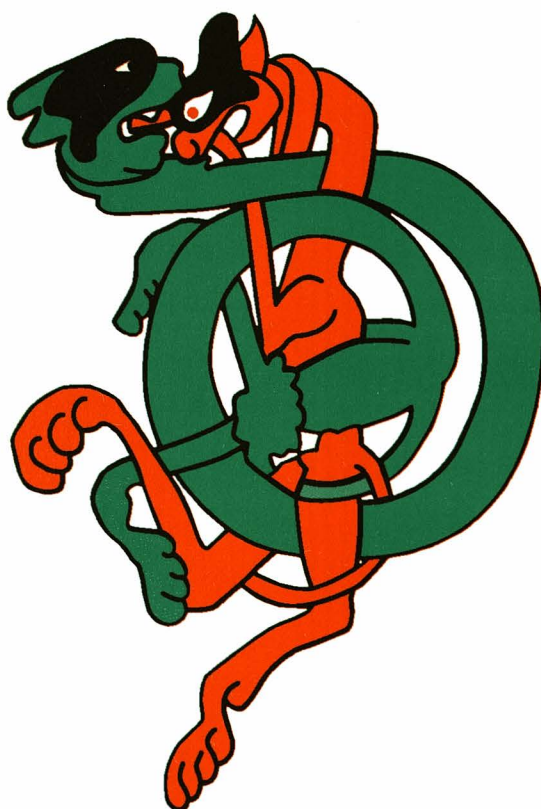




ionól na n-Éireannach Birmingham Téo

*Birmingham Irish Community Forum Ltd.*

TUAIRSC BLIANTÚIL 1997 - 1998



ANNUAL REPORT 1997 - 1998

**Being Irish in Birmingham**

*We are a distinct yet integral part of the rich cultural  
tapestry that makes up the City of Birmingham.*

Company Registration No: 3386486



# The Irish Forum Board of Director and Staff



Back row, left to right: Chris Conway, Pat McGillicuddy, Tony Downey, Barney Griffin, Phil McCarvill, Eddie Falahee, Frank Ryan (Cork)  
 Centre row, left to right: Bob Cowen, Anthony Duffy, Noel Mulvey, Peggy Falahee, Fr. Frank Ryan, Martin Earlis, Pat O'Neill  
 Front row, left to right: Cllr. Mike Nangle, Cathleen Benison, Mary Connolly, Mary Carway, Gobnait Ní Chruaí, Margaret Fitzgerald, Clare Cooke



Joan Murphy, Anne Kennedy and Sylvia-Murphy Brennan



Pauline Schofield  
 Project Co-ordinator



# Foreword

For the Birmingham Irish Community Forum and Birmingham City Council this has been a memorable year.

Our 'Partnership' has strengthened with both new and existing joint initiatives between the Irish Community and the various Departments of the City Council continuing to flourish.

A successful St. Patrick's Day Parade in March once again gave pleasure to many people from the Irish community as well as from Birmingham's other multicultural communities. This was also celebrated by a formal Civic Reception which was attended by many representatives of the Irish community.

During April 1998, the first Birmingham Irish Business Conference took place, which was attended by approximately 180 people of which 85 represented major sectors of the economy.

"Pulling Together" was the theme for the Conference which admirably describes the relationship which the partners wanted to promote both at the conference, and afterwards. The 'Birmingham Irish Business Group' emerged from the day, and is continuing to flourish.

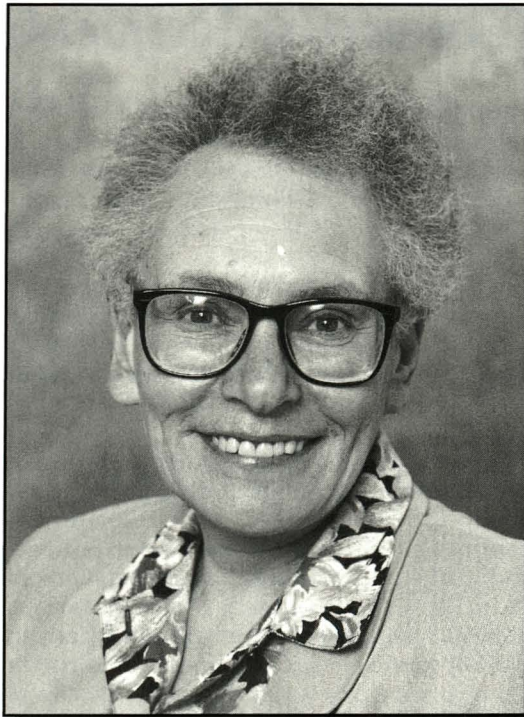
Earlier this year I was privileged to be asked to lay the foundation stone on the site of "Father Joe Taaffe House". This project is a prime example of joint working and a fitting tribute to a man who dedicated his life to improving the conditions of Irish working people.

