

# *The Irish Counties Journal*

ISSUE 10

VOLUME 11

NOVEMBER, 1981



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## Clare Association

Patron: Most Rev. Dr. Michael Harty, Bishop of Killaloe.  
Life President: Mr. Martin Moroney. Tel. 954 3400.

Chairman:  
Mr. Clive Fogarty,  
45 Laurel Way,  
Totteridge,  
London, N20.  
Tel. 01 446 3481.

Secretary:  
Mrs. Mary Dempsey,  
55 Norman Ave.,  
Woodgreen,  
London, N22.  
Tel. 01 888 6164.  
Press Officer:

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Teresa Doyle,  
27 Jocelin House,  
Copenhagen St.,  
London, N1.  
Tel. 01 837 6098.

Mr. Pat O'Gorman, 148 Princes Avenue, Gunnersbury Park, London W3 8LU.



By the time this, the November Journal, reaches you we will be in the run-up to our Annual Dinner Dance of 1981. The Annual Dinner this year is a little later than usual—Saturday, 28th November—and at a new venue, the London Tara Hotel. We look forward to meeting again with the many friends who have supported this event so well over the past 23 years. Our Patron, Most Rev. Dr. Harty, will be a welcome guest of honour once again. We regret the number of tickets this year will be limited to 260—as this report goes to press most of those tickets are already sold.

As usual we have our parish re-unions in the same week as the annual dinner. The bishop and many priests and parishioners will be travelling over for these reunions. On Thursday, 26th November the North Clare parishes of Ennistymon, Lahinch, Kilshanny, Lisdoonvarna, Kilfenora, Ballyvaughan, Corofin Cloona, Liscannor and Doolin hold their reunion at the

(continued on page 2)

Clare Association (continued from page 1)



Fr. O'Donoghue (centre front) with group of priests and committee members at one of our parish reunions. (Photo by Owen & Moroney)

McNamara Hall, Irish Centre. At the same venue on Monday, 30th November, it is the turn of Mullagh, Inagh, Kilmaley, Scariff, Kilnamona, and all east Clare parishioners who would like to attend. This is an ideal opportunity to renew friendships with people from your own and neighbouring parishes in pleasant surroundings—food will be available to order, so, please come along and enjoy yourself.

Our Bacon and Cabbage Supper on Saturday, 3rd October last was enjoyed by our many regular supporters. Numbers were less than on previous occasions but it was good to see so many familiar faces join us again after the summer break.

I look forward to meeting you at the dinner and/or the parish reunions.

The committee extends sympathy to the wife and family of the late Jim Murphy, R.I.P., who was a long time member of the association. Our condolences to Martin Donlan on the recent death of his sister Bridie in Ireland.

With all good wishes.

Pat O'Gorman, Press Officer.

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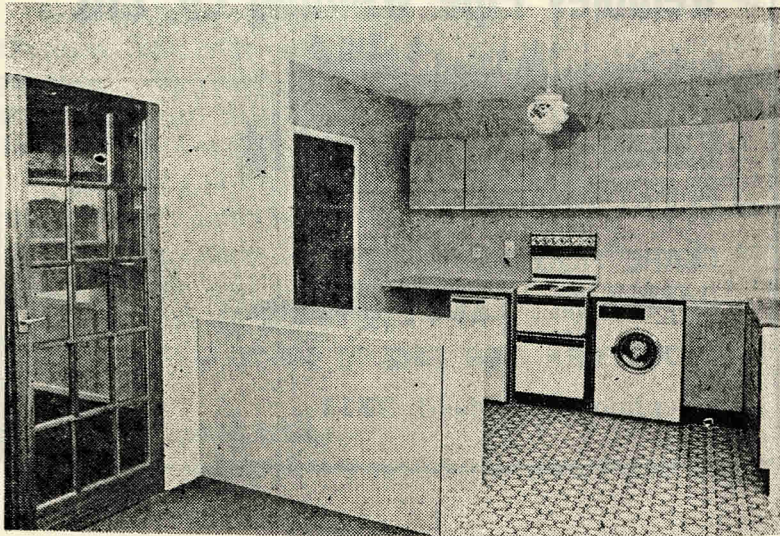
**Telephone: Harefield 3711**

## Seven Different Houses to see in Co. Kildare

I have talked to most of the six builders who are setting out different types of houses in the lovely village of Leixlip at Captains Hill. The builders are working in close harmony in order to keep the village atmosphere by building a variety of houses ranging from two and three bedroomed detached and semi-detached bungalows. There are three



bedroomed two-story semi-detached also four bedroomed semis. The houses have prices to suit most pockets from £24,995 to £30,500. Cooke & Foley are building two bedroomed bungalows and four bedroomed semi-detached houses with a half red brick front. Tighlenn are building three bedroomed houses which are half bricked with a good fitted kitchen and fitted wardrobes as standard in two of the bedrooms. Kola Construction have three bedroomed semi-detached with a through lounge divided by Georgian doors and fully fitted kitchen, fitted wardrobes in all bedrooms with the added attraction of a fitted dressing



