

Press Release

Celebrating the Legacy of Aleen Cust: Cultivating Change in Veterinary and Farming Practices

The Aleen Cust Memorial Symposium 2025, a landmark event dedicated to the pioneering spirit of Aleen Cust, the first female veterinary surgeon in Ireland and the UK, will be held on Friday, July 4th, 2025, at Mountbellew Agricultural College, Co. Galway. This symposium, themed "Cultivating Change in Veterinary and Farming Practices," aims to honour Aleen Cust's remarkable contributions to veterinary medicine and her enduring legacy.

The symposium will feature a series of insightful lectures and discussions led by prominent figures in the fields of veterinary science, agriculture, and heritage. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with experts, view community heritage and vintage exhibitions, and earn CVE credits approved by the Veterinary Council of Ireland.

Brendan Gardiner & Donal Connolly of the Aleen Cust Society said "We are proud to honour Aleen Cust's legacy through this symposium. Her determination and courage continue to inspire generations of veterinary practitioners. Aleen's story is a testament to the power of perseverance and the importance of challenging societal norms."

The event highlights include:

Official Opening: Dr. Orla Flynn, President, Atlantic Technological University (ATU)

Keynote Speakers: Dr. June Fanning, CEO, DAFM; Mairead McGuinness, MEP and Former European Commissioner; Dr. John Cunningham, Associate Professor in History, University of Galway and Dr John Flaherty, Expert in Agricultural Heritage.

Exhibitions: Community heritage and vintage displays

The Aleen Cust Memorial Society, a dedicated group of retired and semi-retired veterinary practitioners, has been instrumental in organising this symposium in partnership with the Heritage Office, Galway County Council and Mountbellew Agricultural College- Atlantic Technological University. Their mission is to remember and celebrate the life and achievements of Aleen Cust, who overcame significant barriers to become a trailblazer in her field.

Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Galway County Council said "Aleen Cust's contributions to veterinary medicine and her pioneering spirit are an integral part of our heritage. This symposium not only celebrates her achievements but also highlights the importance of preserving and promoting our cultural history."

Edna Curley, Principal, Mountbellew Campus, Atlantic Technological University Galway said "We are delighted to host the Aleen Cust Memorial Symposium at our campus. This event underscores the significance of Aleen Cust's work and her impact on veterinary and farming practices. It is an honour to be part of this celebration of her legacy."

The conference is funded by the Commemorations Unit, Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, Heritage Office, Galway County Council, Atlantic Technological University and University of Galway and the Aleen Cust Society. Various heritage organisations, vintage clubs and community groups in the county of Galway assisted in the development and delivery of the conference including Mountbellew Vintage Club, North Galway Vintage Club, iCAN Galway County members.

Join us in celebrating the life and legacy of Aleen Cust, a true trailblazer in veterinary medicine.

For more information and to book your place at the symposium, please visit Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/aleen-cust-memorial-symposium-tickets-1396540834229?aff=oddtcreator>

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For Further information please contact:

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