

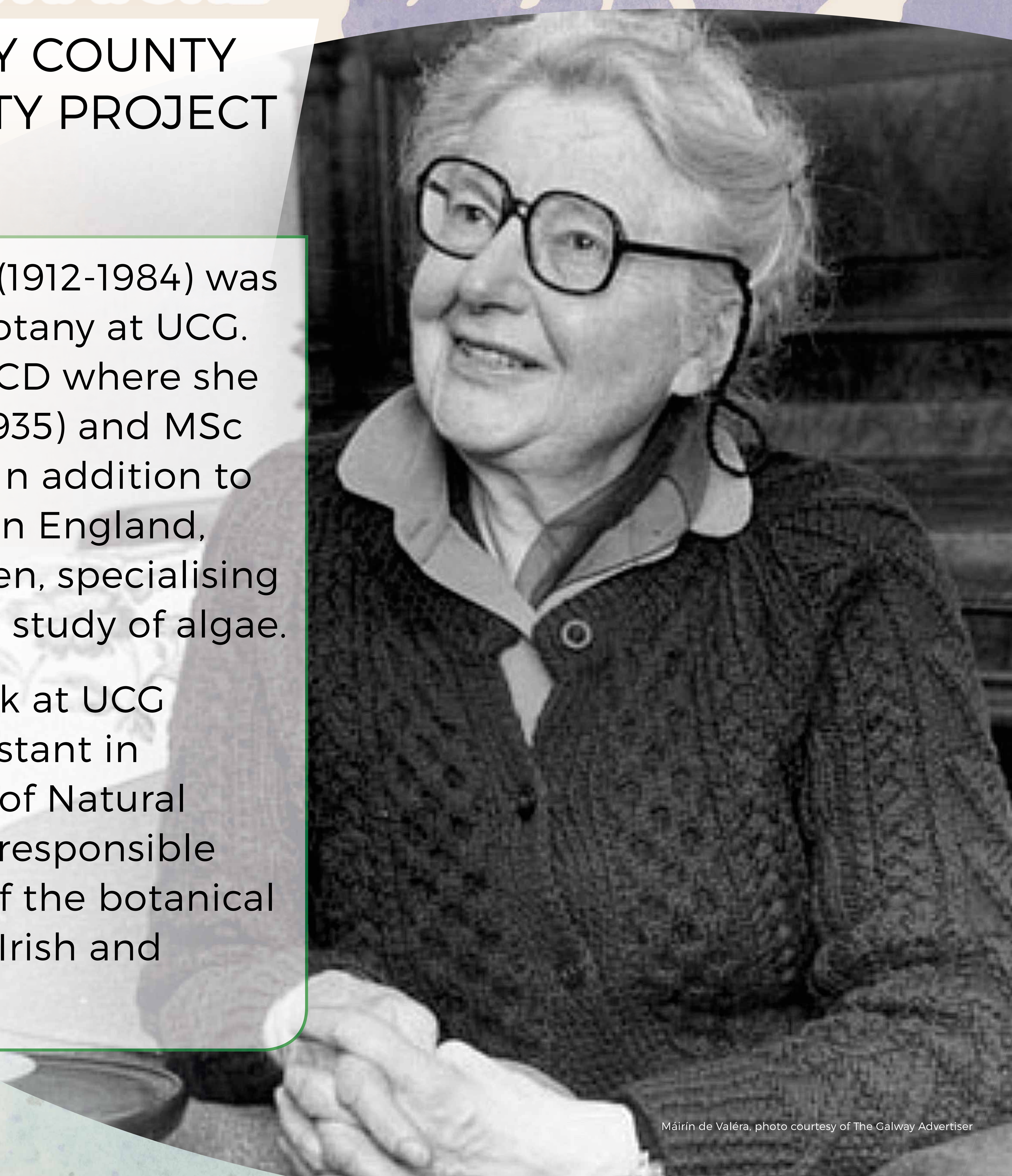
# MÁIRÍN DE VALÉRA

## PEOPLE & NATURE

### THE GALWAY COUNTY BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

Máirín de Valéra (1912-1984) was the founder of Botany at UCG. She studied at UCD where she obtained a BA (1935) and MSc (1936) in botany. In addition to this she studied in England, Wales and Sweden, specialising in phycology, the study of algae.

She came to work at UCG in 1939 as an assistant in the Department of Natural History. She was responsible for teaching all of the botanical courses through Irish and English.



Máirín de Valéra, photo courtesy of The Galway Advertiser

## PROFESSOR OF BOTANY



Seaweed Credit: Michael Guiry

She obtained a PhD in 1945 based on her research on marine algae in Galway; was appointed Lecturer in Botany in 1947 and Professor of Botany from 1962 to 1977 in UCG.

She co-founded the British Phycological Society in 1951 and published over 25 scientific papers.

The red algae genus *Devaleraea* was named after her in 1982. NUIG's field research station in the Burren is called the Máirín de Valera Research Station<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>Source: [www.nuigalway.ie/media/nuigalwayie/content/files/aboutus/Path-Breaking-Women---Brochure.pdf](http://www.nuigalway.ie/media/nuigalwayie/content/files/aboutus/Path-Breaking-Women---Brochure.pdf)



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