This is a book about life and death over 8,500 years in Ireland. It explores the richness of the mortuary record that we have for Irish prehistory (8000 BC to AD 500) as a highlight of the archaeological record for that long period of time. Because we are dealing with how people coped with death, this rich and diverse record of mortuary practice is also relevant to understanding how we deal with death today, which is just as central a social issue as it always was.

Contributor Information

Gabriel Cooney is emeritus professor of Celtic Archaeology, School of Archaeology, University College Dublin. He is a member of the Royal Irish Academy and has served on the Council of the RIA. Gabriel’s research interests focus on the Neolithic period, particularly the use of stone, and on mortuary practices in prehistory.

He has authored, co-authored and co-edited a number of books, and published widely in academic journals and book chapters. Previous books include Landscapes of Neolithic Ireland (2000). Gabriel was the founding editor of Archaeology Ireland; a member of the board of the Heritage Council (2005–15); chair of the Historic Monuments Council of Northern Ireland (2009–19); and chair of the Discovery Programme (2019–20). He is an expert member of the International Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management of the International Council on Sites and Monuments (ICOMOS). In 2021 he was awarded an honorary OBE in recognition of service to heritage in Northern Ireland.

Conor McHale is an archaeologist/illustrator living in Dublin. Apart from an embarrassment of archaeological publications his work has also graced colouring books, tin cups, tee shirts, chopping boards and bread. His wife is a martyr to his banjo playing and he likes carving wood. He would like to take this opportunity to say hello to his two grown up children. Hello Oscar and Popi.