers are now playing AFLW (Australian Rules Football League for Women), with clubs all over Australia. At present there are as many as 14 Irish girls playing club football on a full-time basis in Australia.



One of the first Irish women to make the move was well known Mayo footballer **Cora Staunton**. Cora who has played for Mayo since she was 13 years of age has four all Ireland medals and 11 All-stars Awards.

She is playing with the Sydney club GWS Giants since 2018 and at 40 years of age she is making history as the oldest player ever to play at this level in Australia. Her talent continues to shine as she won the award for “Leading goal scorer” in 2020 and 2021.

Match the picture



×

Match the picture with the name
of these well-known Irish people.
(The first one is done for you.)



Marty Morrissey



Paul O'Connell



Niall Horan



Mary Robinson



Graham Norton



Davy Fitzgerald



Miriam O'Callaghan



Bono



Mrs Brown

Here are some Irish Food
brands. Match the brand with the
food it produces. (The first one is
done for you.)



biscuits



beans



rashers



apple juice



tea



water



milk



bread



porridge



butter



crisps



orange

St Patrick's Day Quiz



1. In what city in Ireland would you find the "Titanic Centre"? _____
2. What county is known as "The Kingdom"? _____
3. Who is the leader of the Sinn Fein party? _____
4. Shannon Airport is in what county? _____
5. If you kiss this stone, it is said that you will get the "gift of the gab". _____
6. In what county will you see the "Rock of Cashel"? _____
7. The musical instrument that is printed on all Irish coins. _____
8. A small leaf worn by people on St Patrick's Day. _____
9. Green, white and what other colour makes up the Irish Flag? _____
10. What is the longest river in Ireland? _____
11. What is the smallest county in Ireland? _____
12. Name our current Taoiseach. _____
13. An Irish dinner, Bacon and _____
14. Name the largest post Office in Ireland which stands in O Connell Street in Dublin. _____
15. Name the Irish boy band who had split up but who are back together for concerts in Cork and Dublin. _____

Answers

1. Belfast 2. Kerry 3. Mary Lou McDonald 4. Clare 5. Blarney 6. Tipperary 7. Harp 8. Shamrock 9. Orange 10. Shannon 11. Louth 12. Micheál Martin 13. Cabbage 14. GPO 15. Westlife

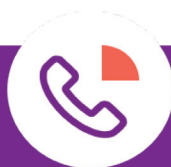
Notes



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If you need help with these worksheets, or with reading, writing, maths or digital skills, you can contact NALA.



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