

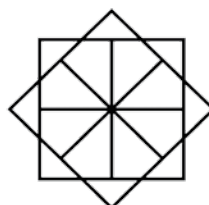
AIB PRESS PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2023

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PHOTOGRAPHERS
ASSOCIATION
OF IRELAND

CAPTURING HISTORY



AIB PRESS PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2023

After 45 years, the annual awards of the Press Photographers Association of Ireland has once again demonstrated the timeless nature of Ireland's visual storytellers that document our lives.

In an age of fake news, skill and the seeing eye prove the worth of ethical professionals working for our trusted media brands.

The 116 images in our 2023 collection are the pick of the crop from PPAI members working throughout Ireland's communities and daily events.

Our judges faced a Herculean task but after days of consideration reached their decisions and we have our worthy winners.

Congratulations to Mark Condren representing the Irish Independent and Sunday Independent, on becoming the AIB Press Photographer of the Year for an unprecedented sixth time.

Historically, female photographers have been under-represented in our Association. This is a situation that is certain to improve in the coming years and will be boosted by no fewer than five major awards won by: Clodagh Kilcoyne, Lorraine O'Sullivan, Laura Hutton and Maura Hickey.

On behalf of the Association, special thanks are due to our title-sponsor AIB and especially for their initiative with the 'AIB Sustainability Award' won by Laura Hutton of The Irish Times. As humans, our global impact on the environment is truly the defining issue of our times.

Many other category sponsors and trade partners also greatly assist the objectives of the PPAI and we are grateful to these for their belief and support.

Finally, to the members, volunteers and organisers that form the backbone of the PPAI, this competition, catalogue and exhibition is only possible due to your commitment and efforts – well done!

David Branigan

President, The Press Photographers Association of Ireland

MESSAGE FROM AIB

It is often said that a picture speaks a thousand words. Certainly, the talented photographers whose work we are celebrating have produced powerful images providing valuable insights into the key stories, news events, sporting moments and everyday lives of people in Ireland and beyond in 2022.

AIB is delighted to return as a title sponsor for the 45th annual 'Press Photographer of the Year Awards' as we believe that photography is a powerful way of highlighting the important challenges and opportunities facing our people, our communities and our country.

We are particularly pleased that the Press Photographers Association of Ireland is for the first time making a special award for the image that best reflects the theme of sustainability. The striking award, a sculpture entitled "True Inspiration," is created from ancient bogwood over 500 years old. Let's hope it inspires us all to take action now to ensure a sustainable future for generations to come.

Colin Hunt,
CEO AIB

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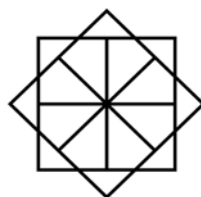
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THE PRESS
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CAPTURING HISTORY





1st ↑1 Clodagh Kilcoyne
REUTERS

OVER THE BORDER

A tear drop rolls down a young woman's cheek aboard a bus after fleeing from Ukraine to Romania, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, at the border crossing in Siret, Romania.

THE JUDGES SAID...

In our view this is the outstanding news image of the awards, a beautifully observed study of a young refugee fleeing the war in Ukraine. The photographer has shown great sensitivity and created a most beautiful image while still conveying the tragedy of the war.

2nd →2 Clodagh Kilcoyne
REUTERS

MUSICIAN'S GRIEF

A musician reacts during the funeral of late 23-year-old teacher, Ashling Murphy, who was murdered while out jogging, outside St. Brigid's Church in Mountbolus near Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

THE JUDGES SAID...

There was understandably much photographic coverage of the shocking Ashling Murphy murder as it was one of the biggest domestic news stories of the year. We feel that this image of musicians, from the funeral, stands out as it conveys the wider emotional impact felt by the whole nation while honouring Ashling's love of music.



3rd ↓3 Dara Mac Dónaill
THE IRISH TIMES

REACHING OUT IN SUPPORT

Corry McMahon, a Blackrock College past pupil, is comforted as he struggles to tell his story of abuse, along with fellow past pupils John Coulter and Louis Hoffman, (and Philip Feddis on video phone), as the past pupils of Blackrock College and Spiritan Congregation agree to the establishment of an

Independent Restorative Justice Programme, at the RDS, Dublin.

THE JUDGES SAID...

From what could have been a routine press conference the photographer captured the decisive moment reflecting the long-term emotional impact of child abuse in Ireland. A sensitive and important photograph which helps keep this massive issue in the public eye.



4 ↑4 Mark Condren
IRISH INDEPENDENT/SUNDAY INDEPENDENT

THE GRIEF OF CREESLOUGH

A Garda escorts a woman to a temporary morgue at the scene of an explosion in Creeslough, Co. Donegal, as she prepares to identify her relative.



↑5 **Fergal Phillips**
FREELANCE

HOUSING CRISIS
Sean Kershaw joins the national "Raise the Roof" housing rally, to combat homelessness and the housing crisis in Dublin.

→6 **Mark Condren**
IRISH INDEPENDENT/SUNDAY INDEPENDENT

SAINT OF PAIN AND SUFFERING
Locals with a statue of Padre Pio show their respects as family and friends of murdered siblings Lisa Cash, Chelsea and Christy Cawley pass en route to their final resting place.



↑7 **Gary Ashe**
FREELANCE

REMANDED
Accused is greeted by angry locals on leaving Tullamore Courthouse, after being charged with the murder of local school teacher Ashling Murphy.



←8 **James Crombie**
INPHO PHOTOGRAPHY

TULLAMORE DISTRICT COURT SCENE
A frenzied scene as accused leaves Tullamore District Court after he was remanded in custody charged with the murder of Ashling Murphy.



←9 **Mark Condren**
IRISH INDEPENDENT/SUNDAY INDEPENDENT

FAREWELL TO MY ROCK
Irish showband legend Dickie Rock is consoled at the funeral of his wife, Judy, at the Church of the Annunciation, Rathfarnham.

↓10 Mick O'Neill

FREELANCE

CONSOLING GRIEF

Mourners hug each other while attending the removal of three siblings, eight-year-old twins Christy and Chelsea Cawley along with their 18-year-old sister, Lisa Cash, who died in a violent attack in Tallaght.