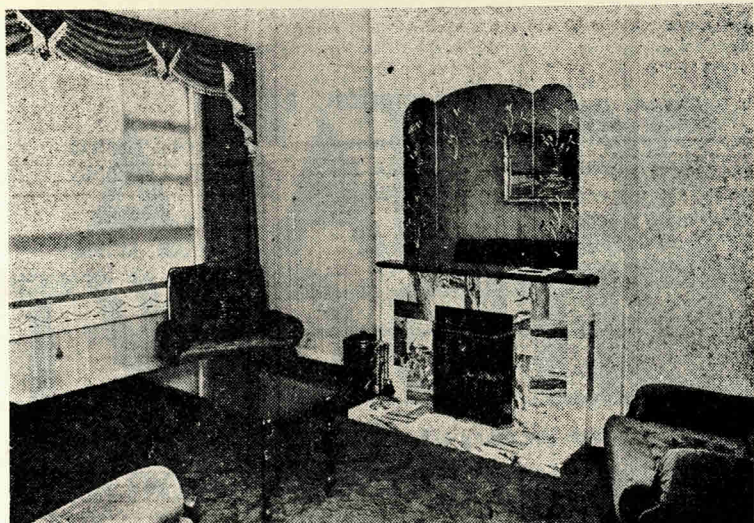
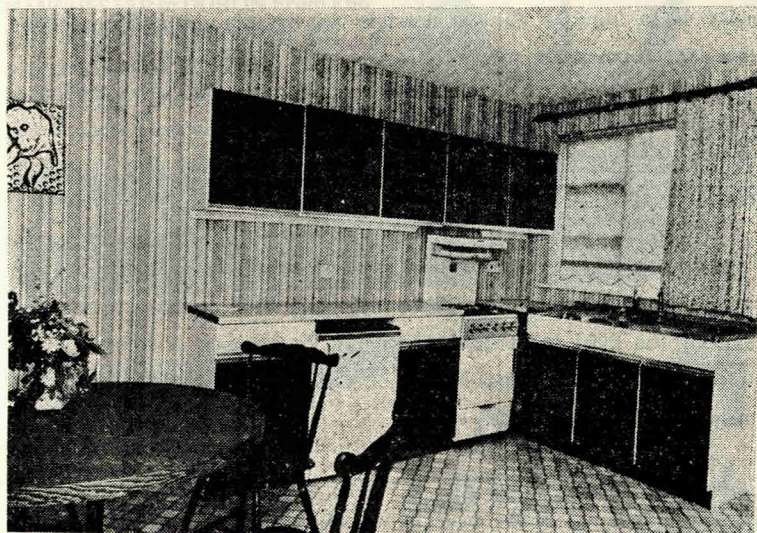


table in the main bedroom. Everwarm Builders have the open space plan with the large lounge cum dining room and with the trend going back to the large kitchen this space conscious room takes in a large breakfast area, this room has lovely fitted units in timber. Doonan Construction have three bedroomed semis. Features worth noting in these houses are the fitted bookshelves in the lounge and a lovely brick fireplace. Mr. Gerry Farrell of Marger Homes, Leixlip, is so pleased with the complex that he is living there himself and is on hand to show people around.



Mr. Farrell also told me that this month a new commuter train service will be inaugurated to link Leixlip and Maynooth with Connolly Station so one can now live in a country village atmosphere and get to town for theatre, dinner, etc., in the twinkling of an eye. There is a church, school and a shopping centre for those not wanting to bother with the bustle of the city. Turn to centre spread for more details, names and phone numbers of all the builders and Healy Stewart the selling agents. The houses are on view seven days a week.

## Laois Association, London

President: Mr. P. Dowling	Chairman: Mr. Monty Baron Tel. 01 205 5072	Vice-Chairman: Mr. T. Brophy
Assistant Secretary: Mrs P. Dowling		Treasurer: Mr. H. Milmo

Secretary: Mr. Peter Dunne

74 Holmstall Avenue, Edgware, Middlesex. Tel. 01 205 1335.

By now everyone will have had their summer holiday and I hope looking forward to the many association dinners and dances being held all over London.

The Laois Association are having a benefit dance at the Brent Town Hall, Forty Lane, Wembley, on Friday, 20th November, 1981, for Martin Lanham and family. Admission £1.00. Licensed bar 9.00 p.m. to 1.00 a.m. Dancing to the fabulous "Benn Brothers." Martin I am sorry to say had a hip operation two years ago and has been unable to work since, so we hope as many as possible will be able to join us and make this dance a very big success. We also wish Martin well.

During the dance we will have our raffle and as always a wide range of prizes. Remember the beautiful prizes we had last year especially the lovely prizes brought over from our home county.

We wish a speedy recovery to Brian Milmo who had an operation during the summer, the second in one year, soon we hope to see him dancing the light fantastic, he is hoping to be back at work early in the new year, or perhaps the end of this year, no doubt his wife will miss him from the kitchen sink.

### Sympathy

To Mr. Dalaney on the death of his wife.

To Mr. Tom Mangan, on the death of his brother, Paddy. R.I.P.

Pauleen Barron (Mrs.).



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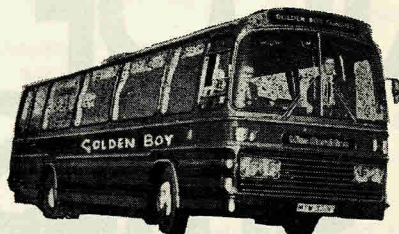
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## London Wexford Association

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**President:** Fr. W. M. Cosgrove, 4 Lady Margaret Road, London NW5.  
Tel. 485 4023.