Whilst just three activities have been remembered here, there are many other ways that partnerships can be developed.

I hope the Forum continues its good work and flourishes in the future.



Cllr. Theresa Stewart  
Leader of Birmingham City Council







## Chair's Report

I am delighted to say on behalf of all my colleagues of the Irish Forum that we can celebrate another very successful year. Success comes from co-operation, shared vision and hard work. I want to therefore acknowledge and thank everyone for the huge contribution which they have made to the success of the Forum over the last fifteen months.

Nearly 80 volunteers now ensure the work continues to be a success. Alongside the wide network of volunteers are a dedicated Board of Directors (representing the various Irish groups within the City) all of whom are committed and very able. Our Board is very representative of the community in terms of members ages, gender and levels of ability.

I want to acknowledge the drive and energy that is given to us from our staff at the Forum office, Gobnait and Cath. In addition, I would like to warmly welcome our newly appointed Project Co-Ordinator, Pauline Schofield, all the way from my home county, Leitrim! Pauline has vast experience of working with community organisations and is deeply committed to working with us.

I should like to welcome Caroline Carr, the Employment and Training Development Worker who has recently joined us.

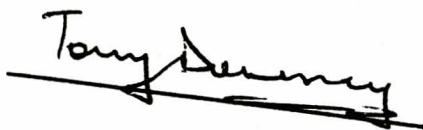
As the Forum see it, our role is to identify and to address the needs of the Irish community in Birmingham. To ensure this is done effectively, we need to work closely with various public bodies in the city like the Council, Birmingham Training & Enterprise Council and the Health Authority. Their co-operation is an essential ingredient to that success.

The back page of this report highlights the very broad funding base which we now enjoy in particular, we are indebted to Birmingham City Council, South Birmingham College, National Lottery Charities Board and Birmingham & Solihull Training & Enterprise Council and the Irish business community for such support. Long may it continue!

We are very committed to ensuring that we are represented nationally, with Phil Mc Carvill as Youth Officer for the Federation of Irish Societies, Sylvia Murphy Brennan on Cara Irish Housing Association's Board of Management and Gobnait Ní Chrualaoí on the Race Relations Forum. Alongside this we hold regular meetings with MPs Dr Mo Mowlam, Northern Ireland Secretary, Mr Roger Godsiff, Ms Gisela Stuart and Mr Steve Mc Cabe and MEP, Ms Christene Crawley.

The reports from the sub-committees show how successful we have been and the amount of hard work that has gone on. Can I commend their work and the work of the Forum to you and invite you to join with us in continuing this work?

To all who have made 1997/998 such a success, thank you and congratulations.



Tony Downey, Chair



# Community Development Officers Report

As Community Development Officer for the Birmingham Irish Community Forum Ltd for over four years I should like to begin by paying tribute to all those Irish people who work tirelessly for the people in our community who are marginalised and socially excluded. The level of commitment and motivation to the work never ceases to amaze me. The continually high level of attendance at a huge number of meetings every month is tremendous.

In terms of the work we have been doing over the last fifteen months, there have been a number of significant developments. As you will see throughout the report, the Chair of each sub-committee provides details on the work they have been doing.

The Irish Forum became a Company Limited by Guarantee in June 1997. This was necessary in assisting the Board to employ staff, lease buildings and to work within a structure that is accountable and transparent. In addition, becoming a Company ensures that the Forum is seen by external agencies to be serious about its business.

I believe it is the combination of peoples hard work and dedication alongside sound internal structures that have significantly helped in the successes we have had in securing funding for the Parade, the Employment and Training Project, the Irish Business Conference and from the National Lottery Charities Board. It is fair to say that for any external body looking in at the Irish Forum, they see an organisation that knows what its about, where it is going and what its plans are for the future.

We have been looking for our own premises in the Digbeth Irish Quarter for quite some time now. It is with great delight that Cara Irish Housing Association decided to buy our 'dream home', Birchall House, right behind the Irish Centre where we will be able to lease some accommodation to meet our needs. We are extremely grateful to Pat & Bridie McGrath at the Irish Centre who have hosted so many of our meetings over the past five years. We will still of course be calling upon them for the use of the Centre for events in the future.

We have recently set up two more sub-committees, Personnel and Finance. These two committees, under the guidance of Mary Connolly from Tyrone Association/Comhaltas and Eddie Falahee from the Irish Centre/Limerick Association will assist in ensuring that the internal workings of the Irish Forum are smooth and efficient. As the Forum has just become an employer of five staff, it needs to develop more detailed policies and procedures around staff, volunteer and financial management.