←12 Alan Betson

THE IRISH TIMES

SUDDEN LOSS

Members of the public watch as Garda forensic team members remove the body of a 29-year-old which was found on Deanstown Avenue in Finglas.

↓14 Mark Condren

IRISH INDEPENDENT/SUNDAY INDEPENDENT

BORDERING ON EXHAUSTION

Refugees cross from Ukraine to Poland at the Dorohusk border in Poland after Russia invaded Ukraine.



↑11 Damien Storan

FREELANCE

MOURNING LOST PRIDE

A person stands lost in contemplation, during a vigil in memory of murder victims Aidan Moffitt and Michael Snee who were killed in Sligo.

→13 Mark Condren

IRISH INDEPENDENT/SUNDAY INDEPENDENT

AN INNOCENT GOODBYE

Pupils of Coolanarney National School in Tullamore line out in a guard of honour as the funeral cortege of Ashling Murphy comes towards her former school.



↑15 Clodagh Kilcoyne

REUTERS

COST OF LIVING CRISIS

Dogs, Buster and Bailey, wear signs during a protest about the rising cost of living in Dublin city centre.



1st ↑16 **Dan Linehan**
IRISH EXAMINER
COOL

The O'Callaghan family cool down on the beach at Garrettstown, Co. Cork, during record daily temperatures in July.

“ THE JUDGES SAID...

A family enjoys a day at the beach in Garrettstown, Co. Cork, on one of the record-breaking hot days during the summer of 2022. Expertly composed it captures the delight and joy on the family's faces as the young boy throws a bucket of water over everyone to cool them down.

3rd →18 **Niall Carson**
PA MEDIA
BURNING LOVE

A couple on Cavehill overlooking loyalist bonfires in Belfast city burning as part of the traditional Twelfth commemorations.

“ THE JUDGES SAID...

The view from the hill overlooking Belfast on the night of the 11th July shows the extent of the bonfires throughout this city. This annual and contentious festival celebrating the victory of King William of Orange at the Battle of the Boyne sees many loyalist communities in Northern Ireland compete to erect the largest bonfire.



2nd ↓17 **John Kelly**
THE CLARE CHAMPION
BEGGAR AT THE DIOR-STEP

A woman seeking donations from passers-by on the pavement outside the Christian Dior shop on the Champs-Élysées, Paris.

“ THE JUDGES SAID...

This photo is incredibly poignant. The juxtaposition of the darkly dressed woman against the window full of expensive white outfits encapsulates the huge economic divide between the rich and poor.



↑19 **Dara Mac Dónaill**
THE IRISH TIMES

LITERARY REFLECTIONS

The Ha'penny Bridge is reflected in the window of The Winding Stair Bookshop, on the banks of the River Liffey.

DAILY LIFE AND PEOPLE



↑20 Mark Condren

IRISH INDEPENDENT/
SUNDAY
INDEPENDENT

ARE YOU IN OR OUT?

Jonathan Trant waits with his horse, Elton, before participating in the National Ploughing Championships in Ratheniska, Co. Laois.

➔24 Clodagh Kilcoyne

REUTERS

HEATWAVE

A man jumps off Blackrock diving boards during a heatwave at Salthill beach, in Galway.



DAILY LIFE AND PEOPLE

↓22 Mark Condren

IRISH INDEPENDENT/SUNDAY INDEPENDENT

TIME IS TICKING

Kevin Chellar, who specialises in antique clock restorations.



↓23 Mark Condren

IRISH INDEPENDENT/SUNDAY INDEPENDENT

A MOUNTAIN TO CLIMB

Veteran journalist Charlie Bird, who is suffering from Motor Neurone Disease taking part in the "Climb with Charlie" charity climb of Ireland's famous holy mountain, Croagh Patrick.



←21 Alan Betson

THE IRISH TIMES

COOLING DOWN FROM ABOVE

Jade Hanlon pours water from a balcony to cool down the kids of O'Carroll Villas on Cuffe Street, Dublin, as Ireland experiences a summer heatwave.

DAILY LIFE AND PEOPLE



↑25 **Gary Ashe**
FREELANCE

WALL COP

A Garda on patrol walks past a clever graffiti message in a laneway in Dublin.

→26 **Marc O'Sullivan**

MARC O'SULLIVAN
PHOTOGRAPHY

THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR!

Tired tourists catch a nap on a bench in Dublin's St. Stephen's Green.



↑29 **Valerie O'Sullivan**
FREELANCE

BARING ALL

200 amazing women courageously bared all, in Kerry's Women's-only charity 'Dip in the Nip' in aid

of Recovery Haven Kerry, Cancer Support Charity, on Derrymore Beach, Camp, Tralee, Co. Kerry. Women of all ages took to the water - with the assistance of an all-female support crew, An Garda Síochána, Fenit-based Wild Water Adventures, Tralee Bagpipers and lifeguards.

DAILY LIFE AND PEOPLE



←27 **Mark Condren**

IRISH
INDEPENDENT/
SUNDAY
INDEPENDENT

THE SAD REFLECTION OF WAR

A man pushes his bike days after the battle of Bucha, which was part of the Kyiv offensive in the Russian invasion of Ukraine.



←28 **Morgan Treacy**

INPHO
PHOTOGRAPHY

BILL

Actor Bill Murray takes a lunch break whilst competing in the JP McManus Pro-Am.

←30 **Jonathan Porter**

PRESS EYE

TOWERING ABOVE US

Bonfire builders access Craigyhill bonfire in Larne, Co. Antrim, using a crane. The bonfire broke a world record at 198ft tall.



1st ↑31 **Billy Stickland**
INPHO PHOTOGRAPHY
FLYING FINISH
Munster's Damian de Allende scores a try despite Henry Slade of Exeter Chiefs during a Heineken Champions Cup game.

“**THE JUDGES SAID...**
A brilliant combination of the peak of the action and athleticism make this picture of a player flying through the air to score a try a worthy winner.

3rd →33 **James Crombie**
INPHO PHOTOGRAPHY
CLASH OF THE ASH
Clare's John Conlon breaks his hurl as he is tackled by Cian Lynch of Limerick, during an Allianz Hurling League Division 1 game.

