

The Irish in Greenwich

22 - 24a Greens End
Woolwich

St. Patricks Edition

London SE18 6JY
Tel - 0181 - 854 - 4466

Volume 3 Issue 2

Lá Féile Pádraig

ST PATRICKS DAY - PROJECT - OPEN DAY - FREE SHAMROCK!!

To celebrate the opening of the new Irish in Greenwich Project in Woolwich, 22-24a Greens End- Opp- Natwest - Powis Street. The Committee, Staff and volunteers extend an open invitation to members the wider community, partners and all those interested in our work to the new offices. An opportunity to meet all those involved in the Project for a friendly chat whilst catching up on all the news!. We look forward to welcoming you all.

Free Shamrock (whilst stocks last - one bunch per person)

Food and refreshments for all to enjoy - All Welcome- Between 10.00AM and 4.00PM

Project is Moving

from Greenwich High Street
to

22 - 24a Greens End

Woolwich

London SE18 6JY

TEL: 0181- 854 4466

Opposite Nat West, Powis Street
and near Woolwich Arsenal.

Easy Access Train - Woolwich
Arsenal - Bus - 177, 180, 386,



IRISH
in greenwich



South London St. Patrick's Day Parade

Saturday 13th March 1999

Celebrate the Irish National Day with us in South London. The parade will start at **Lewisham Irish Community Centre, 2a Davenport Road, Catford** at 10.00am travelling to Lewisham Town Centre.

All welcome Bring Family & Friends Bands, dancing, function afterwards. Irish in Greenwich Banner & members
For details contact: 0181-695-6264

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WEEK - Mna na Eirann

Woolwich Catholic Social Club in association with the Irish in Greenwich Project Present a Irish Cultural Night on the 12th March 8pm - Late Tickets £2.50 inc a full Buffet. Entertainment on the night includes Irish Music, and Irish dancing. The Irish in Greenwich will show-case an exhibition of Irish Women through the ages, literature, leaflets and a special publication called Mna na Eireann - Women of Ireland. This is not a Women-only event! Advanced booking is advised.

Please contact the Project or Marjorie Hawkins School of Irish Dancing on 0181-858-3973

St Patricks Day

All over the world on the 17th March Irish people celebrate St Patricks Day, not just because of everything that St. Patrick did for the Irish people but also to celebrate being Irish. Ireland and its people have contributed a tremendous amount in the field of music, art, literature and culture. It is hoped that people from different nationalities will join us in our national celebration. *St Patrick the Patron Saint of Ireland was believed to have been brought over to Ireland around 400AD. It is thought he was brought over as a slave by an Irish Chief from England, whilst it was under Roman Rule. Eventually a grown man he made it back to Britain where he studied to be a priest. He returned to Ireland after he dreamt he heard a voice in Irish saying 'We beg you, holy boy, come and walk among us again.'* Patrick brought Christianity to Eire. Legend has it that he drove all the snakes out of Ireland.

This Newsletter is Published by the Irish in Greenwich .Copyright of each article remains with the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Irish in Greenwich Project. Thanks to members & volunteers for help in the presentation and distribution of the newsletter. For cultural information and advice on all subjects contact the project line. Contact Breffni O'Rourke phone number at the top of this page for any information relating to newsletter *slan go foil*.

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Editors Page

The Irish in Greenwich Project are moving it is official !. The move which has been on the cards since last September has finally come into being. - The the move will facilitate the concept of 'Multi Agency Working' very much in key with council and government thinking in the way forward for Voluntary/Community Groups. We will share the building with a number of other like minded agencies, each group will maintain their unique identity whilst sharing information funding ideas and potentially consortium bids and some core costs.

Is it a step in the right direction ? Well.....it is by no means a step backwards the space is larger and potentially could accommodate the expectant development of the Projects personal and service provision. Woolwich is the bastion of all things Greenwich, from the Town hall to the significant share of council services, from day centres to housing units . It is fair to say that the greater majority of the Irish population live in the wards in and around Woolwich thus making us more accessible.

The decision to move was not taken lightly in view of the significant relationship built up with our community and partners from our existing base. To a certain extent it has been forced due to council pressure on to find cheaper premises than our present Greenwich location. We are confident however, that the change will be smooth and fruitful for our current service users and potential client base.

