



NEWS IN BRIEF

DECEMBER 2024

ISCP
VOICE OF OLDER PEOPLE

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ISCP National Coordinator Pat Mellon - Reviews on 2024

WHAT'S ANOTHER YEAR

It seems just like yesterday I was lucky enough to become part of the Irish Senior Citizens Parliament. The year has quickly passed and hopefully you have enjoyed our engagements even partially as much as I have enjoyed every engagement with you.

In Ireland, the rights of our senior citizens are becoming an increasingly important issue in recent years, particularly as the country's population continues to age. While we desire and are encouraged to live independently, we want to remain integrated within our communities, and access services that support our well-being. The Irish Senior Citizens Parliament strategy aims to ensure that our members have their input into how we can live healthier, more fulfilling lives and are treated with dignity and respect.

The Irish Senior Citizens Parliament (ISCP) is a key advocacy group in this context. Founded in 1991, it represents older people across Ireland, advocating for their rights and

promoting their welfare. The ISCP has been a vocal proponent of issues such as pensions, healthcare access, affordable housing, and the protection of older people's rights in the face of economic and social challenges.

In 2024 the Irish Senior Citizens Parliament has been to the fore in engagement with government departments and politicians on The Industrial Relations Act, The Pension Promise, t The call for an Independent Commissioner for Older people, On Mandatory Retirement removal, On Means Testing issues to name but a few. We will shortly have a new government and these campaigns will continue. As the demographic of older adults continues to grow, so should our impact on national elections. Issues like pensions, healthcare, social security, and policies to support aging in place are central to the concerns of our members. The ISCP will continue to work to ensure that older citizens' voices are heard in political processes, pushing for policies that promote age equality, better healthcare, and stronger protections against elder abuse. In 2024 we have lost friends and family members and as the year comes to a close

we remember their work, their smiles and their love.

“ Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha ”

On a final note, I wish to thank you for your help in 2024 and acknowledge the huge work done by Grace, Sue and Niamh.

"We wish you a season full of light and laughter for you and your family."

ELECTION 2024

As the dust settles and the results are all counted, we come to the end of the election process. Now, begins the job of the negotiation teams and the 'horse trading' to determine the make-up of the 34th Government. It is expected we will not know the outcome of this until December, possibly January.

Once this is complete and a Government agreed, the work begins on a Programme for Government. We will remind the parties of the commitments they made to older people in their Manifestos and in headline grabbing statements in the run up to the election. We will demand that the promises to older people are kept.

Many older people were influenced by the promise to ensure a pension that took people above the poverty line and allowed some breathing space in their income. Both Fianna Fail and Fine Gael along with some other parties offered an increase in the State Pension, in the run up to the election. We will remind this new government of the need to

offer a secure income linked to average wage.

We will seek meetings with the respective Government parties asking them to outline the implementation plan of the pledges they made:

FIANNA FAIL Manifesto Nov 2024

- *Increase the State pension to at least €350 per week and maintain the retirement age at 66*

FINE GAEL Manifesto Nov 2024

- Raise the State Pension to €350 over the lifetime of the next government, ensuring financial security for our seniors.
- Appoint a Commissioner for Positive Ageing: This role will advocate for the needs and rights of older citizens.
- Appoint a standalone Minister of State for Older People.

We need to remember that Ireland is running a budget surplus of [at least €23 billion](#). (RTE Sept 2024)

A STEP IN THE RIGHT

DIRECTION



Campaigning for change and asking the Government to do the right thing, requires dedication and stamina!

All too often, we advocate and work to achieve change but fear that our campaigning falls on deaf ears. For the past fifteen years, many of our members from the Retired Staff of the Aviation Association; ESB; National Pensions Federation and RTE to name but a few, have worked tirelessly to ensure retired workers have a voice when their pension income is being impacted

We are delighted to say the proposed Bill to ensure this will become a reality, was moved in the DÁIL on the 23rd October by Bríd Smith PBP. It was witnessed in the Gallery by the representatives who have never given up. The DÁIL moved to accept the Bill go to third stage or Committee Stage. The group were pleased their efforts were acknowledged as Bríd Smith referred to their presence in the DÁIL gallery and they received a wave from the then Taoiseach Simon Harris.

We thank those who have worked so hard to keep this issue alive and we thank you the members for backing and supporting the various letter writing campaigns. There is still a long way to go but we are one step nearer the goal!



In The Spotlight



I am a 65-year-old Dubliner, descended from the Petherbridge family who

migrated from Brixham with trawlers to the newly developed Kingstown Harbour (Dun Laoghaire) in the mid 1800's to teach the native fishermen the skill of trawling. They were Pilgrim Brethren. The "lure" was them receiving the contract to catch the herring to feed the "occupying forces"!

I worked in IT project management, including for BP Oil, Statoil and eFlow.

I have a lifelong chronic neurological disorder of movement, Dystonia, for which I underwent successful Deep Brain Stimulation in London, under the EU Treatment Abroad Scheme. I participate in research for the NHS and HSE. I am married to my very much better half, Sheena, Dad to three great adult children, Amy, Nick and Matthew and Grandad to Summer, Beau and Blaze, whose Dad is my favourite son-in-law, Luke.

My heroes are Michael J. Fox, Mary Robinson, John McGahern and George Best.

My hobbies are participating as a mature student through the DCU AFU Lifelong Learning Faculty. I am a member of the Irish Orchid Society at the National Botanic Gardens. I am a director of Dystonia Ireland

and advocate for people with neurological disorders. I am a reader - politics, and American fiction. I hill walk and am an amateur photographer. I travel to the U.S. My religion is Manchester United.

I joined the ISCP, having been nominated by DCU AFU, but, am becoming passionate at improving the quality of life of and gaining visibility and recognition for Ireland's magnificent "elders".

Raffle 2024 - Results



We extend a heartfelt thanks to all who supported the Raffle this year 2024.

We are delighted to say our Prize winners are:

1 st Prize	T Gillen	Co Antrim
2 nd Prize	J Fitzgerald	Co Carlow
3 rd Prize	T Foley	Dublin
4 th Prize	E O'Mahony	Dublin
5 th Prize	J Costello	Co Laois
6 th Prize	M Murtagh	Dublin

A big **Thank you** also to those who sponsored prizes.

And to the following Shopping Centres who facilitated us with Sales Days.

We are extremely grateful for your support.

Omni Shopping Centre Santry, Dublin 9

Donaghmede Shopping Centre, Dublin 13

Crescent Shopping Centre, Limerick

Park Way Shopping Centre, Limerick



The Board Executive and Staff extend their thanks for your ongoing support throughout 2024. We are only as good as our members, they are the strength of the ISCP.

We wish you a very happy Christmas and a joyful New Year.

ISCP Christmas Office hours

***The office will be closed from
Tuesday 24th December.***

***It will reopen on Tuesday 7th
January 2025.***

***If required - National Coordinator
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An Roinn Forbartha
Tuisithe agus Pobail