As you will note from Barney Griffin's report for the Health and Social Services sub-committee, the health and social care needs of our 1st generation older Irish community continues to be a major cause for concern. It is in this context that we thought it appropriate to have a 'Health' theme for our AGM. At the event, Mr Bryan Stoten, Chair of Birmingham Health Authority will be launching the Report *The Health, Accommodation and Social Care Needs of Older Irish Men in Birmingham*. In addition, the Cancer Research Campaign and the British Heart Foundation will be present to remind us of our need to look after our health better than perhaps many of us do at the moment.

Perhaps the most significant and important event for the Irish Forum in the last fifteen months has been the establishment of an Irish Business Group which was the outcome of the Irish Business Conference which took place in April of 1998. A great deal of effort and time was put into planning it by a core group of dedicated people. Well, we certainly reaped the fruits of our labour on the day! The event was an outstanding success and I should like to thank all those who helped to make it the day that it was.

We held a Women's Karaoke evening at the Irish Centre during the year. Everyone had a great night singing, dancing and having a laugh! We look forward to seeing more of these events to ensure that women in the Irish community feel supported and included in our work.

I look forward to seeing the Forum grow from strength to strength in aiming to improve the quality of life and raising the profile of the needs of the Irish community in Birmingham. On reflection of Fr Taaffe's words after the re-launch of the St Patrick's Day Parade "... the resurrection of the Irish has begun, now let's continue it".



Gobnait Ní Chruaí, Community Development Officer







## Education Sub-Committee

The good news is the growing interest in Irish educational issues.

In particular, we have had a very successful series of lectures on 17th Century Ulster by Brian McCuarta (SJ) at the Irish Centre. He continues in the Autumn term with another lecture series

The Irish Centre continues to develop its educational programme recently adding computer courses alongside the well established cultural studies courses.

Members of the sub-committee met with the Chief Education Officer, Professor Brighthouse to discuss issues such as the achievement levels of Irish children. He agreed to encourage research into this field and to work with us in raising awareness of the issues with schools across the city.

Such awareness was most obvious in the week long celebration of Irish culture at St Edmund Campion School, Erdington. The week long festival was a great success, thanks to the hard work and dedication of the teachers and pupils, and in particular of Chris Gmitrowicz as well as having the support of the GAA, Comhaltas and the Dancing Schools.



In collaboration with Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann and the hard work of Anita Gallagher, we have seen the introduction of an 'Irish Music in Schools Project'. This programme encourages teachers to include Irish music as part of the children's music lessons. This project has already been piloted in 3 schools and more schools will be joining up during 1998/1999.

We continue to hope that Irish studies will develop at a Birmingham University as it has done so successfully in Liverpool, Bath and London - as yet no good news on that front.

Overall, I feel that things on the education front are beginning to move in a very exciting and celebratory way. In particular, the Irish Music in Schools project and research into levels of achievement have got tremendous potential and benefits for our second and third generations - crucially important for our long term strength and survival as an Irish community in Birmingham.

*Tony Downey*

Tony Downey, Chair



# Employment and Training Sub-Committee

It is fair to say that 1997/1998 has been a hugely successful year for this sub-committee. Following the launch of the research report by Cllr. Theresa Stewart, the *Economic Needs of the Irish Community in Birmingham*, we quickly got into having the recommendations of that report on the agenda of key bodies in the city including the Single Regeneration Budget, the Economic Development Department (EDD), Birmingham and Solihull Training and Enterprise Council (TEC), The Employment Service, Enterprise Link and Business Link.

We initially started by submitting a bid to the Single Regeneration Board for Sparkhill, Sparkbrook and Tyseley. Despite a very detailed and comprehensive bid and a great deal of lobbying and campaigning the bid was unsuccessful.

We didn't lose heart for long but continued to find alternative ways of securing the funds necessary to implement the recommendations of the report.

We then entered negotiations with Birmingham & Solihull TEC. We are delighted to announce that we have now secured sufficient funding to start up an Employment and Training Project. With a full time Development Worker and a part time Administrative Assistant. The Project's aims in year one will be to work with key Irish organisations and individuals and target in particular, people who are long term unemployed under the Government's New Deal, Welfare to Work Scheme. In addition, the Worker will support the Irish Business Group to get off the ground and organise a roadshow for Irish women who are very highly represented in part time employment.

What can I say about the success of the first ever Irish Business Conference - the brainwave of our Chair Tony Downey? We were delighted with the huge support which all key agencies in the city and Irish businesses, large and small, gave to this event. On the day, there were over 85 Irish businesses in attendance. In addition we had an Irish Government Minister of State, the Leader of Birmingham City Council, the Irish Embassy, Dr Miriam O'Reilly, Allied Irish Banks, Bank of Ireland and Aer Lingus, all contributing towards the theme of the Conference *Ag Tarraingt le Chéile/Pulling Together*.