**Chairman:**  
Mr. Michael Sills  
153 Ellesmere Road  
London, NW10.  
Tel. 452 3443.

**Vice-Chairman:**  
Mr. Pat Clegg.  
Tel. 388 0172.

**Hon. Secretary:**  
Mrs. Kitty Cullen  
51 Goodhall Street  
Harlesden  
London, NW10  
Tel. 965 6045.

**Treasurer:**  
Mrs. J. Devereux  
Tel. 328 8492

**Registrar:**  
P. Fitzpatrick  
Tel. 965 4420

Dear Members and Friends,

On behalf of the association I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all here tonight on this grand occasion of our Annual Dinner Dance. I would like in particular to welcome here our fellow brothers from the Birmingham Wexford Association headed by their chairman, Mr. J. J. O'Connor, to whom we are indebted for organising the coach party, and for bringing along the best band in the Midlands, the fabulous "Country Cousins," of which he is a member, and who will be playing for us this evening.

I would also like to welcome Mr. Tom Curran and his coach party from Slough. To all our honoured guests—a Cead Mile Failte.

A word of thanks to all our sponsors of prizes and donations, etc., some of whom are here to night: B + I Line, Bank of Ireland, Allied Irish Banks, Irish Life Assurance Company, Aer Lingus, Sean Diviney and to our old friends Wally and Jane Smyth of the Irish Counties Journal.

Thank you finally to our committee who worked so hard to make this function possible.

Indeed, enjoy yourselves everybody, eat, drink and be merry and remember to drive carefully afterwards. Thank you all for your support.

For those of you who did not read last month's Journal the dinner takes place on 21st November in the McNamara Hall, The Irish Centre, Camden Town.

### A Reminder

Our A.G.M. takes place on Sunday, 29th November at St. Agnes School Hall, Cricklewood Lane, N.W.2, starting at 3.00 p.m. sharp. I would encourage all members to try and attend. Intending members also welcome, especially I would like to encourage the younger generation, as the association has just passed a resolution to start our Youth Club which will be known as the Wexford Association—Fr. Murphy's Youth Community Club, which will cater for under age Gaelic Football Teams, Discos, Quiz and Knockout Competitions, Darts, etc. Shortly we will be running a raffle to get this off the ground and we trust we will have every member's support with this worthwhile venture. If you think you can help in any way why not give me a ring or better still attend the A.G.M.

(continued on page 10)

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**London Wexford Association** (continued from page 9).

This year our Children's Christmas Party takes place at the Spotted Dog, Willesden on Sunday, 22nd December, from 2.00 p.m. till 6.00 p.m. Children up to 12 years allowed. Parents with children who wish to attend please, give your names to our secretary, Mrs. Kitty Cullen, or to any of our committee a week before the function. This is to ensure we know what to order in the way of food, etc. Please note a child may bring along his or her friend.

We say a fond farewell to Father Bill Cagney who is leaving the Irish Centre after 6½ years. We thank him for the help he gave to our association during those years, and we wish him every success in the future on his mission work.

Our condolences go to Mr. Sean Diviney, "Prince of Wales" and Mrs. Tommy Harrell on the death of their fathers who died recently, and to all members who suffered bereavements.

Yours sincerely, Michael Sills, Chairman.

## Irish Society of Harrow

Chairman: Mr. P. McKeon, Tel. 01 427 9042

Patron:  
Rev. P. Tuite, S.D.S.

Vice-Chairman:  
M. O'Regan  
Tel. 01 427 3736.

President:  
Mrs. D. Burke  
Tel. 01 863 2877

Treasurer:  
Mrs. M. Whelan  
Tel. 01 427 4125

Assist. Treasurer:  
Mrs. M. Brennan  
Tel. 01 864 6293.

Secretary:  
Mr. D. Connelly  
Tel. 01 863 6799

Assist. Secretary:  
Mrs. B. McKeon  
Tel. 01 427 9042.

Committee: Mrs. T. Breslin, Mrs. C. Whelan, Mr. P. Chambers, Mr. A. Burke, Mr. P. Moloney, Mr. T. Noonan, Mr. P. J. Ryan, Mr. A. O'Neill, Mr. S. Ryan.

### Annual Dinner Dance

Annual Dinner Dance will take place on Saturday, 28th November, 1981, at the Leisure Centre, Christchurch Avenue, Kenton. Dinner 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. with dancing till 1.00 a.m. to the music of the "Beltones". Tickets reasonably priced at £8.00 and they can be had from Mrs. M. Brennan (864 6293), Mr. D. Burke (863 3877), Mrs. M. Whelan (427 4125), Mr. P. J. Ryan (427 3042), Mr. S. Ryan (422 3729). Early booking is advisable!

### Card Drives (25)

Now taking place at fortnightly intervals at the Railway Tavern, Station Approach, Wealdstone. The next drive will take place on Friday, November 13th, commencing 8.00 p.m. sharp.

### Fashion Sale

The Federation of Irish Societies in Britain has arranged, as a service to the Irish Community in Britain, for a leading Irish manufacturer of quality clothing "Dunloe House Limited" to sell their merchandise at factory prices.

Examples: Men's Pure Wool Suits from £49; Donegal Tweed Jackets £39; Overcoats from £30; Raincoats from £25; Pure Wool Cavalry Twill Trousers £19; Polyester/Wool Trousers £14; Ladies Donegal Tweed Suits £48; Ladies Tweed Coats £45.

