



# The Irish Counties Journal

**SUMMER 1987** 





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We must apologise to the many supporters disappointed at not being allowed to attend our Annual Supper held in February last. This was initially due to limited seating capacity in the small hall at the Irish Centre, Camden Town. Fortunately for those who managed to obtain tickets a 'bonus' was at the end, as the large McNamara Hall was made available to us only hours before our function. This was due to a last minute cancellation. Unfortunately nothing could be done at such short notice, to inform the many potential supporters whom were so disappointed.

The new McNamara Hall was available to us on Friday, 22nd May last for our 22nd Annual Dinner Dance. People came from Ireland and many parts of the British Isles, and the band from Athlone, Kieran Kelly is known throughout England and Ireland for its wonderful music.

Greetings from the Annual Supper.

From Mr. and Mrs. T. Bardon, Building Contractors, London, to all relatives and friends in Cullion and Crookedwood. Also from Bill Stenson and Billy Attwell, founders of the Association. Still in Mullingar our hard working secretary Betty Cavigan-Walsh and Michael had Pat and Margaret Igoe with them, also Keith Fortune, Liam Fox, Mary, Margaret Saxton. Also in the company were Richie Norton (Athlone) our new President and his good wife Olanda. I was glad to see Jim Flynn and wife Rita, Jim is from Empor. Their relatives John and Kathleen McCormack were with them as usual. Margaret Tynan and Mrs. Mary Kane were in deep conversation with Dan Fox from Rosemount. Margaret sends regards to all in Shandonagh and Mrs. Kane sends greetings to all in Multy and Bunbrosnan. Our Treasurer Teresa Curran (Delvin) and husband Chris (Kerry) were rushing about selling tickets when I approached them. Also from Kerry I met Chris's cousin Mrs. Cecelia Fennell (Dingle) and Angela Corkery. Half the people seemed to be from Ballynacarrey. The Penrose family, Leo, Eileen and their two lovely daughters were there as usual. They never miss a Westmeath Function. With them were John Penrose (nephew) and Nigel and Keith Murtagh. Still in Ballynacarrey our Chief Steward Joe Garry and Mary. Vice-Chairman Bill Cashin and Annie (Moyvore), Seamus Troy cousin of the Cashin family and Mrs. Troy. Cilla Finnegan was there from Empor.

Across the county to Collinstown. From there comes Harry Nolan (Collinstown Constructions, London). Harry always brings a large

crowd with him from the Collinstown-Castlepollard area.

It was almost time to go, but I did have a parting word with Stan and Mrs. Goddard (nee Gillespie) Tyrrellspass and from down the road (Rochfordbridge) were Jack and Maureen Bollard. My last goodnight was from Brian Kearney and friends. Brian comes from 'The Village of the Roses' Glasson. Sorry I could not meet everyone.

(Continued on Page 7)

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# Clare Association in London

Patron: Most Rev. Dr. Michael Harty, Bishop of Killaloe. Life President: Mr. Martin Moroney (Tel. 952 3186) Chaplain: Father P. J. Doodey

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Christine Bonney, Jim Commane, Michael McMahon, Pat Costello, Jim Long, Susan Meaney, Tony Cullinan, Bill Boswell, Una Stevens, Philomena Egan, Mary McNamara.

Hon. Auditors: John Corry & Andy Murphy.

Our Bacon and Cabbage Supper in March was a great success, I

hope everone enjoyed it.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade went off well, thanks to all the Clare people who marched behind the banner. I am sure you all read in the papers about our drama over the banner. Thank God we got it back, it is one of the most beautiful banners, it would have been such a great loss. Sorry about the Munster floats' absence from the parade—our expert Tony Clarke who was the brains behind the float, was up to his eyes this year, and was unable to come to our rescue. Although there are six counties in Munster it is hard to get workers to put a float together for the day. Is there a reader who could help?