I should like to convey my sincere thanks to all those involved in the planning and organising of the event. Without such co-operation and 'pulling together' the Conference could not have been the success that it was.

I look forward to seeing the Irish Business Group, the key outcome of the Business Conference, making great strides in the near future to work together to improve the quality of life for the people of Birmingham and in particular, of course, for the Birmingham Irish community.



Pat McGillicuddy, Chair







## Health & Social Services Sub-Committee

The Irish Community in Britain are the only migrant community whose health deteriorates on migration. Research published last year showed conclusively that the health of the second and third generation Irish living in Britain is, if anything, worse than the health of their parents and grandparents. Our sub-committee aims to help redress this balance by ensuring that health, social services, voluntary and private care sectors are made aware of the needs of the local Irish community and that their services reflect the needs of our people.

In the last twelve months we have seen an increasing recognition of the needs of the Irish living in Birmingham. We have helped commission and deliver services for Irish elderly, for Irish people with alcohol problems and have helped to sustain many of the services provided by the Irish Welfare and Information Centre such as the Drop-in Centre.

We have sought to develop research initiatives which reflect the needs of the local Irish community. This Autumn will see the launch of a report jointly commissioned by the Irish Forum and Irish Welfare of elderly Irish men living in the inner-city areas of the city. We are grateful for the financial support which the Irish Government's Díon fund and Focus Housing Group gave to carry out this piece of work.

In helping to address the needs of Irish people living in Birmingham who experience poor health and social deprivation we are at the same time tackling the underlying causes of this. The Irish Forum in much of its work reflects this concern by developing projects in the housing, employment, cultural and educational fields.

We are currently developing a research project in partnership with Birmingham Health Authority. This aims to identify the factors that leave the Irish community so vulnerable to ill health through to the third and fourth generations. The findings will enable us to develop a policy and projects to prevent ill health as well as to minimise the effects of the numerous illnesses that have so seriously affected our life-expectancy and quality of life in England up until now.

Having achieved a great deal, much still needs to be done. This includes:

1. full recognition as an ethnic minority group;
2. addressing the concerning levels of suicide amongst our young women and men;
3. commissioning research into the mental health needs of Irish women;
4. the development of a mental health initiative for Irish people in Birmingham and
5. the development of initiatives for Irish carers and the needs of Irish people with learning difficulties.

On the 27th October 1998 the Forum is helping to promote a Conference on the *Health of the Birmingham Irish* which aims to raise awareness amongst health and social care professionals on the specific needs of the Irish community.

For all of this we need people to help, to take an interest and decide to make a difference in the quality of Irish lives across the city. We are open for new recruits so if you are interested please contact us at the Irish Forum office.



Barney Griffin, Chair



# Housing Sub-Committee

The laying of the Foundation Stone and the naming of Fr Joe Taaffe House on St Patrick's Day was the highlight of the year for us. Being present with my fellow members of the Housing sub-committee and Forum Board of Directors, the Leader of Birmingham City Council and other city dignitaries, visitors from Ireland and Fr Taaffe's family was an unforgettable experience. The development of the project is going according to plan and we look forward to opening the project in late 1999 and an eventual stock transfer from Family to Cara Irish Housing Association.



Equally important this year was the decision of Cara Irish Housing Association to open their Midland base in Birmingham, recently having bought Birchall House which is directly behind the Irish Centre in Deritend. In a general sense, their presence will guarantee that the housing problems of our community will be addressed at a practical and strategic level. We wish them a warm welcome and pledge our future support.

I am happy to report continual success resulting from our presentation to the Birmingham Housing Association Liaison Committee. The purpose of this report was to raise awareness of the housing needs of the Irish community with all social housing providers in Birmingham. This report was well received and there have been a number of positive outcomes. In particular, staff at the Irish Welfare and Information Centre have built stronger and closer links with a number of Housing Associations in the city. This provides them with a greater range of options when seeking appropriate accommodation for Irish people.

Our work programme for the coming year will be to consolidate what we have already achieved and in particular to ensure Fr Taaffe House is opened by the end of 1999. In addition we wish to actively engage with Cara Irish Housing Association and local Housing Associations on new developments. We are particularly keen to focus on Handsworth, Balsall Heath and Erdington during 1999 and 2000.

In conclusion, I would like to give my thanks to all those who have supported us and in particular to John Brennan and Laura Howard, Cara Irish Housing Association; Graham Spencer and Ed Nolan; Family Housing Association; Councillor Theresa Stewart, Leader of Birmingham City Council; Cllr. Mike Nangle; the family of the late Fr Joe Taaffe OMI; the parish priest and Manager of St Anne's club; Gobnait Ní Chrualaoi and her staff at Manor House for their outstanding contribution; my fellow colleagues on the Housing sub-committee; the Board of Directors of the Irish Forum and all those who have helped in so many ways.