All articles guaranteed made in Ireland—prices V.A.T. inclusive (approximately half retail price). Men's sizes range from 36in. to 50in. Ladies sizes range from 10 to 20.

Date: Sunday, 8th November. Time 10.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.

Venue: Railway Tavern, Station Approach, Wealdstone or ring Tom Walsh on 051 227 1270. Permanent U.K. address: 22 Stanley Street, Liverpool 1.

### Grand Christmas and Final of Old Time Waltzing Competition

The final of the Old Time Waltzing Competition will take place at our Christmas Dance on Saturday, 19th December at the Leisure Centre. Dancing 9.00 p.m. to 1.00 a.m. to the music of the "Four Aces." Full details next month.

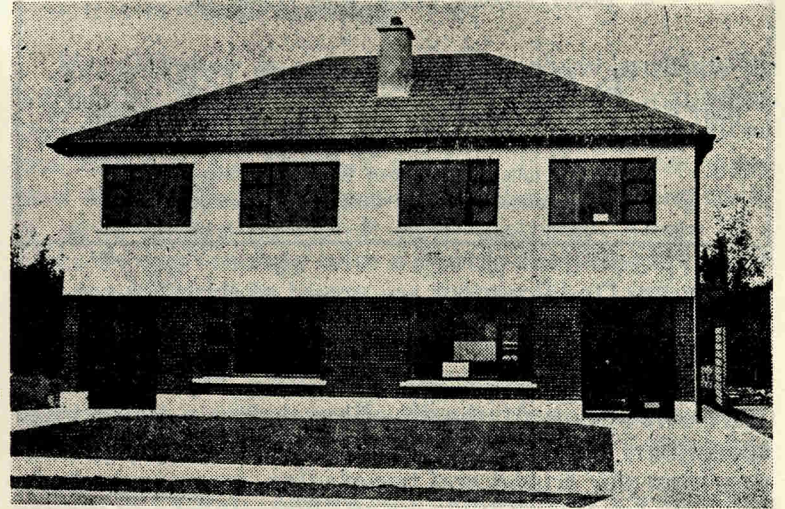
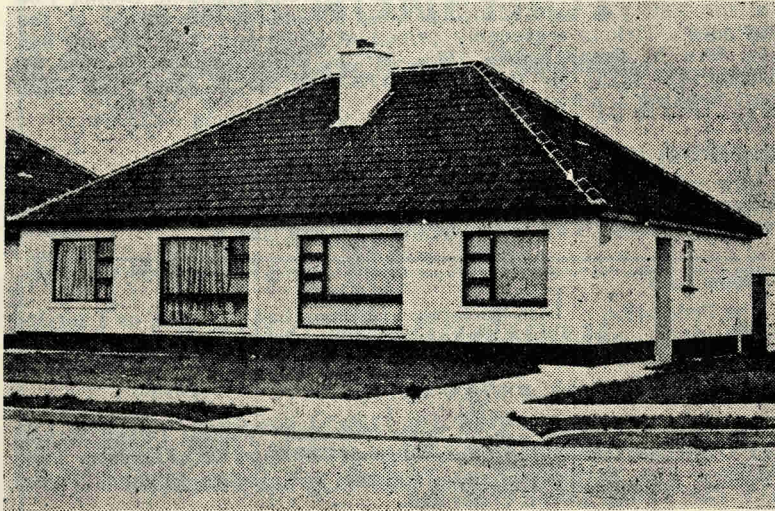
Michael O'Regan, P.R.O.

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Mr. Gerry O'Dwyer, managing director of Quilty Developments Ltd., tells me he is very proud of the homes he is building at Bray. Quality is the keynote for Quilty perhaps Mr. O'Dwyer should use the alliteration Quilty Quality as a slogan. Some of the houses, as we say here, are the larger than average three-bedroomed semis, while others are detached there are 32 houses altogether in the complex set on the site

of an old nursery at the town end of the Killarney Road within easy reach of schools, shops and all amenities.

The front door is made of teak with an impressive eight panels. The front porch has fully glazed paneling, and Mr. Sean Ryan of Multiglaze (Aluminium) Ltd., says that only the best is good enough for Quilty.

Mr. Aiden Gleeson, of Alpine Insulations Ltd., tells me he is very proud to be associated with Quilty Developments Ltd. and with Mr. O'Dwyer exacting practice in house building.

Mr. O'Dwyer is very pleased to show anybody an unfinished house with the thick fibreglass insulation between the outer wall and the finished inside wall so one can see the finished product in the show house and the excellent workmanship in the ones being built. A large square hall with open stairway. There is a large through lounge with a marble fireplace and back boiler which heats seven radiators. The kitchen has fitted cupboards and worktops.

Upstairs the bedrooms are a decent size and all have fitted wardrobes. E. Cawley Furniture Ltd. are the specialists in built-in bedroom units.

The bathroom feature is a built-in top surrounding the wash-hand basin beautifully finished. There is a good sized hot cupboard on the landing with an immersion heater.

If you have your own ideas on planning Mr. O'Dwyer would be happy to change the layout for you.

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## Annual Welfare Report, 1980 (continued)

### Annual Statistics

The following figures indicate the number of people who used the Centre's Welfare Service from January 1st to December, 1980

Table 1

New Clients .....	1873
Additional Interviews ...	2979

The number of new people using the Centre shows a decrease of 8.2 per cent over last year's figures. This slight decrease has, however, allowed for a more intensive follow-up and supportive service to both new and old clients, which shows an 85 per cent increase over 1979.

