

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT

OCTOBER 2015

Three IrFUW Newsletters have been circulated since the March 2015 Council Meeting. Feedback from members continues to be very positive, and many have commented that they feel more informed and connected as a result. The Newsletter is sent electronically to a contact person in each Association who forwards it to all their members on email. This system is running very smoothly. There is some limited printing and posting out of the Newsletter. An archive of the six Newsletters to date is available in the Members' Section of the Website.

The following format is mainly adhered to:

A Headline Article with Photograph(s); Dates for Your Diary; Letter from IrFUW President; General Articles; Member Profile; CIR Update; CER Update; NWCI Update; Association News – DUWGA, UCDWGA, QWG, GWG, with photographs. Upcoming events and conferences are heavily promoted within the Newsletter, with increasing use of colour and photographs.

Five Newsletters annually, anchored around promoting and reporting on key IrFUW events, is considered to have worked well, and it is planned going forward to continue to circulate the Newsletter in these particular months. The Newsletters of the past year were circulated in November, February, April, June and September. The headline articles for these were on the following themes:

**November 2014** - Website Launch/Annual IrFUW Conference

**February 2015** – Linked Members/ UCC Event

**April 2015**– IrFUW Public Speaking Final

**June 2015**- IrFUW International Day event

**September 2015** – UWE Conference/Irish Delegates

The Newsletter is proving to be a convenient record of IrFUW activity. It is also considered a useful tool in promoting IrFUW e.g. to prospective members, academic institutions.

Increasing the connection between members has been considered a particular benefit of the Newsletter. Members have enjoyed putting names to faces and hearing of projects being undertaken in other Associations. Also Associations have started to send in details of some of their upcoming events to put in the Dates for Your Diary section and thereby open them up to members of all Associations.

As IrFUW Newsletter Editor I would like to extend my thanks to all the contributors, many of whom volunteer to send in a piece. I would also like to acknowledge those who have their own section within the Newsletter and contribute to each edition. Finally I would like to thank the contact members in each Association who forward the Newsletter to their members and Heather for uploading it to the Website Members Section. I am most grateful for the cooperation and efficiency of all concerned.

Future plans for the Newsletter include some changes to layout e.g. a click-on table of contents, and a read-more facility. The Newsletter is now sent to Graduate Women International, and for promotional reasons to certain organisations, institutions and prospective members. Circulation of the Newsletter is opening up a little, and more and more it is going beyond IrFUW members. Therefore, for the foreseen future, I have decided not to use captions with names when including photographs, for the sake of increased security/privacy, should the Newsletter ever be uploaded to an open website. There will be some exception to this in the case of office-holders.

Finally I would like to raise the issue of having an Editorial Committee for the Newsletter. I consider that going forward it would benefit the Newsletter if there was a forum for discussion and exchange of ideas.

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**Martina Mulrine**  
**IrFUW Newsletter Editor**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> October 2015**