“**THE JUDGES SAID...**
Once again, split second timing sees a hurl shattered during a game. The flying splinters add drama and makes this picture a stand-out sports photography image.



2nd ↓32 **Gary Carr**
INPHO PHOTOGRAPHY
ON THE BUTTON
Franchón Crews-Dezurn lands a left hand on Elin Cederroos during their Undisputed Women's Super-Middleweight Championship bout in Madison Square Garden, New York.

“**THE JUDGES SAID...**
Not just a brilliantly timed photo of the punch on the chin but so unusual to see a boxer wearing what almost looks like a sequined dress.



←34 **Sam Barnes**
SPORTSFILE
CATCH ME IF YOU CAN!
Grant Holloway of USA, left, leads the field on his way to equalling the indoor world record of 7.29 seconds whilst competing in the men's 60m hurdles semi-finals during the World Indoor Athletics Championships at the Stark Arena in Belgrade, Serbia.

SPORTS ACTION



←35 **Ben Brady**
INPHO PHOTOGRAPHY
EVERY OUNCE
Shaun Driver gives his all in the Deadlift stage of the Ireland's Strongest Man Competition at Markets Field Stadium in Limerick.



↓36 **Patrick McCann**
RACING POST
THROUGH THE LEGS
Action at Navan Racecourse.

SPORTS ACTION

↓39 **Niall Carson**
PA MEDIA
OFF TO A FLYER
Runners and riders clear Ruby's Double as they compete in the Kildare Hunt Club Cross Country Chase for the Ladies' Perpetual Cup during the Punchestown Festival.



↑40 **Andrew Downes**
ANDREW DOWNES PHOTOGRAPHY
CRUINNIÚ
Susan Lambert who won the "Green Island" swim at the 40th Cruinniú na mBad festival of traditional craft in Kinvara, Co. Galway, which also featured Currach racing.

↓41 **Sam Barnes**
SPORTSFILE
FALLEN FAVOURITE
Defending world champion Nia Ali of USA falls whilst competing in the women's 100m hurdles heats of the World Athletics Championships at Hayward Field in Eugene, Oregon, USA.



↑37 **Evan Treacy**
INPHO PHOTOGRAPHY
ROSSIE WALL
Clare's Keelan Sexton scores a goal past David Murray and Colm Lavin of Roscommon during the GAA All-Ireland Senior Football Championship Round 2.

→38 **Ramsey Cardy**
SPORTSFILE
ON THE HEAD
Sarah McFadden of Northern Ireland competes against England players, Millie Bright and Lucy Bronze, during the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 qualifier at The National Football Stadium, Belfast.



SPORTS ACTION

↓42 Billy Stickland

INPHO PHOTOGRAPHY

FRIENDLY FIRE!

New Zealand's Brodie Retallick gets an accidental punch from teammate George Bower during a 2022 Autumn Nations Series game.



→45 Bryan Keane

INPHO PHOTOGRAPHY

INTO THE GREAT WIDE OPEN

A view of a competitor diving in Loughrea during the Loughrea Triathlon Festival 2022, Loughrea, Co. Galway.



SPORTS ACTION



↑43 David Fitzgerald

SPORTSFILE

VELODROME

Emily Kay of Ireland competes in the Women's Scratch Race final at the European Championships 2022 at Messe Munchen in Munich, Germany.



↑44 Morgan Treacy

INPHO PHOTOGRAPHY

POLE VAULT

Australia's Kurtis Marschall competing in the Men's Pole Vault Qualification at the 2022 World Athletics Championships.



↑46 David Fitzgerald

SPORTSFILE

KICK

Gokhan Saricam, right, in action against Kirill Sidelnikov during their heavyweight bout at Bellator 275 at the 3Arena, Dublin.



1st ←47 **Sam Barnes**
SPORTSFILE
FULL BODIED DISCOURSE

Conor Cox of Roscommon, left, and Johnny Heaney of Galway tussle off the ball during the Connacht FBD League Final match between Galway and Roscommon at NUI Galway Connacht Air Dome in Began, Mayo.

“ **THE JUDGES SAID...**

We need no words to describe what is going on here. The picture tells it all with ripped shirts, male testosterone and a mouth shield flying through the air. Fantastic timing by the photographer.



2nd ↑48 **Lorraine O'Sullivan**

LORRAINE O'SULLIVAN
PHOTOGRAPHY

MUD IN YOUR EYE

Belgium's Wout van Aert after winning the UCI Cyclocross World Cup event at Sport Ireland Campus, Blanchardstown.

“ **THE JUDGES SAID...**

This picture tells us more than just the pain this cyclist has had to endure. The slither of mud in his eye, the mud caked on his face and the blank expression are complimented by the use of black and white.



↑50 **Domnick Walsh**
EYE FOCUS

DAVID CLIFFORD – KERRY'S POT OF GOLD

David Clifford stands under a rainbow as he is mobbed by a 'stampede' of young fans in Austin Stack Park and signs autographs for young supporters after the Kerry County Senior Football Championship Final he helped win.

3rd →49 **Ryan Byrne**
INPHO
PHOTOGRAPHY

GOLDEN MOMENT

Republic of Ireland Manager Vera Pauw celebrates qualifying for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup with her squad in Hampden Park, Scotland.

“ **THE JUDGES SAID...**

Always expect the unexpected and that probably happened here when all the elements came together to make a beautifully composed celebration picture as Ireland Manager Vera Pauw ran in to join the players.



SPORTS FEATURE

↓51 **Ben McShane**
SPORTSFILE

CAPTAIN FANTASTIC

Patrick Hoban of Dundalk celebrates after scoring his side's first goal during the SSE Airtricity League Premier Division match between Dundalk and Derry City at Oriel Park in Dundalk, Co. Louth.



↑52 **Eoin Noonan**
SPORTSFILE

WET WINNERS

Ben Cunningham of St. Finbarr's celebrates at the final whistle after the Cork County Senior Club Hurling Championship Final against Blackrock in Páirc Uí Chaoimh, Cork.

➔54 **Ben McShane**
SPORTSFILE

EMOTIONS

An emotional Kellie Harrington of Ireland looks to the supporters after the playing of Amhrán na bhFiann as she holds her gold medal and trophy after winning the lightweight 60kg final, during the EUBC Women's European Boxing Championships 2022 at Budva Sports Centre in Budva, Montenegro.



