

# Social Media

## INSTAGRAM

Thumb and index finger held apart like this



Without bringing the fingers together, slightly squeeze the gap twice. Imagine clicking the button on a camera.

## SNAPCHAT

Fingers together, hand open



Close and open in 2 'Yakety Yak' gestures. As if controlling the mouth of a puppet.

## TIKTOK

Hand-shape of the letter 'T'



Then 2 positions

## TWITTER

Index finger and thumb held apart



Close and open twice. Like a bird opening and closing its beak.



Twitter was recently renamed 'X'.



## FACEBOOK

Hands cover face



Then open like a book



While opening the hands, mouth the word 'Book'.

## WHATSAPP

Fingers like this



Wrist stays in same place, and hand moves as if drawing a 'tick' mark in the air.



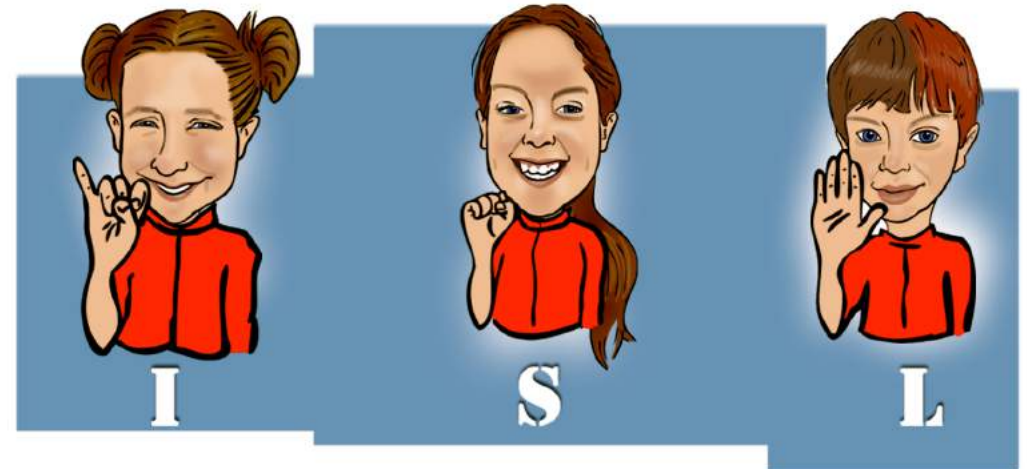
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# 2023

An illustrated booklet of basic Irish Sign Language (ISL)

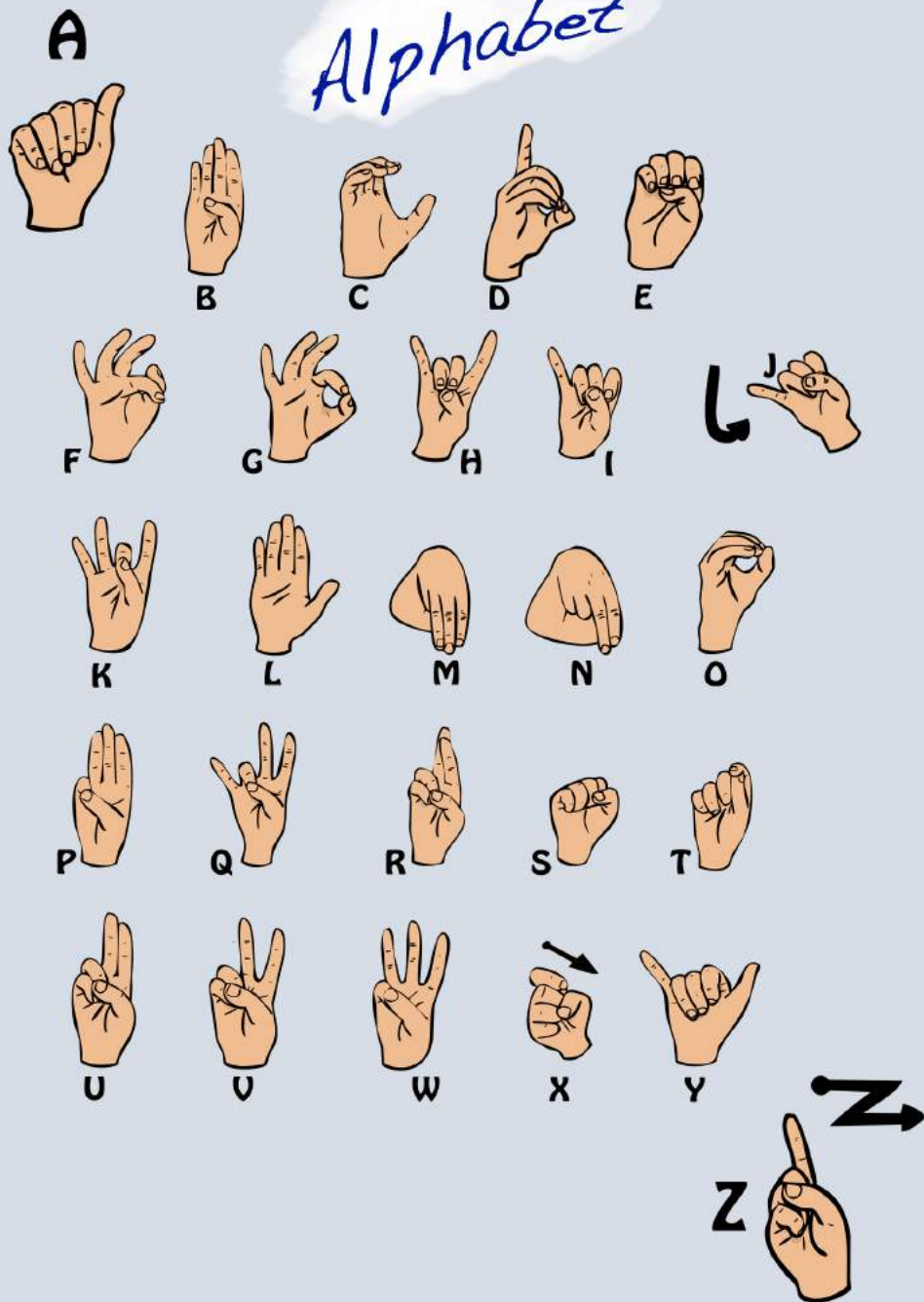
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Comhairle Contae Chill Dara  
Kildare County Council