*Frank Ryan*

Frank Ryan (Cork), Chair





# St. Patrick's Day Parade Sub-Committee

The laughter and cheering from the 1997 Parade had barely faded away before our thoughts were focusing on what could be done to improve the Parade for 1998.

After months of hard work, we unveiled our plans at a public launch in January 1998 at the Irish Centre. Details of how the Parade was to be funded were announced. Birmingham City Council and 6 Irish international businesses agreed to sponsor the event in cash and in kind amounting to a total of £32,000.



On the Friday before the Parade the whole event received a major boost when a dance display by the Murphy-Brennan Irish Dance Academy and a performance from the Buncrana Youth Accordion Band at O'Neill's pub in Hurst Street went out live on BBC TV Midlands Today.

The big day finally arrived. The weather, as in the previous 2 years, had been well sorted by St. Patrick. Within two hours to go crowds were beginning to gather at the form-up area. By 11.30 am, 10 marching bands, 35 floats and a huge crowd had formed up at St. Catherine's. Then, with a peep from the whistle from the Parade mascot Rachael Pallet, we were Digbeth bound!

Such was the volume of people taking part that the tail-end of the Parade was still at St. Catherine's whilst the front was going past The Anchor pub on Bradford Street. Smiling happy people lined the route. The Lord Mayor, who had earlier been photographed playing the banjo, waved to all from the open top bus at the front of the Parade. Scores and scores of musicians from the Midlands and Ireland played their hearts out. A mighty shire-horse led one group, a lone piper another. The Incredible Hulk put in an appearance and everybody wore a smile.

The TV, radio and papers all carried weighty coverage of the festivities. The dedication and perseverance of the sub-committee had paid off. As a result of everybody's commitment, the Parade is now the largest single event anywhere in the country to celebrate St. Patrick's Day - a huge credit to the City of Birmingham and the Irish community.

The future? In Fr. Taaffe's words 'from strength to strength, bigger and better!'. In league with the City Council, the Police, our sponsors, supporters and friends, we can't fail but to build upon such solid foundations.

Birmingham, around St. Patrick's Day, will never be quite the same again!!!

Anthony Duffy, Chair



# Public Relations Sub-Committee

The Public Relations sub-committee has had another busy year, being involved in a number of events during the last fifteen months.

We decided to change the time of the Civic Reception to earlier in the afternoon of St Patricks Day to ensure a high turnout. This decision proved to be a very good one and there was in excess of two hundred people in attendance. The media were well represented including the Evening Mail, the Voice, the Irish Post and the Irish World. Also present were Ed Doolan and Bob Brolly from the local radio station.



Entertainment was provided by the South Birmingham branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann under the guidance of Vince Jordan and the Doherty School of Dancing which gave an exhibition of "Lord of the Dance"! Well done to everyone involved.

As Chair of the Public Relations sub-committee, my wife and I had the honour of 'looking after' the Lord Mayor during the St Patrick's Day Parade celebrations. She had a thoroughly enjoyable day.

The Public Relations sub-committee have decided to use the Annual General Meeting at the Irish Centre this year as an opportunity to host a VIP Reception sponsored by Focus Housing Group prior to the official meeting. This will be an opportunity for the Irish community to meet with leading Councillors, Chief Officers of the City Council and Irish people from the medical profession and the Business community.

The AGM is one of the big events in the calendar year of the Forum. Speakers for our AGM in October 1998 will include Mr Bryan Stoten, Chair of the Health Authority, the Lord Mayor, Cllr Susan Anderson, and the Leader of the Council, Cllr. Theresa Stewart. The theme for the AGM is "*Health of the Birmingham Irish*".

We are very grateful to Margaret Fitzgerald who was a student with us during the year. She has been instrumental in getting the Community Newsletter off the ground. The feedback on this has been great and we will continue to publish it quarterly.

We are planning a visit to Birmingham from the President of Ireland, Mrs Mary McAleese in 1999. Talks are going ahead between the City Council and the Irish Embassy. For more up-to-date news, read the Community Newsletter.

Finally, I would like to thank everybody who helped during the year especially Sylvia Murphy Brennan, Anne Kennedy, Cath Beniston, Gobnait Ní Chrualaoí, Bob Cowen and Phil McCarvill, Pat McGrath for the regular use of the Irish Centre and "Cork" Frank Ryan and all the other volunteers at the Drop-in-Centre who do the catering for our general meetings.