SPORTS FEATURE

←53 **Tom Maher**
INPHO PHOTOGRAPHY

A KISS TO HIS BIGGEST FAN

Ireland's Brian Gleeson gives a kiss to his sister Ciara after his side's victory over Italy in the U18 Men's Six Nations Festival at the FFR National Centre, Marcoussis, France.

↓55 **Tom Maher**
INPHO PHOTOGRAPHY

GREEN EYES

Celebrations after Offaly's victory over Clare in the Electric Ireland GAA Hurling All-Ireland Minor Championship Semi-Final at FBD Semple Stadium, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.



↑56 **Tom Maher**
INPHO PHOTOGRAPHY

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Jack Ferncombe and Alex Friday practice a few pucks during the half-time break of the Tipperary Senior Hurling Championship Final between Kiladangan and Kilruane McDonagh's at FBD Semple Stadium, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.

SPORTS FEATURE

↓57 Morgan Treacy

INPHO PHOTOGRAPHY

PLEASE, NO PHOTOS

Students from Castleisland Community College taking part in an Agriculture Awareness TY programme, get to meet Dot Cotton, one of Paul Nolan's horses in training.



↑59 Ben Brady

INPHO PHOTOGRAPHY

RURAL RUGBY

An aerial view of the action from the Aviva Mini Rugby Festival at Westport Rugby Club with Croagh Patrick in the background.

SPORTS FEATURE

←58 Brendan Moran

SPORTSFILE

OLD BIG EARS

Luka Modric of Real Madrid is reflected in the trophy as he celebrates victory after the UEFA Champions League Final between Liverpool FC and Real Madrid CF at the Stade de France in Paris, France.

↓60 Gary Carr

INPHO PHOTOGRAPHY

FOR HISTORY

Katie Taylor celebrates as she is announced victorious over Amanda Serrano in their sold out Undisputed Women's Lightweight Championship bout in Madison Square Garden, New York. The first time a women's boxing bout headlined the venue.





1st ←61 **Mark Condren**
IRISH INDEPENDENT/SUNDAY INDEPENDENT
WORN OUT

A woman in an IDP camp in Mogadishu, Somalia, after she had to walk for days when her crops failed and animals died. Somalia is the second most climate-vulnerable country in the world. The country is currently on the brink of famine. Four rainy seasons in a row have failed – a climatic event not seen in at least 40 years.

“THE JUDGES SAID...”

This haunting portrait of a woman in an internally displaced people’s camp outside Mogadishu is superbly shot. When her crops failed and her animals died, she found herself in the IDP camp. Somalia is the second most climate-vulnerable country in the world and is currently enduring its longest ever drought.



3rd ↑63 **Eamon Ward**
EAMON WARD
PHOTOGRAPHY

SAFE HAVEN

Ukrainian refugees Olena Paltsun and her daughter, Vavara Husarova, at the Hydro Hotel, Lisdoonvarna. Six weeks earlier, Olena lost her eldest daughter, Sophia, one of the first victims of the Russian invasion.

“THE JUDGES SAID...”

Another tale of displacement is found in this beautiful and sorrowful portrait of a Ukrainian mother and daughter in Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare. After Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 many women and children fled the country. An estimated 58,000 refugees are currently living in Ireland.



↑64 **Leah Farrell**
ROLLINGNEWS.IE
SHOW TIME

Katie Cathcart (age six) from Enniskillen ahead of her show with her pony Bunbury Sorbet at the Dublin Horse Show in the RDS.

2nd →62 **David Fitzgerald**
SPORTSFILE

MULLINS

Trainer Willie Mullins during the McCoy Contractors County Handicap Hurdle at the Cheltenham Racing Festival at Prestbury Park in Cheltenham, England.

“THE JUDGES SAID...”

This portrait of horse trainer Willie Mullins was taken at Cheltenham, UK which is a key event for Irish horse race lovers. The judges loved this graphic black & white profile of him.



PORTRAIT

↓65 John Kelly

THE CLARE CHAMPION
STORM APPROACHES

One Man And His Dog...Rod Gallavan, of Kinnielty, Liscannor and his dog Tia check out the sea conditions while out for a refreshing walk at Clahane as Storms Dudley and Eunice approached the country.



→67 Tom Honan

FREELANCE
SILENT PROTEST

Lauren Kelly pictured at a protest to 'Stop Handover of National Maternity Hospital to Nuns' Private Company'.



