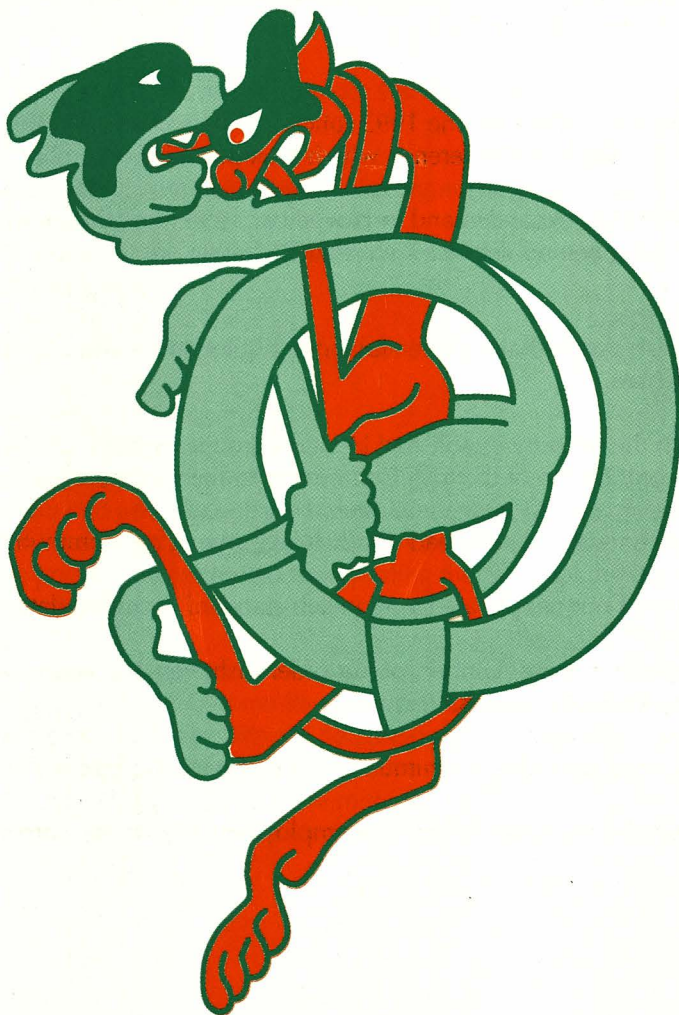


Tionól na n-Éireannach Birmingham Teo
Birmingham Irish Community Forum Ltd



Being Irish in Birmingham

We are a distinct yet integral part of the rich cultural tapestry
which makes up the city of Birmingham

Aim of the Forum

To represent the views, needs and aspirations of all generations of Irish people living in Birmingham.

History

We were established in June 1993 following the recommendations of the Irish in Birmingham Conference which took place in November 1992.

The Forum has expanded and in November 1998 moved to new offices at Cara House, behind the Irish Centre in Digbeth.

What we know

Many Irish people have successfully contributed to the life and economy of Birmingham.

Through the recently established Heritage group, we hope to highlight the major contribution of the Irish Community to the success of Birmingham.

Sadly there is also widespread disadvantage among our community including:

- ✿ Many of our people are living in sub-standard accommodation.
- ✿ Disproportionate numbers of our older Irish men and young people are sleeping on the streets.
- ✿ High numbers of our community are in the mental hospitals.
- ✿ There are very high levels of unemployment within our community.

Our objectives are to:

- ✿ Set up projects which address the specific needs of the Irish Community in Birmingham.
- ✿ Be used as a consultative body for Birmingham City Council and other organisations.
- ✿ Have contact with Irish Community organisations.
- ✿ Find out what the main issues/needs are of the Irish people in Birmingham.
- ✿ Lobby and campaign for the rights of Irish people.

Forum Members

Are nominated and elected at our Annual General Meeting from a wide range of established Irish organisations in the city. As Irish men and women we care and are committed to representing the needs of the Irish Community in Birmingham.

Sub-Committee Members

Membership of our sub-committees is open to anyone with an interest in supporting our activities. We are delighted that we have the expertise and skills of a wide range of people whose contribution we value highly. See over for details of the sub-committees.

Education Committee

This focuses on issues to do with promoting Irish culture through Education projects and developing a city-wide resource for Irish performing arts.

Employment & Training Committee

The main priority of this Committee is the new Community Outreach Project, L.E.A.P. (Learning, Employment & Active Participation), which will provide employment and training advice to Irish people in Birmingham.

Health & Social Services Committee

After a very successful Health Conference, the Committee is now concerned with progressing issues such as Elderly Health and Welfare and Mental Health, particularly that of Irish women.