Our Clare youth were to the fore again recently in the Junior Quiz. Our under-fifteen team were runners-up in their field and our 16-22 vear olds won. The Bonney family certainly played their part with Chris, Colin and Andrew, accompanied by our youth officer Phil Egan in the winning team. Congratulations to our teams and to all the youth who took part. It was a great day and many thanks to Michael Sills and his team of workers who organised everything. We need youth involvement in the County Associations and we should encourage and help them all we can, if we do not there will be no county associations in years to come. Perhaps the next event they are running some of our committee will come along and support them. Our youth officer, who is also, I expect, the youngest assistant secretary the association has ever had, is doing a marvelous job, let's support her all we can. Any youth who would like to contact her and join up telephone Phil on 739 3865.

(Continued on Page 16)

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### SERVICES PROVIDED IN THE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPT.

1. Services to the newly arrived: Reception, advisory, information, counselling, referral service, accommodation advice, employment advice, repatriation.

Some services to the newly-arrived required merely an initial support service in order to help them adapt to a new society and to enable them to establish themselves in the new community. However, many come with complex social, psychological and financial problems. These include young people at risk, pregnant women, deserted and or deserting wives and their children, battered women, homeless families, psychiat-

rically ill people, those with alcohol problems and others.

2. Services to the domiciled Irish: Casework, counselling, support, advisory and information services to the Irish resident in any part of London and elsewhere. There is also arrangements for the provision of

furniture, clothing and food.

3. Educational Services: Combined literacy, typing and computer classes are held here two mornings per week. The main objective of these classes is to improve the skills of young unemployed people, so that they may have a better chance of being employed.

The classes have proved popular and are well attended and it is pleasant to report that some of the students have found jobs.

There are Irish Language classes for children on Saturday mornings during term time. On Friday evenings there are also classes for beginners and advanced.

4. Information Service: It includes

(a) an information service on social, education, welfare and housing facilities in Ireland and in Britain.

(b) liaison with statutory and voluntary agencies in Ireland and Britain, through visits, meetings, committee membership, etc. (c) compiling information leaflets on hostels, bed and breakfast, flat

hunting, employers, etc.

 (d) a small reference library on Irish literature, history, economics, archaeology, folklore, art. Some statistics on the Irish community available to research workers. (Continued on Page 13) Need Staff?



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# Cavan Association, London

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Assistant Secretary: Mrs. N. Kane Tel. 802 6962.

P.R.O.: Mr. Joe McIntyre, 97 Perry Rise, Forest Hill, London S.E.25 Tel. 699-1500

All our fund-raising events are with us once again. On reading this article many of you will have enjoyed our Bacon/Cabbage Supper Dance on the 9th May. Those of you who were unable to purchase tickets please accept our apologies as numbers are limited for health

and safety regulations.

The London Irish Festival in Roundwood Park, Willesden, is the next major event. Yes, on the 5th July the Cavan stall will have its usual display, soda bread, tea cakes and minerals. Rosettes and badges will also be on display. In addition you will receive a good old Breffnie welcome familiar in Cavan from The Shannon Pot to Lough Sheelin.

You are requested to gather behind the Cavan banner during the

parade.

We all wish the Irish Festival Committee and those involved in the

arrangements a smooth and successful day.

Our charity walk will be held once again in the Lea Valley area on the 6th September, 1987. 1986 was a major success thanks to coorganisers Pat Denning and Thomas Carolan.

I am sure you will all join me in wishing the charity walk organisers

for 1987 every success:-

Pat Denning - 804 7678 John McConnon - 732 4576 Jim Brady - 958 6942

For information regarding any of these events do not hesitate to contact me on 01 - 699 1500.

Joe McIntyre - P.R.O.

### WESTMEATH — Continued from Page 1) New President.

At the Annual General Meeting held in the Bull's Head, Clapham Common, Old Town, in February our Quiz Master and M.C. Richie Norton (Athlone) was elected President of the Westmeath Association in London, as former President Mr. Gerry Reilly (Mullingar) did not go forward. A well deserved round of applause greeted Richie's appointment, but he promises to be as active as ever in his former duties. A loyal and dedicated officer from Athlone, that's Richie.

The Officers and committee remain the same as in 1986. A reasonable crowd turned up for the A.G.M. but our wish is that many more will join us in the year 1987. Young and old Westmeath people all over London 'pop' along to the 'Bull's Head', Clapham Common, Old Town, on the second Tuesday of any month around 8.30 p.m. and hear what we

The Irish Welfare Bureau

55 Fulham Palace Road, Hammersmith, London W6 8AU.
Telephone 01 741 0466.
Director: Rev. Fr. Kiely.

Social Workers: Sr. Carmel McGowan. Sr. Nancy O'Sullivan, Kay Mazur, Chris Willison.