↑66 Mark Condren

IRISH INDEPENDENT/SUNDAY INDEPENDENT
CENTENARIAN

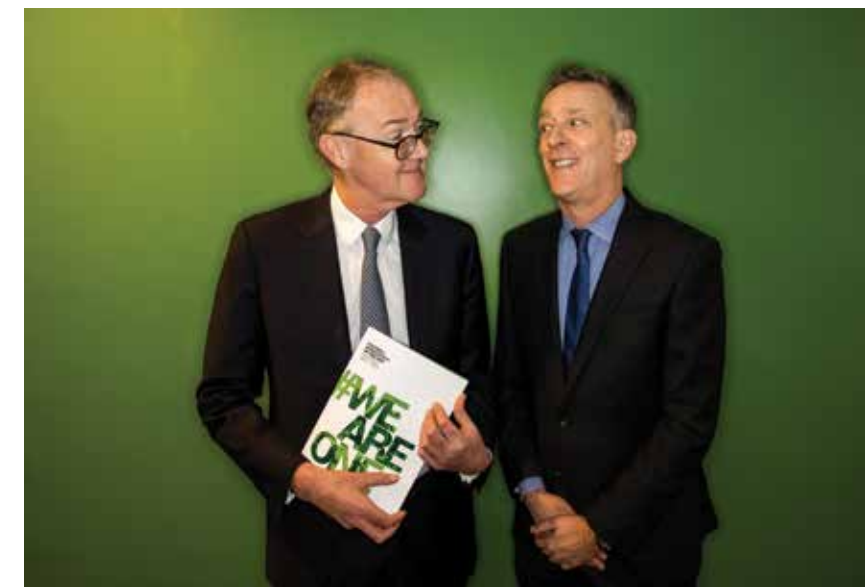
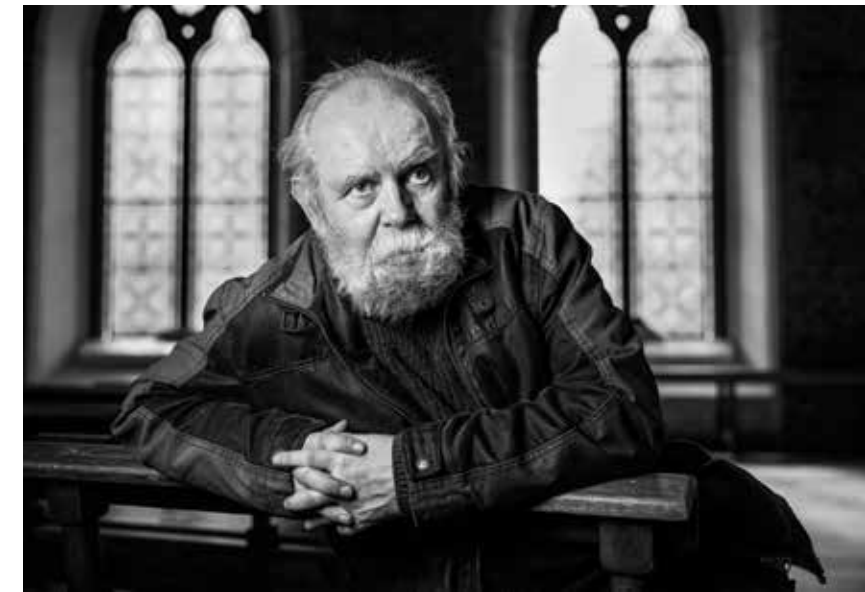
Centenarian Michael Cadden, who says the key to a long life is a stress free life.



PORTRAIT

↓70 Fergal Phillips

FREELANCE
PAT McCABE
Playwright and novelist Patrick McCabe.



↑71 Morgan Treacy

INPHO PHOTOGRAPHY

WE ARE ONE

Chairman Roy Barrett and Chief Executive Jonathan Hill pose for a picture before giving a media briefing on the FAI's Strategy for 2022-2025.

←68 Andrew Paton

PHOTOVISION

NINE PUPS IN A ROW

Nine Hungarian Vizsla pups pictured sitting on a bench. From left; Rowan, Stella, Tarzan, Bramble, Nala, Sybil, Penny, Hazel and Beau.

PORTRAIT



←69 James Crombie

INPHO PHOTOGRAPHY

NURU

Nine-year-old Nuru Joseph poses for a portrait beside her house in Bora Bora Village, Gongoni. Nuru suffers from epilepsy and is non-verbal.

PORTRAIT

↓74 Gerry Mooney

IRISH INDEPENDENT/SUNDAY INDEPENDENT

THE SHADOWS OF WAR

Ukrainian actress Olesya Zdrovetska who now lives in Dublin pictured in The Gate Theatre where she performed in The Tin Solider production.



↑72 Mark Condren

IRISH INDEPENDENT/SUNDAY INDEPENDENT

HUNGER STRIKE

Christopher 'Bronco' Dunne in his apartment in a social housing facility in Dublin 4, who is on hunger strike in his response to the alleged health service failing to provide him with the medical care and support he needs.



↑73 Dan Sheridan

INPHO PHOTOGRAPHY

THE FIGHTER

Irish professional boxer Ray Moylette poses for a picture.



↑75 Dara Mac Dónaill

THE IRISH TIMES

BROTHER KEVIN

Brother Kevin, of the Capuchin Day Centre, before retiring at the age of 87, after more than 50 years' service helping feed the most vulnerable members of society.



1st ↑76 **Nick Bradshaw**
FREELANCE/THE IRISH TIMES
HERON ON THE HUNT

Heron being chased by a mallard after snatching her duckling on the Upper Lake, UCD. This site is a biodiversity hub where you can see wildlife in action.

“ THE JUDGES SAID... ”

Look away now if you love cute little ducklings. The photographer captures perfectly the exact moment a heron flew away with a baby duckling and is chased by what we must presume is the mother. Nature is wonderful but it is a rare thing to capture a moment of genuine wildlife like this.

3rd →78 **Maura Hickey**
FREELANCE
SEA BIRD

A dead gannet on the seabed, Baginbun, Co. Wexford. One of many gannets to have died around the coast from avian flu.

“ THE JUDGES SAID... ”

The twist in this photo is you do not know at first glance if the bird is alive or dead, but it hits home when you read that the gannet has died like many from avian flu.



2nd ↓77 **Laura Hutton**
THE IRISH TIMES
ABANDONED HOTEL

Foliage explodes from a bed in an abandoned hotel on the West Coast of Ireland. The hotel closed six years ago and is now only visited by urban explorers.

“ THE JUDGES SAID... ”

This is a unique image. The beds in a hotel bedroom have been made and left for the next guest. But the next guest never came and this wonderful image is the result of years of neglect as nature takes back control.



↑79 James Crombie
INPHO PHOTOGRAPHY
BETWEEN THE REEDS

A swan amongst the reeds on Lough Ennell, Co. Westmeath.

NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT



↑80 Marc O'Sullivan

MARC O'SULLIVAN
PHOTOGRAPHY

DRAGONFLY

A dragonfly in flight over the River Camac in Kilmainham.

→82 Fran Veale

FREELANCE

EYES ON THE SKY

A gannet peers towards the sky on Ireland's Eye. Gannets have excellent binocular vision, which allows them to spot fish from high above the water.



NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

↓81 James Crombie

INPHO PHOTOGRAPHY

IT'S BEHIND YOU

A deer in the background as participants pose for a photo during the 2022 Darkness into Light walk in Killarney National Park.



←84 Frank McGrath

IRISH
INDEPENDENT/
SUNDAY
INDEPENDENT

WAVE RIDER

A windsurfer makes the most of the high winds at the South Bull Wall, Dublin.



NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

➔86 Valerie O'Sullivan
FREELANCE

MINKE WHALE SPOUTING OFF

A minke whale lunge feeding on schooling prey with Skellig Beag, an UNESCO Heritage Site, providing the backdrop 12km off the coast of south Kerry, as gannets get ready for the catch.