Pat O'Neill, Chair

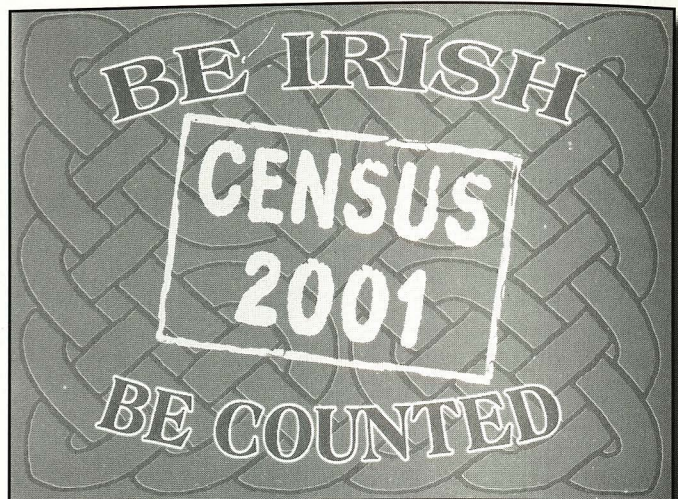




# Birmingham Irish Youth Group

The Birmingham Irish Youth Group was established to represent the needs and interests of all Irish Young People (both Irish and Birmingham born) between the ages of 11 and 26. The Group has, in the past, organised activities for Irish young people and campaigned to represent their interests to mainstream organisations.

In the period since the last AGM of the Forum, the Youth Group has been extremely busy promoting the needs of Irish Young people in the city.



The group played a lead role in the campaign to raise awareness of the need for a separate Irish category in the ethnic monitoring section of the 2001 Census. Thousands of postcards were distributed throughout Britain, in conjunction with the Federation of Irish Societies (FIS), encouraging people to 'Be Irish, Be Counted'.

We are currently conducting a city-wide survey of Irish Young people to determine their needs and interests in relation to the Irish Community and wider statutory bodies. Questionnaires have been widely distributed to Irish Young people and the findings of the survey will help to shape the future work of the Group.

We have also recently been trying to get some work started around issues of identity with Birmingham born Irish people. This included workshops undertaken at Edward Campion during their week long Irish Festival. We explored different notions of Irishness and positive images of Irish culture.

In September 1997 the Group produced a booklet designed to help Irish born students coming to Birmingham to study, to help them settle into the city more easily. The booklet provided practical information and advice on a range of issues. The booklet will be updated for the new intake of students this October.

Future plans include organising a number of social activities, including setting up an Irish Theatre Project and obtaining funding for this and other work.

The Birmingham Irish Youth Group welcomes new members, especially young Irish people who are Birmingham-born.

Phil McCarvill, Chair



# Financial Statements

## Period Ended 30th June 1998

### Directors and Their Advisers

#### Directors

Mr. Anthony Downey		
Mr. Edmond Falahee		
Ms. Mary Connolly		
Mr. Philip McCarvill		
Mr. Frank Ryan		
Fr. Frank Ryan		
Mrs. Clare Cooke		
Mr. Bernard Griffin		
Miss Caroline Wall	Resigned	6.11.97
Mr. James Mulvey		
Miss Mary Carway		
Mrs. Norah Sylvia Murphy–Brennan		
Mrs. Margaret Falahee		
Mr. Patrick McGillicuddy	Elected	6.11.97
Mr. Chris Conway	Elected	6.11.97
Mr Gearoid Mac an Mhaoir	Resigned	6.11.97

#### Secretary

Ms. Cathleen Beniston		
Ms. Patricia McAllister	Resigned	2.10.97

#### Bankers

Allied Irish Bank	Bank of Ireland
445 Stratford Road	4 St. Philips Place
Birmingham	Birmingham
B11 4LD	B3 2PP

#### Auditors

Noel Duffy & Company  
2 The Cross  
Worcester  
WR1 3EA

### Directors' Report

The directors present herewith the annual report, together with the financial statements of the company for the period to 30 June 1998.

#### 1. Result and Dividend

The reserves for the financial period to be carried forward were £13,692.

#### 2. Review of Activities

The company's principal activity during the period was to represent the needs of the Irish community in Birmingham. The directors were pleased with the level of activity during the period.

#### 6. Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;





Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985, as amended. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**By Order of the Board.**

Registered Number: 3386486

Room 21  
2nd Floor  
Manor House  
40 Moat Lane  
Birmingham  
B5 5BD

Cathleen Beniston  
Secretary

Date: 15/09/98

### Accountants' Report To The Members

In accordance with instructions given to us we have prepared, without carrying out an audit, the financial statements on pages 12 to 14 for the period ended 30 June 1998 from the accounting records of the company and from information and explanations given to us. We have not audited the accompanying financial statements and accordingly do not express an opinion or any other form of assurance on them.