### TO MICHAEL

Every Morning in sun, wind and rain
the streets of London he walks again;
Where does he come from and where does he go —
Nobody asks and no-one will know.

His hair is long, his face is drawn,
his clothes hang heavy, old and torn;
His head is bent, his step is slow —
Plastic bags he carries where'er he goes.

The Church is his refuge, his first port of call; you'll find him resting on the old porch wall — Opening the door for all to come in:

To worship the God who loves all like him.

If you just take a minute to thank him one day
for opening the door and showing you the way:
A nod he will give you, a brief smile too
Before you go by and enter your pew.

Each evening when darkness draws near
you'll find him in the subways, but no need to fear —
He just keeps on walking through the dark of night,
To return once again when morning is light.

Margaret Pirnie.

### SOCIAL WORK REPORT

1985 ended on a sad note for the Bureau. As I write this Annual Report, Fr. Lawlor is on his way to his new Ministry in Carlisle. We shall miss him. Since he opened the doors in 1970 the Bureau has provided accommodation for over 6,000 people (AT LEAST 24,000 bednights), in addition to rendering thousands of other services to those who knocked on the door for help. The Bureau is a tangible expression of Father Lawlor's dedication, unselfishness, care and total commitment to those in need. Throughout his ministry it has been people who mattered. Hammersmith has lost a great priest and the disadvantaged of the area a great friend. However, his compassion, patience and determination remain to guide our future steps.

To continue on a sad note, once again this year a number of our long-standing friends died. We were responsible for the burial of five clients who had no relations or friends. The following case history is a typical example of Fr. Lawlor's years of compassionate, patient caring for the really poor.

### Case 1

(names are fictitious)

James was referred to the Bureau in 1976. He was then aged 63. He was drinking and his mental condition was low. He was picked up by the police while drunk and taken into custody. Because of his

mental condition the Bureau stood bail for him. When this case came to Court the Magistrate agreed to remand James in custody for medical reports. Finally he was transferred to the psychiatric hospital for treatment. After discharge he worked for several months moving continually from one address to another. The job finished and because of the changing addresses he had endless trouble explaining his situation to the D.H.S.S. Each time, the Bureau intervened on his behalf. His next move was to sleep out at the back of the Church. While there, he became a serious fire and health hazard. Police, Social Services, health visitors, all were contacted and apparently no one could help. During this time the Bureau staff took him three times to the medicinal baths for a clean-up. The police intervened and arrested him for vagrancy. He got 14 days sentence and then he was back to his old spot behind the Church. The various agencies were again contacted with no results. Eventually, Fr. Lawlor's doctor agreed to see James and have him admitted into hospital.

As he was always talking about his brother at home in Dublin, Fr. Lawlor arranged to take James with him when he went on holiday to Ireland. Unfortunately, the brother was very hostile and offered no welcome at all. Father arranged accommodation for James and kept in touch with him throughout the holiday, taking him to his own home for meals and company. On return he worked for a while and again was in and out of digs. While in hospital he had made friends with Mary. They kept up the friendship and after a spell of sleeping rough they were given a Council flat in Hackney. Over the next four years they managed reasonably well, apart from short periods in hospital. They kept the flat spotless and dressed well.

In January '85, Mary was taken into hospital for several weeks. James visited her daily. She was discharged still in a poor state and James' mental condition deteriorated also. They both stayed in bed and refused to eat. James insisted that he was on a fast and kept a lighted candle on the table day and night. The hospital and Community Worker were informed. They called to see the situation, but were slow to take action. James was found dead in the flat by a Sister of Charity who was asked by us to keep an eye on them. He was two days dead. Although Mary was in the flat with him, she had not reported the death or opened the door to any callers. She was taken into hospital and was too ill to attend the funeral. The Bureau arranged and paid for his funeral, taking him to our own plot in Hammersmith. The only mourners at the funeral were the Bureau staff and two Sisters from Hackney.