↑85 Fran Veale
FREELANCE

RAZORBILL

A razorbill slows itself to land on the cliffs of Ireland's Eye.



➔83 Damien Eagers
FREELANCE

ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT WAY!

A mallard duck attempts to lead her ducklings over the weir on the River Dodder at Rathfarnham, Dublin.



←87 Donal O'Leary

IRISH FARMERS JOURNAL

CHAFF

George Love of CK Farms, Castletownroche, Co. Cork, blowing off the chaff as he checks on the quality of the crop while harvesting winter wheat.



2nd ↓89 **Frank McGrath**
IRISH INDEPENDENT/SUNDAY INDEPENDENT
COULD THE REAL TAOISEACH PLEASE STAND UP!

Taoiseach Micheál Martin and Tánaiste Leo Varadkar pictured during the Béal na mBláth Centenary commemoration remembering General Michael Collins.

“ THE JUDGES SAID...
Another example of perfect timing by a photographer as the rotating Taoisigh attend the annual Béal na mBláth ceremony. The political significance of parties which diverged after the civil war coming together for the commemoration is well represented in the accidentally awkward body language.



1st ↑88 **Tom Honan**
FREELANCE
YES MINISTERS

Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform Michael McGrath and Minister for Finance Paschal Donohoe pictured before attending a Budget 2023 photocall.

“ THE JUDGES SAID
A perfect piece of timing where the photographer managed to capture the joint finance ministers in perfect step. The image is strengthened by its composition, by the use of wide angle and the context of the Government Buildings location on Budget Day.



3rd →90 **Kenneth O'Halloran**
FREELANCE
COUNCILLOR EIMEAR MCCORMACK

Councillor Eimear McCormack at the Fianna Fáil National Councillors' Conference in Dublin.

“ THE JUDGES SAID
The judges were fascinated by this deceptively intelligent image. What is superficially a very straight portrait of a minor politician is transposed by perfect composition and colour.



←91 **Laura Hutton**
THE IRISH TIMES
BERTIE

Former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern photographed in the Skylon Hotel, Drumcondra.



↑92 **Michael McLaughlin**

MICHAEL MCLAUGHLIN PHOTOGRAPHY

FROM SOD TO SKY

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, skys the traditional sod turning on a new extension to a walkway at the Connacht GAA Air Dome in Bekan, Co. Mayo.

➔93 **Sam Barnes**

SPORTSFILE

POLITICAL PULL

Minister of State for Sport and the Gaeltacht Jack Chambers TD, centre, takes part in a game of tug of war, alongside Hannele Raji, second from right, aged 13, and her sister Hila Raji, aged 10, both from Drogheda, Co. Louth, and players from Mosney FC in Meath, during the SARI Sportsfest at the Phoenix Park, Dublin, celebrating 25 years of working with sport to promote inclusion, diversity and equality.



↑94 **Domnick Walsh**

EYE FOCUS

CROSSROADS DANCING IN THE SCHOOLYARD

Minister Norma Foley watches Orla Ní Ghriphín, Oisín Sin Madeley and Sadhbh Madeley as they perform a Crossroad dance in the schoolyard, during her visit to local schools in Dingle.



↑95 **Niall Carson**

PA MEDIA

STEPPING DOWN IN STYLE

Taoiseach Micheál Martin jumps from a tractor as he visits the National Ploughing Championships at Ratheniska, Co. Laois.



1st ↑96 **Alan Betson**
THE IRISH TIMES
THE BEADY EYE

Brendan Gleeson and Colin Farrell speaking to media at the premiere of *The Banshees of Inisherin* at the Lighthouse Cinema, Smithfield, Dublin.

“ THE JUDGES SAID... ”
Photocalls at cinema premieres tend to be frantic and very messy events. The photographer here has managed not just to capture a clean image of the two main characters in the top Irish film of the year but also to seize a picture which reflects on the interesting dynamic between the two actors.

2nd →97 **Leon Farrell**
PHOTOCALL IRELAND
SING

Soprano Megan O’Neil warms up her vocals ahead of the Feis Ceoil singing competition in the RDS, Dublin.

“ THE JUDGES SAID... ”
A deceptively simple photograph but the photographer has used colour, composition and timing to perfect effect to create a great image in a back room at the Feis Ceoil.



3rd ↓98 **Leon Farrell**
PHOTOCALL IRELAND
FINAL TOUCHES

Keely McDonagh puts her figures into place on a stage design she made as she waits for the judges to arrive, hoping to be one of the winners chosen for an

internship with the Abbey Theatre.

“ THE JUDGES SAID... ”
A really well-made image which plays on the scale of its characters. Cleverly lit and well composed this picture works on several levels and is a deserving winner.



↓99 **Niall Carson**
PA MEDIA
THE GIANT

Crowds watch as the seven-metre-high Con Mór, *The Giant* is on display at the Macnas Halloween show in Galway.



←100 **Leon Farrell**
PHOTOCALL IRELAND
IT'S TIME

Singer Tolü Makay waits to be called on stage to perform.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

↓101 **Dara Mac Dónaill**

THE IRISH TIMES
REFLECTED IN ART
One woman enjoys the sun while another enjoys the art in Trinity College Dublin.



→102 **Philip Doyle**

IRISH FARMERS JOURNAL
DANCING ON THE LAND
Sean-nós dancer Edwina Guckian dances a set on a barrel in Co. Leitrim. Edwina is heavily involved in preserving the history and traditions of the area.



ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

↓105 **Philip Doyle**

IRISH FARMERS JOURNAL
GARTH BROOKS
An emotional Garth Brooks takes his hat off to his fans as he thanks them on his final performance at the historic concerts in Croke Park in September 2022.



↑106 **David Fitzgerald**

SPORTSFILE
SIN SAOL
Sin Saoil, a traditional Irish band from Wexford, perform in France.



↑107 **Mark Stedman**

MARK STEDMAN PHOTOGRAPHY
MAESTRA
Margaret Bridge from Wicklow, one of the twelve participants of the National Concert Hall and Grant Thornton Female Conductor Programme.