Table 1a

(Figures are for both male and female)

Seen on Hostel visits ...	845
Home visits .....	125
Other visits .....	55

### Hard Times

Our 1979 report made a gloomy prediction about the employment scene but did not anticipate the full implications of this until the latter months of 1980, when the impact of the cuts in Government expenditure made itself felt. The recession affected the Irish community in a particular way:—

Government cut-backs seriously restricted local Government expenditure resulting in widespread lay-offs and redundancies in the construction industry which absorbed a substantial percentage of the Irish workforce.

A slump in tourism caused many hotels to close whole sections of their buildings, resulting in the loss of both work and accommodation.

Licensed premises which also provided work and accommodation were doing less well and needed less staff.

Trained or skilled people (unless their skill was scarce and highly specialised) were not getting into business or industry because of an "intake freeze."

The shortage of jobs has somewhat stabilised the labour market. In March, 1980, out of a total of 1,411,700 registered unemployed in Britain, 29,300 were school leavers. Of these 12 per cent. were girls and 5½ per cent. boys. In 1966 there were 280 job vacancies for every 100 unemployed young people; in 1980 there were 24 vacancies for every 100.

The following is the broad pattern of occupational status of those who used our services for the first time:—

(continued on page 20)

## Federation of Irish Societies

**President:** Mr. Brendan Duffy, "Mile Failte", 12 Firs Ave., Windsor, Berks.  
Tel.: (B) Slough 31122 and (H) Windsor 66934

**Vice-President:** Mr. Bill Jefferies, Irish Centre, Portsmouth. Tel. (0705) 25152.

**Chairman:** Mr. Michael Hogan, 56 Hazlebury Avenue, Abbots Langley, Herts.  
Tel.: (B) 01-965 4071 and (H) Kings Langley 65360

**Vice-Chairman:** Mr. Seamus McGarry, "Thomond," 150 Mildmay Road, Stevenage, Herts. Tel. (H) 0438 52336.

**Secretary:** Mr. Bill Halley, 12 Heyward Road, Southsea, Hants. Tel. (H) 0705 829447

**P.R.O.:** Mr. Tommy Walsh, "Failte", 69 Milton Avenue, Liverpool L14 6TE  
Tel.: (H) 051-489 5346

**Treasurer:** M/s. Sadie Redmond, 33 Score Lane, Liverpool L16 6AN  
Tel.: (H) 051-722 6312

**Youth Affairs:** Mr. Jim McGrath, 25 Rookes Close, Letchworth, Herts.  
Tel.: (B) St. Albans 34221 and (H) Letchworth 74406

### Youth Report (continued)

#### 5. Miscellaneous

The Sub-Committee has restricted its enquiry to the narrow field covered by this report. There are many areas not covered by this enquiry which the Federation may wish to investigate in depth.

Many studies are being made into the Irish Community, and the Sub-Committee recommend that the Federation should examine the findings of these studies.

There are many other organisations outside the Federation such as Proprietary and Parish Clubs which are predominantly Irish whose experiences may be useful to the Federation.

Youth organisations in general can help with ideas, experience and expertise and should be approached for assistance.

Whilst this report has concentrated on second generation youth, the sub-committee have not ignored the Irish born youth. The sub-committee realises that most of the youth are of the second generation and the Irish born are in a minority. They it is hoped already have a commitment towards Ireland and their experience will be beneficial to their second generation peers. The sub-committee, however, have tried not to make any distinction between the two groups as youth should be regarded as a single albeit homogeneous body.

#### 6. Conclusion

At the beginning of this report, two questions were formulated. Most of the discussion has been concentrated on giving some answers to the second question.

The first question posed what should be the role of youth in the federation as a whole. To this question there is no definitive answer or set of answers. The question can only really be answered by the youth themselves. This is why the sub-committee feel that they should have a platform to enable them to do this.

The sub-committee are aware that many people would like to see this question answered by the responses that youth should ensure the future of Irish Societies, and give leadership to the Irish community of the future. No-one however can say with any conviction that this is what youth will want to do and it may well be that our societies will die out with their Irish born members. Certainly without the adoption of many of the proposals framed in this report this may well be the likely demise for most of the societies. At the very least their unique Irishness may well be lost if it is not also shared by the second generation. If this happens then in the sub-committee's view it is tantamount to the demise of Irish societies as at present constituted. The lessons of the Davitt clubs are a clear reminder of this.

Many societies have substantial investments in property and funds and quite properly hope that what they have built up will continue and

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more information

Please telephone:

Shelagh Casey (450 4188) - Eileen Wagstaff (452 6851)  
Tom Curren (908 0675)

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**Federation of Irish Societies** (continued from page 18)

flourish. This will only be secured by a commitment to and an investment in the furtherance of Irishness and a sense of belonging in their children.

The committee would hesitate to present this report as an exhaustive dissertation on the question of youth and fully realises its limitations. It is however a report of the activities of the committee and is put forward as being of some limited value to what should be a continuing enquiry by the federation. The difficulties experienced by the committee should not it is submitted detract from the value of the proposals and recommendations made in this report.