Housing Committee

In collaboration with Cara Irish Housing Association, this Committee is concerned with culturally sensitive housing provision for Irish people. They have been involved in the successful completion of Fr. Taaffee House, a housing project for elderly Irish in Birmingham.

Finance and Funding Committee

The Forum is receiving grants from the National Lottery Charities Board, SRB and ERDF. The finance Committee's main tasks are to ensure the correct and efficient management of these accounts.

Parade Committee

This is a very hard working group of people who ensure that the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Birmingham is a brilliant highlight of the year for the Irish Community.

Personnel Committee

As the Forum is now an employer, the welfare of staff and their overall management is the business of the Committee.

Public Relations Committee

The Forum has become increasingly high profile and much of this can be attributed to the P.R. Committee who ensure the publicity and organisation of major events is effective.

Youth Group

This group promotes the interests of young 1st and 2nd generation Irish people. This year we are developing a theatre project and producing a guide for Irish Youth arriving in the West Midlands.

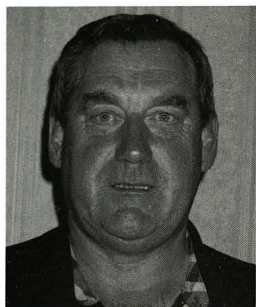
Other Community Forum Initiatives

L.E.A.P. - Learning, Employment & Active Participation

The Forum have recently received funding for a new project for the Millennium to work in the Community with those who require advice and guidance on Employment, Education and Training Opportunities.

Irish Business Group

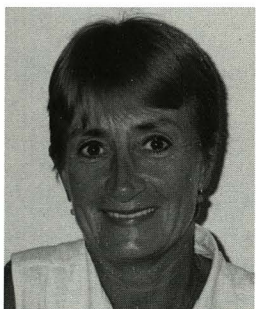
The Irish Business Group was set up by the Irish Forum following a very successful conference in April 1998. It was established to represent and promote the Irish Business Community in Birmingham.



Forum Staff

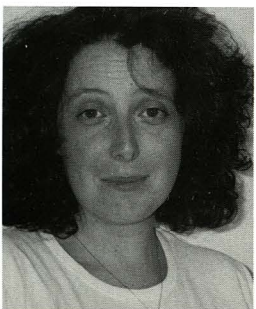
Eddie Falaher **Chair of the Forum**

A member of the Limerick Association, Eddie was elected as Chair of the Irish Forum at our AGM in October 1999. A dedicated and active member of our community, Eddie is unsparing in his efforts to promote the Irish Forum and it's objectives.



Pauline Schofield **Project Co-ordinator**

Pauline was born in Kinlough, Co. Leitrim and has lived and worked in Britain for 25 years, mainly in Social Work and Race Equality. Pauline's task is to ensure that the Forum promotes the Irish Community in Birmingham in every area of life.



Caroline Carr **Community Outreach Worker**

Caroline's parents were born in Drogheda Co. Louth but they have lived in England more years than they care to remember. Caroline spent ten years living in the North-East of England and gained a degree in Criminology during this time. She has also qualified as an advice and guidance worker.

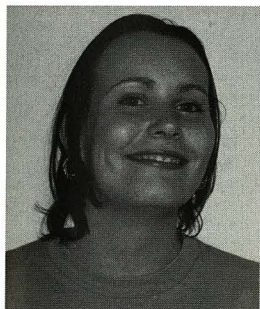


Forum Staff

Katriona Larkin

Administrator

Katriona was born and bred in Co. Waterford. She moved to Wolverhampton in September 1996 to do her final year in University having previously studied in Ireland, France and Germany. Katriona worked in Walsall and Wolverhampton before finally moving to Birmingham.



Catherine Bell

Admin. Assistant

Both of Catherine's parents hail from the Emerald Isle, her mother from Kerry and her father from Westmeath. Catherine has worked in administration for 2 years and has achieved various qualifications in relation to her administrative skills. Catherine works part-time for L.E.A.P. (Learning, Employment & Active Participation), and has also enrolled on a part-time course at Solihull College.



Bernadette Harding

Secretary

My name is Bernadette Harding and I was born in Birmingham. My father is from Dublin and my mother from Athlone. I am married with two children, Grace 8 years old, and Tessa 11 years old. I am very pleased to be working for the Irish Forum on secondment from South Birmingham College. After leaving Sutton Coldfield College, I worked in the Industrial Sector as a secretary until the birth of my first daughter. When Grace started school I returned to work after taking a career break to care for my two children.

For further information contact:

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