# The Alphabet



## A Word From One Our Senior Members



Welcome to the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of our Athy Sing & Sign Annual booklet. My name is Jane Foley, and I have the pleasure of writing this year's introduction



Hi everyone. I am delighted to have been a member of Athy Sing and Sign for more than six years, during which time I have seen the club expand and grow from one class to five, catering for various groups from primary school age to adults.

Athy Sing and Sign and Irish Sign Language have made huge progress in recent years. When I first started, ISL was in the fourth stage of the Seanad to become the third official language of Ireland, and on Christmas Eve 2017 the ISL Act was signed by the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins.

This year we had the honour of performing the National Anthem in ISL with the National Symphony Chorus Choir, for the President, at the National Ploughing Championships.

The club has grown immensely since being founded by Aiden McHugh. Many of our members, including myself, now have QQI qualifications in ISL thanks to Maggie and all of our brilliant teachers.

I look forward to working with everyone this year, learning more ISL and taking part in our activities and events.

Jane

### Remembering Sr. Dolores



Sr Dolores was a valuable member of Athy Sing & Sign Club, who joined to learn ISL in her early 70s. She loved learning ISL and was excited to use her new skills in the Deaf Village Ireland, but sadly passed away this year.

We will always remember her beautiful performance of 'Silent Night' at the Athy Christmas Fair. She will be remembered as an inspiration, and a great loss to the club.



# ATHY Sing and Sign Highlights of 2023

## CERTIFICATES

Congratulations to the members of our Adult ISL Class 2023, seen here being presented with their Certificates of Achievement.

We are delighted to see our adults signing several sentences in ISL, and learning handshapes. They are a huge credit to their tutors Linda Dobbyn and Jane Foley. Well done to all! We are super proud of you!



## PERFORMING IN KERRY GLOBAL

We performed in Kerry group in NAAS, where Breda Moore-Flynn works.



## ISL EASTER CAMP

Thanks to REACH DEAF SERVICES and KILDARE SPORTS PARTNERSHIP we were able to organize our first ISL Easter Camp for deaf, hard of hearing, hearing and CODAs. This was a fantastic success, with the general consensus being that everyone wished it lasted longer!



## ST PATRICK'S DAY

Our theme was 'Alice In Wonderland' and we were delighted to be featured in RTE's parade coverage.



## TEACHING ISL IN GAELSCOIL, ATHI

Well done to our members who taught ISL in Gaelscoil Athi in June.



## CORK TRIP

Athy Sing & Sign had a brilliant day with some of our Sign Senior and Sign Social groups.

We went to Midsummer Festival in Cork, and saw Dublin Theater for the Deaf Community Choir and Amanda Coogan's performance in Crawford Art Gallery.

An amazing, spectacular, and immersive performance of Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy' in ISL.



## NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS

At this year's National Ploughing Championships, we performed for The President of Ireland. Our members signed the National Anthem, accompanied by the National Symphony Chorus Choir, conducted by Senan Dunne (Photo:Aisling Hyland).



## THE HERON MURAL

This is a new mural in Athy by Marian Noone aka 'This is Friz', representing biodiversity, habitats, wildlife and flora, and showcasing the beauty along the river Barrow.