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**Irish Centre** (continued from page 17)

Table 2

	Male	Female
Unskilled .....	964	356
Trained .....	164	93
Students .....	145	116
Retired .....	25	10

A recorded 219 males and 143 females had been unemployed in Ireland for periods of over one month up to five years and gave inability to find work as their main reason for migrating. 200 males and 130 females had been in Britain for some time and had failed to find work or had lost their jobs for the same period as the former group.

The horizontal mobility of the unskilled Irish workforce has notably decreased. Some, however, prefer to go on the dole than work for a wage which they consider inadequate in relation to their skills. John D, aged 19, was unemployed and was found work as a bricklayer. After the second week he packed in the job, as it took him half an hour to travel to work and he only brought home £82 clear!

## The Waterford Association, London



- Patron:** The Most Rev. Dr. Michael Russell, D.D.,  
Bishop of Waterford and Lismore.  
**Life President:** Right Rev. Charles J. Henderson,  
Bishop Tricala and Auxiliary Bishop of Southwark.  
**Chairman:** Mr. John O'Keeffe, 15 Temple Road, London N.W.2  
Tel. 01 452 7940.  
**Vice-Chairman:** Mr. K. Butler, 1 Rudyard Grove, N.W.7.  
Tel. 959 5887.  
**Hon. Secretary:** Mrs. Mary Allen, 10 Ashmore, Agar Grove,  
London NW1 9SL. Tel. 267 8100.  
**Asst. Hon. Sec.:** Mr. Bill Aulsberry, 50 George Lansbury House,  
Wood Green, London, N22. Tel. 01 889 6579.  
**Hon. Treasurer:** Mrs. C. Dee, 14 The Crossways, Wembley Park,  
Middlesex. Tel. 01 904 3463.  
**Hon. Assist. Treasurer:** Mr. Paddy Stafford, 53 Caithness House,  
Bermerton Street, N.1. Tel. 837 8770.  
**Membership Secretary:** Mrs. Kitty Groves, 33 Kings Cresent,  
Finsbury Park, N.4. Tel. 359 5994.

My first report must be on the Bacon and Cabbage Dinner at the Irish Centre, London, during October. A lovely gathering of friends and relations, the Vice-chairman, Mr. Kevin Butler had a large gathering as usual including his lovely daughter Shelia and her husband who always attend our functions.

Joan and Sonny Griffin were there. Sonny is a Kerry man but we don't hold that against him especially as Joan is our secretary's sister. With Joan and Sonny were Eddie Monney from Portlaw, Joan's two pretty daughters, Margaret and her husband Joe and Josie and her very charming Persian husband Rasaul, Mr. and Mrs. Coffey (Margaret's mother and father-in-law), sister-in-law Peg was over from Kilmeaden on holiday, cousin Stan and his wife Josephine, Sonny's cousin Jack and his wife Betty and friends Mr. and Mrs O'Brien from Malden in Surrey. Mossey Aulsberry you all know and Kitty and family. I was even able to see a photograph of Kitty's grandchild for the first time she is beautiful of course she must be an Aulsberry. It seemed to me that one side of the hall was filled with all Mary Allen's relations and friends and the other side the vice-chairman's friends and relations.

The dinner was really lovely and the dancing and fun afterwards even better. I would like to thank Joan Griffin for the very nice presentation she made to the Irish Counties Journal on the night.

Our next function in October was the Golf Outing at Trent Park Golf Club, London N14. This event was organised for us by Tony Beatty who is organising another one for 30th December next and then later on a big one in March, 1982. The October outing on 22nd October was played on a stableford singles basis and first place went to our former vice-chairman and secretary, Mr. John Franklin, of Dungarvan; second place went to Mr. Tom Kiely, of Portlaw.

Later that evening the players, guests and friends assembled at the Irish Centre for dinner where the prizes, beautiful Waterford Glass were presented. The atmosphere was that of a family one and John and his staff at the Centre are to be congratulated on the very fine effort they made to make our evening a successful one.

The third function in the month of October was our annual dinner which was held this year at the Grosvenor Rooms at Walm Lane. The dinner was supervised by one of the proprietors, Mr. David Michaels, a very pleasant young man who is eager to please and certainly made sure we were well looked after with plenty of good food by the charming Irish waitresses. It was the first time I noticed at any Irish dinner the absence of all the after dinner bottles of spirits on the tables, it must be a sign of the times with the recession biting at all of us.

We had our two Bishops as usual. We were honoured to have the

(continued on page 22)

## Irish Welfare Bureau

### Austin House

"I would never have survived in London were it not for the understanding, encouragement and guidance received in Austin House; I had anticipated only condemnation on all sides but instead, I found genuine sympathy and great concern; I felt a great sense of home-coming each evening on returning there from work; it is a friendly easy-going home but run in a very orderly fashion; helping with the shopping, gardening and household chores made me feel 'at home'; it helped to build up your confidence; we helped each other; I hope and pray you continue your great work. When I arrived I was awkward, shy and irresponsible but I developed quite well in the areas of sociability and responsibility; the family manner and the responsibility towards each other has given me a better outlook on life; it helped me look at the past and gave me an incentive for a new and total future; the accommodation is excellent in every way but we all agree that what helped us most of all was the family atmosphere."

