



About Ireland Reaching Out

Ireland Reaching Out (Ireland XO) is a multi-award-winning Irish government sponsored initiative established to help people of Irish heritage abroad connect with the Irish parish from where either they or their ancestors first originated in Ireland.

An Taoiseach, the Irish Prime Minister, Enda Kenny TD, launched the Programme nationally on March 14, 2012. Ireland Reaching Out is a voluntary, non-profit community-based charitable organisation. (Charity No. CHY19382).



An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD, launching the Ireland Reaching Out programme with Mike Feerick, founder of Ireland XO.

Contact Us

Either email us or register directly at the contact details below.

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Ireland XO offers a Free Service

If you would like Ireland XO to help you find out where you and your people are from in Ireland, please register with us. It's a free volunteer-led parish-based service. To begin, simply register on our website and tell us what you already know.

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Sponsors and Supporters

The Irish Department of Foreign Affairs, The Heritage Council, The Atlantic Philanthropies, The Ireland Funds, Galway County Council, Galway Rural Development, Fáilte Ireland, Google, Guinness, An Post and the National Library and is supported by the Gaelic Athletic Association. Ireland XO is grateful for the generous donations of its many members at home and abroad.

Ireland^{xo}
Reaching Out



Discover your
Irish Roots
and connect with your
ancestral community
in Ireland

www.IrelandXO.com

An Irish Government Sponsored Initiative

Would you like to connect with the place your people first came from in Ireland?



Are you of Irish Heritage?

If you are reading this, it probably means that your ancestors are from Ireland. Research tells us that most people of Irish Heritage living abroad will, at some time in their lives, try to discover more about their roots and connections to Ireland. The Ireland Reaching Out Programme (Ireland XO), actively encourages YOU to do so and can help you in your quest. There are no fees as Ireland XO is a non-profit, voluntary organisation.

Embarking on a paper trail of researching your genealogical records may only take you so far. Our volunteers in Ireland can help you find that elusive headstone, or the spot where your ancestral home once stood, or even connect you with your own living relatives in Ireland.

More than anything, Ireland XO is about connecting people, creating lifelong relationships between those of us who share a special bond of place. It is about celebrating the living heritage of Ireland as well as that of the past, and the heritage of Irish people, wherever they are found around the world today.

Connecting you to Ireland

There are two ways in which we work to connect you with your ancestral community in Ireland. Firstly, through using what we call 'reverse genealogy' - instead of waiting for people of Irish descent to return to Ireland to trace their roots, local Irish communities, largely through volunteer effort and with the support of Ireland XO, are now tracing the people who left their parishes, seeking to find them and their living descendants worldwide. The local Irish community (parish) then 'reaches out' inviting them to become part of a new virtual global Irish community.

Alternatively, register with us online and actively search for your people - visit www.IrelandXO.com and join your parish (or county if you know it).

Come visit your home in Ireland!

Whether your ancestral community finds you, or you find them, you can seek direct genealogical research advice and assistance from them at no cost. In addition, local volunteer community teams, trained in local heritage, are ready to meet and greet you should you chose to visit Ireland – and there is no better year to come than 2013!

Come Home for The Gathering Ireland 2013!

Ireland Reaching Out is an enthusiastic partner of "The Gathering Ireland 2013", a major series of events and festivals celebrating Irish culture, history and genealogy. It's the perfect year for YOU to come home with family or friends, to celebrate being Irish!



Quotes from some who returned to discover their past

"It's hard to describe. I never expected to find the location, or much less the remains of the house of my forebearers. I've reached the end of a long journey. It's very, very special."

Jim Kelly, New York

"Wonderful! We will be coming back for more, and have this one tucked away with our precious memories. We feel we learned a lot, but even more important, met some interesting people and made some good friends."

Vin and Ted Glynn, Australia

The Benefits of Ireland Reaching Out

Ireland XO offers you:

- The opportunity to discover **who you really are** by providing you with **FREE** access to **parish volunteers** throughout Ireland – local people ('meet/greet/connect' teams) who will guide you in your search for information on your roots and ancestral parish.
- **The means to contact** your ancestral parish or county, or join in the conversation with them, through the IrelandXO.com website. You can post messages and engage with the local community online.
- Access to local community knowledge of the **history, folklore, genealogy, culture and heritage** of your parish.
- Invitations from your ancestral parish to events, reunions, special 'welcome weeks' and more.
- The opportunity to become part of a **global Irish network** where individuals, businesses, towns and villages can connect opening up new possibilities for social, cultural and economic development.