↑103 **Frank McGrath**

IRISH INDEPENDENT/SUNDAY INDEPENDENT
HAIR AND MAKE-UP
Veda, a drag queen and HIV activist, photographed getting ready before going on stage at The George, in Dublin.

→104 **Marc O'Sullivan**

MARC O'SULLIVAN PHOTOGRAPHY
SUPPORT ACT
Young ballet dancers from the Irish National Youth Ballet pictured at a photocall during rehearsals for The Nutcracker.





1st ↑108 **Gerry Mooney**
IRISH INDEPENDENT/SUNDAY INDEPENDENT
CHARLIE'S CHALLENGE

Following his public announcement and acceptance that he was suffering with Motor Neurone Disease, veteran Irish journalist Charlie Bird set himself the challenge of climbing the 2,500ft holy mountain of Croagh Patrick. This was to raise funds for the Irish Motor Neurone Foundation and Pieta House, but also to show life challenges could be overcome. In doing this, he unintentionally brought the country together at a time when another man was trying to divide the world. People from all over the country supported his efforts throughout, none more so than his wife Claire and his beloved companion Tiger.

“ THE JUDGES SAID...
Veteran RTÉ journalist Charlie Bird was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease in 2021. In 2022, he took part in a charity climb of the 2,500 ft Croagh Patrick. This series of images cover both the climb and Charlie's family life. His resilience in the face of this devastating disease has captured the imagination of the Irish public.

2nd

←109 **Morgan Treacy**
INPHO PHOTOGRAPHY
YEAR OF THE HORSE

A year spent in the horse racing industry, which spans stud farms to racetracks, sales rings to veterinary stables. A strong theme running through the pictures is the connection with humans and the bond they share. Whether it is placing their hopes for the animal's safety in a St. Christopher Medal or merely getting solace from the hands-on nature of handling horses, it is hard to separate the human from the equine in this multi-million euro industry.

“ THE JUDGES SAID...
Shot over one year this stunning series of black and white photos chronicles the horse racing world and the beauty of the animals and the sport.



3rd

←110 **Jonathan Porter**
PRESS EYE
PRO LIFE

Tyrone based pro-life campaigners hold a protest outside Sinn Féin's constituency office in Coalisland. The anti-abortion activists offered the Rosary and laid white crosses outside the office. The group carried statues of the Virgin Mary with the white crosses representing aborted babies.

“ THE JUDGES SAID...
The photographer documents the scene with a series of tightly edited photos of religious protesters, praying and carrying a statue of the Virgin Mary, white crosses, and rosary beads.

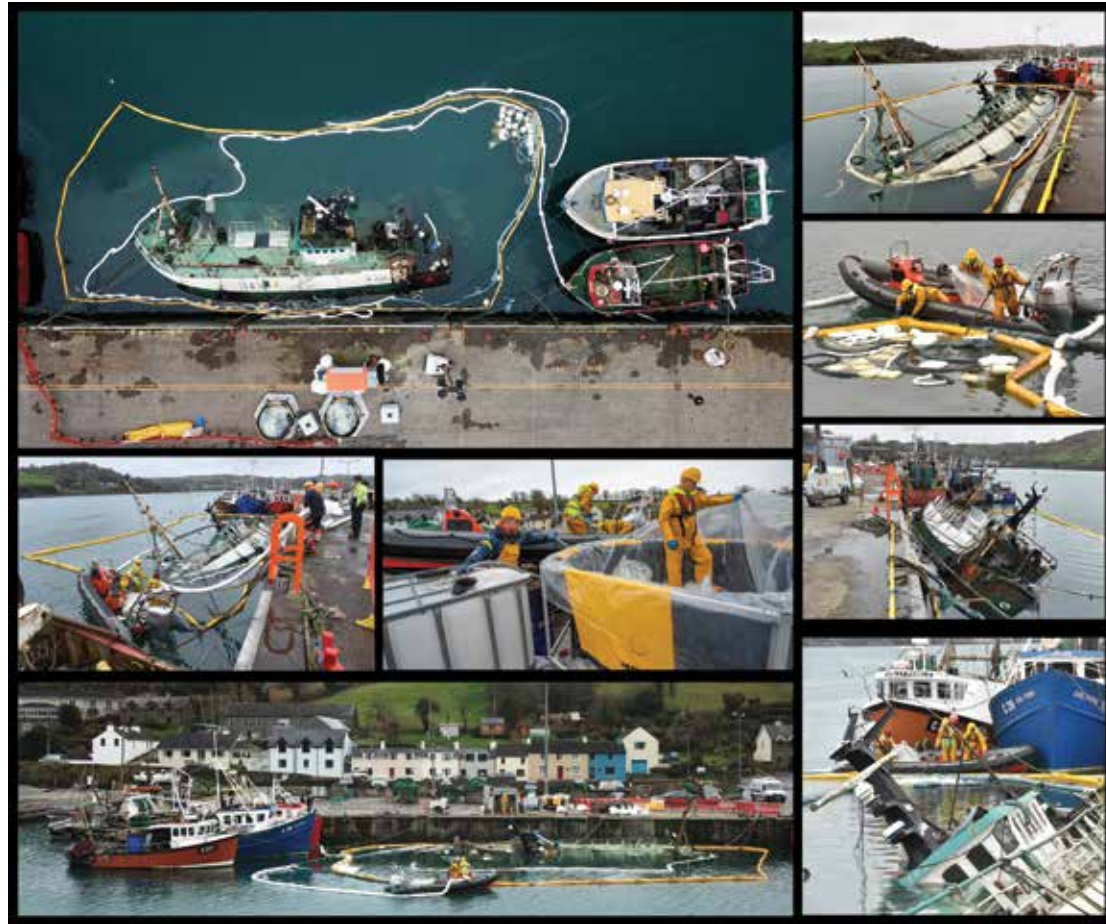


➔ **111 Dan Linehan**

IRISH EXAMINER

PREVENTING DISASTER

Workers from LCF Marine fixing an oil boom around the 23m fishing trawler Sceptre, which sank at Keelbeg Pier in Union Hall, Co. Cork, on the night of 6th February. Oils were removed from the trawler to prevent an environmental disaster. The trawler had been berthed at the pier for five years and was later removed in July 2022.