The above comments from some of our lads paint a fairly good picture of the contribution being made, by this house, towards our young emigrants. These remarks are not only encouraging to us but an incentive to continuity. Each one who has passed through has, in his own unique way, made a major contribution towards the building up

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### Waterford Association (continued from page 21)

President of Mintre Na Tire and his good lady, one of our own Life Vice-Presidents, Michael Brazil representing the Ambassador, our dear friend Gerry Molloy from Waterford Savings Bank, Mr. and Mrs. Paddy Lynch, proprietors of the Dungarvan Observer, Mr. Kiernan Walsh representing the Munster Express, and Mr. Pat O'Neill, Editor of the News and Star. Mr. Joe Delaney, Chairman of the Waterford Soccer Club was unable to be with us but sent us lavish greetings. Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Dunne, of Aer Lingus were very disappointed at not being able to attend. Tommy was taken very ill at the last moment. We are very sorry to hear that Tommy was in the intensive care ward at Greenwich and District Hospital for some days, we wish him a speedy recovery.

The most important waits until last and I'm sure that his mum and dad would have been very proud of the wonderful manner in which the Mayor, Councillor Thomas Brown carried out his duties with the help of his lady wife. They both brought their chains of office which was very brave of them. I nearly forgot Tom Healy and Philamona, its because they are both like family to us. Philamona had just come out of hospital after an operation. Tom, director of Waterford Crystal, came with his usual Waterford Glass tucked under his arm.

The dance floor was excellent and everyone tripped the light fantastic with gusto even Pat O'Gorman and Lucy and Mr. and Mrs. Hegarty. Many associations were respresented, it was nice to see the familiar faces.

The next exercise is the Christmas Dinner on 19th December, see you all then.

### Australian Visitors

Welcome to London to Dorothy Gummer (née Smyth) and her daughter Wendy, who are here on a month's vacation visiting their relations and friends throughout England.

### Congratulations

To Rob Smyth and May of Liverpool on their marriage earlier this year (all Wally's relations). Jane T. Smyth (Mrs), Press Officer.

## Westmeath Association in London



### Patron:

Most Rev. J. McCormack, D.D., D.C.L.,  
Bishop of Meath.

Life President: Lady Pritchard Jones.

President: Rev. Fr. Fitzsimons, P.P.

Chairman: Mr. Cyril McKelvey.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Billy Cashin.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. John McCormack.

Assistant Hon. Secretary: Mr. William Stenson  
Tel. 609 2909.

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Curran.

Assist. Hon. Treasurer: Mr. John McCormack.  
12 Corse Hill St., Streatham, London SW16  
Tel.: 01-677-3826

### Our Recent 16th

Our 16th Annual Dinner Dance was held at the Empire Rooms, Tottenham Court Road, London W1, in October. 325 people were seated including the guests. The M.C. for the night was Sean McCauley and he introduced the guests as they approached the table, they were as follows: His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. J. J. McCormack, D.D., D.C.L., Bishop of Meath, Mr. and Mrs. Seamus Troy (Seamus is the Chairman of the Council of Irish County Associations, Past Chairman of our own Association and also Past Treasurer), Mr. and Mrs. N. Nally (Editor of the Westmeath Examiner), Mr. J. Deegan of B + I Line, Mr. James Bennett, Vice-Chairman of Westmeath Co. Council, Senator O'Rourke from Athlone, Mr. Paddy Flanagan, P.R.O., Westmeath Co. Board, who has the distinction of having attended every dinner we have held to date and he said that night he hoped never to miss one as long as he lives, Mr. C. Kiernan, Industrial Development Officer, Westmeath, Mr. and Mrs. A. Towey, a former Chairman of our Association. We also had representatives from Allied Irish Banks, Aer Lingus, Bank of Ireland, Mr. and Mrs. Wally Smyth of the Irish Counties Journal, and our good friend and benefactor Mr. Kevin Cadogan, Director of the Cork Examiner and Manager of the Waterford News and Star, Kekin was at one time manager of the Westmeath Examiner. Telegrams were read by the M.C. from: Mr. J. Keegan, Chairman, Westmeath Co. Council, Mr. Pat Collins, All Ireland G.A.A. Referee and Mr. Mat Scally, Chairman of the Westmeath G.A.A., regretting their inability to attend and wishing the Association every success.

The President of the Association, Rev. Fr. Paddy Fitzsimons, then said grace after which all ate a very good meal.

The toasts were as follows: Ireland: proposed by Mr. John McCormack, Hon. Secretary, Westmeath Association. Our Guests: proposed by our Chairman, Mr. C. McKelvey (Athlone). Response by: Mr. J. Bennett, Vice-Chairman, Westmeath Co. Council. A few words were spoken by Senator O'Rourke and the address was given by our Patron, Most Rev. Dr. J. J. McCormack. Music was supplied by the Waterloo who received a great ovation at the end of the evening. The musicians had received many requests for "The City of Fore" composed by Seamus Roddy and John Rabbit's Music was composed especially for our Dinner Dance for that evening.

We wish to thank B + I Line, Aer Lingus, Tara Travel, Allied Irish Banks, Bank of Ireland, and Mrs. Jane Smyth of the Irish Counties Journal for the magnificent prizes they gave us for a raffle for our welfare fund. Our thanks to Mr. Kevin Cadogan for his very special gift.

(continued on page 24)



## **Westmeath Association (continued from page 23)**

### **Presentation**

During the evening of our Annual Dinner a presentation was made by Mr. James Bennett, Co. Council, Mullingar to Fr. Fitzsimons to mark the occasion of his 25th anniversary to the priesthood from the people of Westmeath, this took the form of a beautiful desk set suitably inscribed. Our president was lost for words and just said thank you, thank you, thank you, I will treasure this for all time.