# WESTMEATH ASSN. — Continued from Page 7).

have to say, and listen to our plans for the year. You may have some valuable ideas at the back of your head, don't be afraid to tell us, we are all at the meetings to listen to one another's suggestions. The more the merrier. Don't forget two heads are better than one! By doing this you are helping to keep Westmeath alive in London — Don't let your County down.

# Tooting's Night of Music.

What a lovely display of music Na Fianna (Rathowen) gave us once again when they visited Tooting, London recently. Sean Marshals, the Leader, brought me all the news. He told me that they are making a new tape and we are all looking forward to it.

I saw on the paper recently where Tommy Allen Rathowen has retired. Tommy was a loyal and dedicated man all his life. His comely



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# The Waterford Association, London



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Life President: Rt. Rev. Charles J. Henderson,
Area Bishop of Southwark
Chairman: Mr. Billy Allen
Tel. 267 8100
Vice-Chairperson: Mrs. Kitty Groves

Vice-Chairperson: Mrs. Kitty Groves Tel. 01 359 5994. on. Secretary: Mrs. Mary Allen. 10 Ashm

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Mary Allen, 10 Ashmore, Agar Grove, London NWI 9SL Tel. 01 267 8100 Asst. Hon. Sec.: Mr. Bill Aulsberry, 2a Brabant Road, London N22 Tel. 889 6579 Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Sharon Whitehead, 46 Stoneleigh Terrace, Raydon St., London N19. Tel. 01 359 5994 Membership Secretary: Kieran Kiely

The St. Patrick's Day Parade was most successful with twenty seven counties taking part, as well as Camogie Teams, Schools of Dancing, Ancient Order of Hibernians, pipe bands and Provincial floats. A record number of priests concelebrated Mass at Westminster Cathedral, of which two were from Waterford. The Mass was attended by representatives of the Irish Embassy. The Parade was led by our youth, carrying the St. Patrick's Banner was Kieran Kiely whose father is from Cappaquin. Anna Groves from Waterford and Colin Bonney from Clare carried the Tricolour.

Our Bacon and Cabbage supper on Saturday, March 21st was a most enjoyable occasion attended by about 180 persons, some of whom were first timers who enjoyed themselves so much they all promised to come again.

Once again the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary accompanied the Mayor of Camden on a Civic visit to Waterford. These visits are now part of our yearly cirriculum and we learn much from them. Camden in particular is most anxious for them to continue. I would like to thank the County Council and Corporation for their hospitality. Ryan Air who provided us with our flights and whose staff treated us like royalty. It was a lovely flight both ways in glorious sunshine. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ryan Air on obtaining the Manchester and Birmingham to Knock routes. Keep it up. We had earlier this year a visit from two young people from Waterford who were here on a fact finding mission with regard to accommodation and work availability at present in London. We were very impressed with the work they do and their caring attitude. We too feel strongly that any young people leaving home and coming here must be prepared for the setbacks and pitfalls they may encounter. We would like to thank Brian Duggan and ex-Mayor of Camden who spends two days voluntarily each week tracing missing persons.

Our Association youth took part in the Knock-out competition on Sunday, May 10th at Slough, unfortunately they were not placed. Congratulations to Harringay on gaining second place.

Dates for your Diary: Friday June 5th we are organising a Video Race Night to raise funds for the Irish Centre.

Friday, August 21st is the date for our At Home Re-Union, which will take place at the Old Strand Inn in Ardmore, County Waterford. Kevin Gallagher is confident we will all have a great night. Why not book a flight with Ryan Air and join us.

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President: Ref. M. Funge C.C., 247 High Road. Chiswick, London W4.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. G. Browne Tel. 01 - 450 8764.

Treasurer:
Mr. M. Kirwan Tel. 01 - 724 2824.

Assistant Secretary: Mrs. T. O'Connor, Tel. 01 - 458 8589. Registrar: Mrs. A. Fitzpatrick, Tel. 01 - 965 4420.

1986 was a very active and successful year for the Association, with our Annual Dinner Dance proving once again to be our most enjoyable event. Our thanks to our officers and committee for all their hard work and effort during the year. As we start our programme of events organised for members and friends during the coming months, our Chairman Mr. Michael Sills, makes a special appeal for members to give their full

support to the Association functions throughout this year.