**Noel Duffy & Company**  
Chartered Accountants  
Worcester  
Approved: 16 September 1998

### Income And Expenditure Account

	Note	1998 £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>		
Resources transferred in	2	7,591
Donations	1b	7,335
Services and related income	1b	29,533
Interest receivable	3	<u>89</u>
		44,548
<b>Support &amp; Administration Costs</b>		
Direct expenditure	1c	13,985
Publicity	1c	1,363
Management and administration	1c	<u>15,508</u>
		<u>30,856</u>
<b>Net incoming resources for the period</b>		<u>13,692</u>
<b>Accumulated reserves carried forward</b>		<u>13,692</u>

There are no recognised gains or losses in 1998 other than the profit and loss for the period.

The notes on pages 13 to 14 form part of these financial statements.



## Balance Sheet

	Note	£	1998	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				-
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Debtors	4	254		
Cash at bank		13,788		
		<u>14,042</u>		
Creditors - Amounts falling due within one year	5	(350)		
Net Current Assets				13,692
Total assets less current liabilities				<u>13,692</u>
Creditors - Amounts falling due after more than one year				-
Net Assets				<u>13,692</u>
Reserves				
Accumulated Reserves				13,692
				<u>13,692</u>

In the directors' opinion the company was entitled under Section 249A(1) of the Companies Act 1985 to exemption from the audit of its accounts for the period ended 30 June 1998. No notice from members requiring an audit has been deposited under Section 249B(2) of the companies Act 1985 in relation to the accounts for the financial year.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 221 of the Act and for preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit and loss for each year in accordance with the requirements of Section 226 of the Act and which otherwise comply with its' requirement, so far as applicable to the company.

Approved by the directors on: 15 September 1998

Tony Downey & Mary Carway

The notes on pages 13 to 14 form part of these financial statements

## Notes and Accounting Policies

### 1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies of the company are as follows:

#### a) Basis of Accounting

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. As permitted by financial reporting standard number 1, the company has taken advantage of the provision available to a small company exempting it from preparing a cash flow statement.

#### b) Incoming Resources

Services - Income from services for the year represents invoiced sales. Donations and flindraising - Income is recognised when it is received.

#### c) Support and Administration Costs

Direct expenditure comprises merchandise and event costs. Publicity costs comprises advertising costs for promotion and events. Management and adinnistration costs comprises overhead costs incurred in the running of the company.







## Notes and Accounting Policies

### 2. Resources Transferred In

On 13 June 1997, the date of incorporation, £7,951 was introduced from the Irish Forum, the organisation that preceded Birmingham Irish Community Forum Limited, the company limited by guarantee.

### 3. Interest Receivable and Similar Charges

Interest receivable and similar income comprised:

Bank interest

<b>1998</b>
<b>£</b>
<u>89</u>

### 4. Debtors

Debtors comprised amounts falling due within one year

Prepayment

<b>1998</b>
<b>£</b>
<u>254</u>

### 5. Creditors

Creditors comprised amounts falling due within one year

Accruals

<b>1998</b>
<b>£</b>
<u>350</u>

### 6. Members Liability

The company is limited by guarantee. Not having a share capital, The liability of each member is £1.

### 7. Contingent Liabilities

There are no contingent liabilities as at 30 June 1998.



## Detailed Profit and Loss Account

### For Management Information only

	Irish Forum 1998 £	St. Patricks Day Parade 1998 £	Total 1998 £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>			
Resources transferred in	4,224	3,367	7,591
Donations	6,785	550	7,335
Services and related income	6,128	4,727	10,855
Events	6,207	-	6,207
Miscellaneous	127	-	127
Adverts	-	12,344	12,344
Bank Interest	55	34	89
	<u>23,526</u>	<u>21,022</u>	<u>44,548</u>
<b>Support and Administration Costs</b>			
Events	7,896	2,902	10,798
Donations	100	-	100
Merchandise	-	3,088	3,088
Publicity	1,363	-	1,363
Photocopying, postage, and stationery	2,061	9,113	11,174
Travel	123	642	765
Bank charges	12	4	16
Repairs & renewals	95	-	95
Telephone	39	329	368
Sponsorship	1,500	-	1,500
Professional fees	350	-	350
Insurance	-	146	146
Room hire	-	100	100
Miscellaneous	648	345	993
	<u>14,187</u>	<u>16,669</u>	<u>30,856</u>
<b>Reserves for the Period</b>	<u>9,339</u>	<u>4,353</u>	<u>13,692</u>