Our association held a special function to present to Fr. Fitzsimons a magnificent cassock. The presentation took place at "The Bull," Clapham Old Town and the owner of The Bull supplied a lovely dinner free of charge for the occasion. Mr. C. McKervey presented the cassock and Mr. William Stenson (the backbone of our association) in his few words said it was people like Fr. Pat who led us and inspired us to keep going during this depressing period, Bill said he hoped he would be around to make the golden presentation. Fr. Fitzsimons said he would remember our kindness to him every time he said mass and during all his prayers.

### **Christmas Dinner**

Our Christmas Dinner will take the form of a Bacon and Cabbage Dinner and Dance to be held at the Cavendish Ballroom, The Spotted Dog, Willesden, on Saturday, 5th December, tickets are now available at only £5 each. But hurry or you may be disappointed as we can only seat 250 and last year we had to refuse 80 people. Time 7.30 p.m. for 8.00 pm. sharp. Music by the Overlanders. There are fully licensed bars.

Make your cheque out to the Westmeath Association and cross Account Payee to any of the following: Bill Stenson, 4 Williamson Street, London, N7, S. McCauley, 2 Bloomfield Road, Bromley, Kent, Steve Cunningham, "The Pilot," 17a Deptford High Street, London, SE8. Looking forward to seeing all of you then

Sean McCauley, P.R.O.

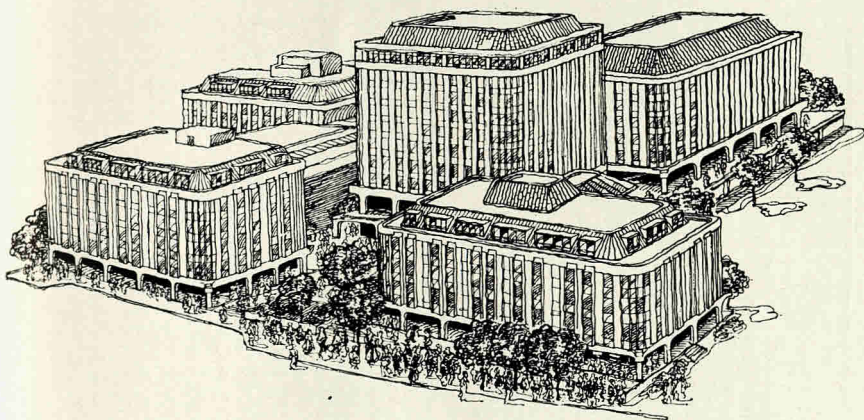
\* \* \* \* \*

## **Irish Welfare Bureau (continued from page 22)**

of our friendly, caring and loving atmosphere. A very warm welcome is extended, by all of us, to each new arrival and immediately he is assured that "he belongs". We all work together to help him through the crucial period of settling in, adjusting to a new culture and new surroundings, coping with loneliness and the frustrations of job-hunting. Lads can and do develop extremely well in this kind of atmosphere. It is very encouraging to witness someone shed a gloomy and depressed appearance and assume a bright and cheerful one. Sometimes all this entails is, a pat on the shoulder with a "well done". Denis (fictitious) aged sixteen arrived nervy and downcast with his unkempt hair hiding his face from us. We realised immediately that he needed much patient understanding and extremely sensitive handling. We tried to encourage conversation but to no avail. He was turned down for every job because of his untidy appearance. Fortunately, one day the kettle failed to function and Denis, being among the willing volunteers to do the needful, was selected. Not only did he perform a successful job but his silence gave way to fluency and he informed us that he was "great at electrical jobs." Any apparatus needing repair was collected and as Denis did one successful job after another we were lavish with our praises. Before night he had returned from the hairdresser looking a new man and radiantly happy. From that day onwards he made unbelievable strides in self-control, independence and happiness. Thank God he has never looked back. (To be continued)

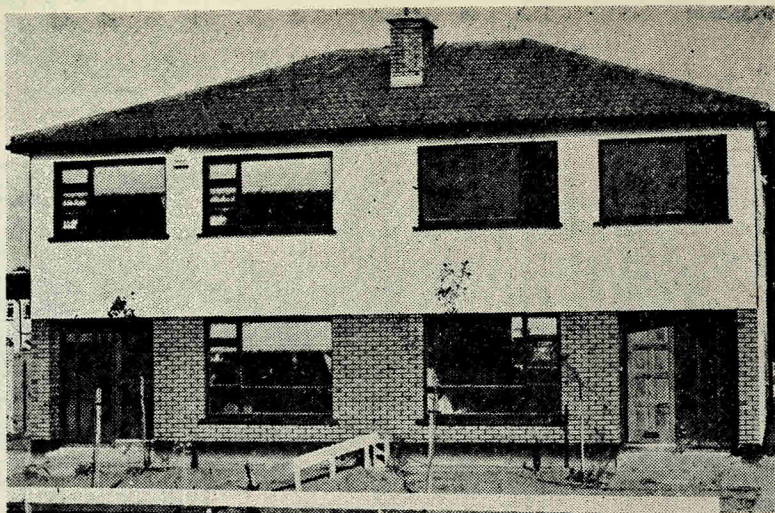
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