Our grateful thanks to our Registrar Mrs. Anne Fitzpatrick for all the hard work she has done since volunteering to take over the office of her late husband Peter.

Our Wexford Darts league is now in full swing with the leaders in Division 1 Sir Robert Peel, Division 2 Nellies. Our thanks to our Treasurer Mr. Martin Kirwan and Mr. Phil Roche for entering A Wexford Association Team in the league.

We wish a speedy recovery to any of our members who have suffered illness recently and especially to our Vice-President Mr. Pat Clegg

who is recovering.

Anyone who has not done so, now is the time to renew your membership. Kitty Watson — Hon. Secretary.

WESTMEATH ASSN. — Continued from Page 9. smile and warm handshake will be remembered by many. We wish him many years of happy retirement. Good luck to the Feis down there

London Castlepollard Wedding.

The Wedding took place in St. Boniface R.C. Church, Mitcham Road,

Shipping of Tooting, of John Shortt, Marketing Assistant Wine - Shipping of Colescroft Hill Burley, Surrey, to Miss Susan Stebbing (teacher) daughter of Frank and Eileen Stebbing, Blenheim Park Road, Croydon. Mrs. Stebbing was Eileen Lynch from Castlepollard. Susan was married by her uncle, Father Padraigh Lynch (Castlepollard and U.S.A.) assisted by Father P. Murtagh P.P. St. Boniface, Tooting, Father David O'Reagan and Father Gerry Mulvehille (Galway). The honeymoon was spent in Jerusalem. The Association wishes them both continued health and happiness. Pat Looney, PRO

# IRISH CENTRE — Continued from Page 5.

\* \* \* \* \* Will correspondent from

(e) pre-emigration information — individually by correspondence or by phone — nationally — information brochures, talks — information to the press and other media.
5. Marriage Counselling Service: Mrs. Kay Bourke, an experienced marriage counsellor with the Catholic Marriage Advisory Council is available once a week. Counselling can help either a couple or an individual going through a difficult time in a relationship. The service is connected to the bright Contraction. open to anyone who wishes to make an appointment at the Irish Centre THE END Community Services Department.

# The Irish Association of the Costa Del Sol & Associates

Life President - Mrs. Jane Smyth. Life Vice-President - Mr. Wally Smyth.

The Irish Association of the Costa Del Sol was motivated on St. Patrick's Day, 1987 (writes Jane from Torremolinos). Our St. Patrick's night was held at the Poolside bar of Las Estrellas, Torremolinos, where mine host Manolo (short for Emanuel) arranged green streamers in his windows and on his ceiling, also placed green candles with green ribbons on all the tables, and he had only heard about our National Feast on the afternoon of the 17th.

This gives you an idea of the warmness and kindness of the Spanish people, and in particular Manolo, his good lady Maria and beautiful

daughter Maria Luis.

It is getting to be like home from home out here now, and we are enjoying visits from family and friends from England and Ireland.

We have had a visit from Paddy Stafford's son Patrick, who was out here on holiday. Paddy was born in Waterford of Wexford parents, and young Patrick was born in London of an English mother and aforesaid an Irish father.

Out next visitor was Anne Purcell of Purkelly Brothers and her two Then we had a visit from Mrs. J. J. Walsh of The Muster Express, plus her son Nicholas (who spent some time with us in London during

his student days), also Nicholas's wife and little daughter.
Our own family have been out 3 times with our grand-daughter
Shirelle and new grandson Brody. We have just had a visit from our
model girl Irene, who is an American married to an Irish man. Talking of Americans, in our apartment block, we have an American Professor named Bill (a Vietnam veteran) and his wife Mercedes, born in Spain of German extraction. They are both our interpreters, fluently speaking several languages. Another neighbour, a gentleman born in Turkey plus his Spanish lady, Ifram, was the radio correspondent from Washington to Turkey, and in his younger days travelled the world by motor-

bike and met most of the rulers or heads of state.