We are thrilled at the inclusion of the butterfly, which also represents the deaf community.

## WE ARE GOING TO DISNEYLAND

After auditioning, Athy Sing & Sign have been accepted to perform on stage at Disneyland Paris on Monday the 25th of March 2024. Below is the message from the Disney Performing Arts Team

"Your group have been accepted for a song and dance performance. A wonderful audition. Great costumes and concepts. We really enjoyed your performance. Everyone gave 100% and it is evident that you all adore performing. The pieces were rehearsed to a good level. Well done and keep up the good work. Happy rehearsing"



## ISL LINGUISTICS WORKSHOP

Our committee attended an ISL Linguistics Workshop in Limerick. Organized by MIDWEST ISL HUB and presented by Patrick A. Matthews M. Litt, M. Phil in Applied Linguistics



## BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Well done to our member Pippa Casey who signed to a song performed by Lisa Mackey in a local 'Battle Of The Bands' Competition





## The Clanard Court Hotel, Athy

Opened in 2005, The Clanard Court is a top-rated wedding venue and award-winning hotel situated 1km from Athy.

Owned by the Fennin family, the hotel comprises 45 Guest Rooms a bar and bistro, event rooms and a Garden Spa.

And its very own herd of alpacas!

### ALPACA

You can fingerspell the word 'Alpaca'



### RESERVATION

1. Two fingers touch cheek



2. Then bring fingers down to touch upturned palm



### RECEPTION

1. Make this hand shape



2. Hand touches cheek. Then moves down as if adjusting a headset microphone



3. Then mime as if typing on a keyboard



### BEDROOM

1. Hands together pressed against the cheek in a 'sleep' gesture



2. Both hands make the sign for 'R'



3. Hands circle each other



4. Hands move apart

### HOTEL

1. Make the hand shape of the letter 'H'



2. Touch against cheek



2. Then change to flat palm against cheek





# DISNEYLAND

1. Hand shape of the letter 'd' with both hands



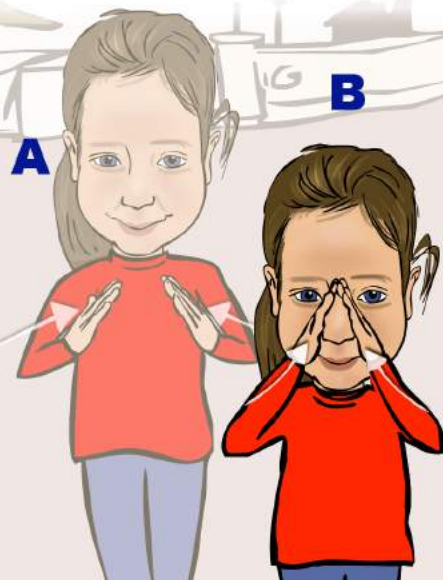
2. Touch fingers together center of the forehead



3. With index fingers, draw the shape of Mickey Mouse ears in the air

## PARIS

Hands coming together like the top of the Eiffel Tower



B

## FRANCE



Right hand shape "Rabbit Ears"

Make the sign of the cross



# Disneyland Paris

Athy Sing & Sign Club will be performing in Disneyland Paris in March 2024



## SLEEPING

Single palm against head



## BEAUTY

Closed fist in front of chin



Then hand opens



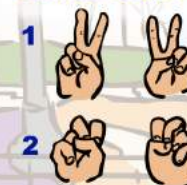
## ROLLERCOASTER

Hand moves across in front, following an up and down path like a rollercoaster



## CASTLE

Hand shapes



Start with hands close to the body in position 1 (Fingers extended)

Then make a circle turning hands around while moving fingers to position 2

Then repeat. This represents the turrets on the castle





# The Heron Mural

This is a new mural painted this year on Stanhope Street, Athy.

It was curated by Creative Places Athy (Eilish Langton). Athy Sing & Sign was delighted to be involved in the development of the mural with Eilish Langton, Kevin Connolly, Colette Norton, Athy Photographic Society, and input from nature enthusiasts.

The inclusion of the butterfly has special meaning for us, as the butterfly is a symbol often used to represent the Deaf Community.



The Butterfly

the Deaf

represents

community



Cross hands, linking thumbs making a butterfly shape

And fingers move like flapping wings



**A** Hands close to chest Palms inward



**B** Hands turning around and moving away from body

1. Make the 'R' shape with both hands



1. Touch ear



2. Touch chin on same side



Make the sign for the letter 'C' with both hands



Keep the 'C' shapes and hands move in a circle until the little fingers are touching

## MURAL

1. Mime the act of painting where one hand is the brush sweeping up and down



2. Spread hands wide as if showing the size of the mural