↑ **113 Laura Hutton**

THE IRISH TIMES

ABANDONED HOTEL

Foliage explodes from a bed in an abandoned hotel on the West Coast of Ireland. The hotel closed six years ago and is now only visited by urban explorers.

“ **THE JUDGES SAID...**

The judges carefully considered entries in all categories for this award and ultimately decided on this remarkable image of nature recapturing an abandoned hotel. There are many sustainability issues facing Ireland and the world and several are reflected elsewhere amongst the prize-winning images and in the exhibition, but the judges felt that this remarkable image speaks, in a slightly surreal way, to the massive issue of housing and homelessness in Ireland.

➔ **112 Gerry Mooney**

IRISH INDEPENDENT/
SUNDAY INDEPENDENT

THE MURDER OF ASHLING MURPHY

In January 2022, the country was gripped by grief following the murder of primary schoolteacher Ashling Murphy. The talented musician was out for a run after school when she was attacked and killed along the bank of the Grand Canal in Tullamore Co. Offaly. People came to the town from all over the country to sympathise with and support Ashling's family, as the country mourned the loss of the beautiful teacher.





Winner

←114 **Bryan O'Brien**

THE IRISH TIMES

TRUE TO TYPE

Following a brain haemorrhage, Leo Molloy turned his passion for collecting and restoring vintage typewriters into a full time job.

“THE JUDGES SAID...

The winning entry in this year's Multimedia Category is a beautifully-crafted film which tells the story of one man's love for vintage typewriters. While this is a relatively simple premise, there can be no doubt that the filmmaker handles the different disciplines of shooting, editing and storytelling with aplomb. Presented in black and white, it is an evocative piece which also packs an emotional punch.



*Charity Muguru Muchoki
12 years old,
Nairobi, Kenya*

Highly commended

←115 **James Crombie**

INPHO PHOTOGRAPHY

CHARITY

The video shows a snap shot of the realities faced with raising a child with disabilities in one of the poorer parts of the world. It focuses on a 12-year-old-girl named Charity Muguru Muchoki who has Down Syndrome and examines the issues her mother and school face. Filmed while in Kenya with CBM Ireland.



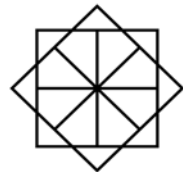
Highly commended

←116 **Ronan McGrade**

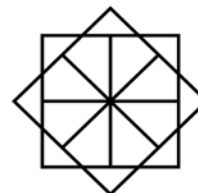
RONAN MCGRADY PHOTOGRAPHY

EXIT UKRAINE: INVAGED BY RUSSIA

When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022 a humanitarian crisis unfolded at the country's western border with Poland. Not only did the invasion affect people directly, it also had a wider reaching effect on Ukrainian students already studying in Poland. The students could not claim refugee status as they were already studying in Poland and their boarding school was left in a difficult position of carrying the financial burden of 600 students. The path to safety for refugees fleeing the war via the border crossing and refugee reception centres are also highlighted.



AIB PRESS PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2023
MARK CONDREN
IRISH INDEPENDENT/SUNDAY INDEPENDENT



Previous winners

- 2022 James Crombie
- 2021 James Crombie
- 2020 Mark Condren
- 2019 Tom Honan
- 2018 Cyril Byrne
- 2017 Gerry Mooney
- 2016 Mark Condren
- 2015 Alan Betson
- 2014 Julien Behal
- 2013 Mark Condren
- 2012 Julien Behal
- 2011 Mark Condren
- 2009 Mark Condren
- 2008 Steve Humphreys
- 2007 Niall Carson
- 2006 Bryan O'Brien
- 2005 Matt Kavanagh
- 2004 Alan Betson
- 2003 Frank Miller
- 2002 Bryan O'Brien
- 2001 Brenda Fitzsimons
- 2000 Bryan O'Brien
- 1999 Bryan O'Brien
- 1998 Frank Miller
- 1997 Alan Betson
- 1996 Frank Miller
- 1995 Bryan O'Brien
- 1994 Crispin Rodwell
- 1993 Matt Kavanagh
- 1992 Matt Kavanagh
- 1991 Dara Mac Dónaill
- 1990 Billy Stickland
- 1989 James Meehan
- 1988 John Carlos
- 1987 Jim O'Kelly
- 1986 Eric Luke
- 1985 Peter Thursfield
- 1984 Alan Lewis
- 1983 Peter Thursfield
- 1982 Tom Lawlor
- 1981 Austin Finn
- 1980 Peter Thursfield
- 1979 Brian Barron
- 1978 Colman Doyle



News (page 3) THE GRIEF OF CREESLOUGH



News (page 4) SAINT OF PAIN AND SUFFERING



News (page 5) FAREWELL TO MY ROCK



News (page 6) AN INNOCENT GOODBYE



News (page 7) BORDERING ON EXHAUSTION



Daily Life and People (page 10) ARE YOU IN OR OUT?



Daily Life and People (page 11) TIME IS TICKING



Daily Life and People (page 11) A MOUNTAIN TO CLIMB



Daily Life and People (page 12) THE SAD REFLECTION OF WAR



Portrait (page 26) WORN OUT



Portrait (page 28) CENTENARIAN



Portrait (page 30) HUNGER STRIKE

“ THE JUDGES SAID ...

The judges examined the portfolios of all prize-winners in great detail. Ultimately, there were two particularly outstanding portfolios and it was a difficult decision but we unanimously voted in favour of this portfolio. The photographer did not just manage to cover the main events of the year, at home and abroad, but they brought to their assignments an unerring ability to come away with remarkable images. Their sense of news value, sense of timing, ability to choose original angles and creativity all came to the fore and they are an absolutely deserving winner of this award.



Pictured at the judging photocall for the 45th annual 'AIB Press Photographer of the Year Award' are Chair of the judging panel and former Irish Times picture editor, Frank Miller (on screen, centre) alongside the two judges; International photographer, Eddie Keogh and Dublin native and Head of Pictures at the Financial Times, Helen Healy.



David Branigan, President of the Press Photographers Association of Ireland and Mary Whitelaw, Chief Sustainability and Corporate Affairs Officer, AIB, with the AIB Sustainability Award trophy, which will be awarded for an image, selected from across all of the entries, that best reflects the theme of sustainability in daily modern life.

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