I will tell you more about our American friends later. I must now tell you of our Irish friends, Lynda and Bill who stay here all the winter and have a home in Tipperary, a stone's throw from Waterford, and swears Sean Kelly (world renowned cyclist) lives next door. Another Irish couple who come out for the winter (how the rich live!) are Kathleen and Jim. Kathleen is from Cork and Jim comes from Kerry. He must be a relation of Ted Ring's as when he saw the Christmas issue of the Irish Counties Journal, he told me that Fr. Padraig Sugrue (who was pictured in that issue with the Pope) was his cousin and born in the same house in Cahirciveen was his mother and Fr. Sugrue's mother. So Ted Ring you have a cousin living in London whom you do not know about.

Then there is Mary from Dublin, who's son Allen, wife Joan and

three children spend their summer holidays here.

There is much more to tell, but I must conclude by telling you a little about Colin and Teresa, born in Pakistan who have three beautiful children. One born in Pakistan, the other two in London. Colin and Teresa both have an Irish grandmother, or should I say had. They were both made redundant in their jobs in London at the early age of fifty and decided to sell their home and come to live in the sun.

More in the next issue, our love to you all, especially to the Clare Association, Joe Collins and all his committee. Mr. and Mrs. John Whelan, Mrs. Kathleen Clancy and Mary. The Irish Centre, Fr. Scully and Mr. Frank Caulfield. The Waterford Association, Dr. Russell and Bishop Henderson, Mary and Billy Allen and all the committee. To the

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CLARE ASSN. - Continued from Page 3.

The next big day is of course, July 5th (Sunday) when all roads lead to Roundwood Park for the Festival which is the largest gathering of people in London, and a day everyone is proud to be Irish. Clare Association will have their stall as usual. We would be very grateful for any items for our tombola, unwanted Christmas presents would be appreciated. The Clare Champion will be on the stall, also membership forms, so visit our stall and get your local paper and county colours, as well as helping charity.

Our next function is a dance on Friday, 3rd July, when we will have music by The Great Tulla Ceili Band, in The McNamara Hall at the Irish Centre, Camden Town, NW1. Tickets can be had from any of the committee telephone numbers above. Numbers will be limited so book

early.

Next Bacon and Cabbage Supper at the Irish Centre on October 3rd. West Clare Reunions November 12th, again at the Irish Centre. Annual Dinner Dance November 14th, a new venue, Regent Crest Hotel, Car-

barton Street, London, W1.

We would like to welcome our new Director to the Irish Centre, Fr. Tom Scully. We hope you will be very happy Father and I am sure will continue the good work of your predecessors. The Clare Association will continue to give their support to the Centre under your Directorship.

We were all delighted to see Tony Cullinan back on his feet and able to attend our last meeting. We are all still praying for you Tony and wish you recovery to full health. Also our best wishes to Bill Boswell

who has been ill lately.

Finally I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday whereever you go, and of course good weather.

See you all at the Dance and of course at the Festival on 5th July. Slain. Bennacht de Oraibh. Bridie Shaw (Hon, Sec.)

WATERFORD ASSN. — Continued from Page 11.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Cathy Devine on the death of her husband Tom. Tom was a past Mayor of Camden who worked tirelessly for the Irish Community, his death will leave a void difficult to fill. R.I.P.

London Irish Festival — All roads lead once again to Roundwood Park, Willesden on Sunday, July 5th. Looking forward to seeing lots of our friends at the Waterford tent where there will be rosettes in County Colours. We are also planning lots of home produce, so come along and be sure of a warm welcome from the people from the Gentle County.

Congratulations to our Junior Quiz team (8 years to 12 years) who

beat Donegal to win the Barney Byrne Trophy.

Mary Allen — Hon. Secretary.

IRISH ASSN. OF THE COSTA DEL SOL — Continued from Page 14.

Cavan Association, Maura Fitzsimons, Andy and Nora Kane and committee. To the Irish Welfare Bureau, Fr. Kiely, Sr. McGowan, Kay Mazur, Sr. O'Sullivan and Chris Williamson. To Ted Ring for always caring about the Irish Counties Journal. To the Kildare Association, to dear Mrs. Davis and the Chairman who wrote us a lovely farewell letter before leaving London. May your Association continue to thrive. To all our advertisers who help in my absence and continue to support us. To our printers who keep our costs as low as possible and especially Mr. Jones and Miss Wilson.

May God bless you all — speak to you all again in the next issue.

Jane Smyth (Mrs.) — Tel. Malaga 385099

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