## Members Organisations

Mr John Henry  
Armagh Association

Ms Angela Gilbride  
Cavan County Association

Ms Rita Cosgrave  
Clare County Association

Mr Caoimhin Mac Carrghamhna  
Coimisium Rinci

Ms Breda Moore  
Comhaltas Ceoltoiri eireann

Mr Gearoid Mac an Mhaoir  
Conradh Na Gaeilge

Mr Dennis Neenan  
GAA - Erin Go Bragh

Ms Clare Cooke  
GAA - John Mitchells

Ms Jacqueline Moriarty  
GAA - Kingdom

Ms Angela Forde  
GAA - St. Brendan's

Mr Joseph Fitzpatrick  
GAA - St. Chads

Ms Mairead de Roiste  
GAA - The Emerald

Mr George McGuigan  
GAA - Warwickshire County Board

Mr Martin Monaghan  
Galway County Association

Mr Aidan Comerford  
Glenarragh Dancing School

Ms Sylvia Brennan  
Murphy-Brennan Irish Dance Academy

Mr Michael Kenny  
An Lar Gaelacha

Ms Siobhan Monaghan  
Kidd Irish Dancing School

Mr Danny Doherty  
Doherty Irish Dance Academy

Ms Maeve Smith  
Madden School of Irish Dancing

Ms Marian Downes  
Kilrush School of Irish Dancing

Mr Eddie Falahee  
Irish Development Association (Irish Centre)

Mr Eddie Falahee  
Irish Golfing Society

Mr Con Harnett  
Irish Legion

Mr Barney Griffin  
Irish Mental Health Forum

Fr Frank Ryan  
Irish Welfare & Information Centre

Ms Pauline Roche  
Irish Women's Support Group

Mr Ian White  
Irish Youth Group

Mr Maurice Long  
Kerry County Association

Mr Michael Meally  
Kilkenny Association

Mrs Mary Dolan  
Leitrim County Association

Mrs Mary Truman  
Limerick County Association

Mr Michael B. Doherty  
Louth County Association

Mrs Maureen O' Malley  
Mayo Association

Mr Oliver Bivors  
Meath County Association

Mr Paul Smith  
Midlands Rep of Ireland Soccer Supporters Club

Mr Thomas Mullen  
Monaghan County Association

Mr Jim Kehoe  
Offaly County Association

Mr Martin Rogers  
Roscommon County Association

Ms Ita Markey  
Rose of Tralee Committee

Ms Carole Scanlon  
Scanlon School of Irish Dancing

Mrs May Kerins  
Sligo County Association

Ms Mary Pearson  
TOM

Mrs Coogan  
Tyrone County Association

Mrs Mary O'Brien  
Waterford County Association

Mrs Queenie Monaghan  
Wicklow County Association

Ms Patsy Davis  
Women & Ireland



# Acknowledgments

To those organisations which the Forum has worked with and been supported by over the past 15 months.

<b>Aer Lingus</b>	<b>Family Housing Association</b>
<b>Age Concern</b>	<b>FÁS</b>
<b>Allied Irish Bank (GB)</b>	<b>Federation of Irish Societies</b>
<b>Bank of Ireland</b>	<b>Fireside Day Centre</b>
<b>Birmingham City Council;</b>	<b>Focus Housing Group</b>
<b>Birmingham Health Authority</b>	<b>Guinness</b>
<b>Birmingham &amp; Solihull Training and Enterprise Council</b>	<b>HARP</b>
<b>Birmingham University</b>	<b>Irish Chaplaincy of Great Britain</b>
<b>Birmingham Voluntary Services Council</b>	<b>Irish Centre</b>
<b>Brent Irish Alcohol Service</b>	<b>Irish Embassy / Irish Government via the Díon Committee</b>
<b>Business Link</b>	<b>Irish Ferries</b>
<b>Cara Irish Housing Association</b>	<b>Irish Post</b>
<b>Chamberlain Hotel</b>	<b>Irish Studies Centre, University of North London</b>
<b>Co-Enterprise</b>	<b>Irish World</b>
<b>Coventry Irish Advisory and Resource Group</b>	<b>South Birmingham College</b>
<b>Employment Service</b>	<b>Standing Consultative Forum</b>
<b>Enterprise Link</b>	<b>Stena Line</b>
<b>Episcopal Commission for Irish Emigrants</b>	<b>Tara Television</b>

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Tony Downey, Anita Gallagher, Martin Flynn, Clare Cooke & Teresa Concannon.

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#### Youth Group

John Crowley, Margaret Fitzgerald, Clare Holden, Anne Marie Kelly, Angela Kelly, Phil Mc Carvill, Rory Murray, Henry Nolan, Denise Sidebottom, Ian White & Iestyn Williams.

#### Birmingham Irish Community Forum Staff

Gobnait Ní Chruaí, Cath Beniston & Pauline Schofield.

#### Special thanks to members who resigned during the year, including,

Pat Mc Allister, Gearóid Mac an Mhaoir and Caroline Wall.





**BIRMINGHAM  
& SOLIHULL TEC**



*This Report is funded by the National Lottery Charities Board and Birmingham & Solihull TEC*