Don't just take my word for it though, come and visit us talk to staff and management and make up your own mind !. The Project are holding; an OPEN DAY for all interested parties on St Patricks Day - March 17th. We will have snacks and refreshments and a supply of the green stuff - shamrock - for all who drop by. So take care and all the best until the 17th - *Slan go foil*

Project Closed

The Project will be closed between the 11th and 16th of March 1999. The closure is temporary and due to our impending re-location. The Project will be back to full service level on the 12th April due to staff leave and disruption. However our advice & advocacy service will run as normal during this period. We apologise for any disruption caused during this period and will endeavour to make it up in due course. We hope to announce shortly details of a Project social and cultural evening to celebrate the, new move - Music, dance exhibition, food and drink *for sure* - Watch press!.

Project welcomes new staff member

Rebecca Farrell was appointed to the post of administration worker to the Project on the 15th February. Rebecca replaces Clare Keely who will be known to many of you for her long and selfless duty to the Project and its community. Rebecca is available on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9.30pm - 2.30pm and on Wednesdays until noon where she will be happy to answer any general queries. We are sure she will prove to be every bit as respected as her predecessor and hope you will join with us in wishing her well.

Free Legal Advice Surgery

The Project have been running a free legal Advice surgery on the First and Third Tuesday of each Month(6 - 8PM), since the service was set up in response to the demand from the community for a free, accessible and informal service open to the whole community. The Project at present use Locally based Irish solicitors on a rotation system. The service is available through appointment only so please ring if you think it could be of help to you or someone you know. The service will be closed during March and reopen in April as normal.

Mna na Eireann

The Project for the third successive year have gained funding for the printing and distribution of this special edition Newsletter to coincide with International Women's Week 1 - 20th March 1999. The newsletter which is available through the Project, libraries and at all events in the Women's week schedule. It contains an insert which should be filled in by those interested in forming closer links with Irish Women in Greenwich and the surrounding area.

Advice/Benefits - News Update - Items for Attention..

REHOUSING

One of the problems most commonly presented to the advice worker at the Project is that of people in council housing who want a transfer. Greenwich operates a points system, but even after you have been allocated points there are things you can do to get rehoused quicker:

- 1) Expand your areas of choice. Some neighbourhood areas will have shorter waiting lists, higher turnover, or require less points for rehousing.
- 2) Try to get more points. The council has an appeal mechanism whereby points could be added for factors such as overcrowding, distance from amenities, condition of property, size of property, environmental factors (e.g. proximity of main road) etc. It is important that the council knows all the facts.
- 3) If there are medical problems, it may be possible to get medical priority. This may bypass the whole points system. This would apply if for instance a property adversely affects someone's health.
- 4) Get support from doctors, health visitors, the Environmental Health Department, social services etc.
- 5) Involve your MP or a local councillor.
- 6) Get an advice agency involved in your case. This is where the Irish in Greenwich Project comes in. We have a copy of the Council's rehousing policy, and have helped many people with their cases over the years. We can help with homeless applications, rehousing applications and mutual exchanges.

The Project would especially encourage Irish Women to make use of the Project advice service and legal Surgery. Women are often the most inconvenienced and distressed by a housing problem. Our analysis shows, they are more likely to be 'fobbed off' by landlords, including the council with excuses

The Project advice service is open every Wednesday and Thursday from 10.00Am to 4.00pm and alternate Fridays. If you would like to make an appointment to see the advice worker, please call the Project.

London Irish Elders Forum (LIEF)

Fourty Five Greenwich Irish Elders attending the launch of LIEF in the London Irish Centre on the 22/1/99. The group has been set up to draw together pensioners groups from all over London to discuss issues important to them and lobby for more recognition and resources for the largest ethnic group in London.

May Quinn RIP

May was buried on christmas eve 1998
May was well known in Greenwich and further afield. She served in many committees in the Greenwich borough and was well known as an ideal Labour party member, lobbying Parliament and marching to support elderly people putting her views across on LBC radio day and night. "But" we as members of the Greenwich Irish Pensioners remember May with love and deep gratitude for her dedication to our club. May was for a number of years our Chair and Secretary. Peter, May's husband, is still our president. Through her efforts she secured us a grant of £2,000 from the European Commission and arranged free coach trips to London, phone calls to family/friends, lunch and gifts and made beautiful (Guinness) cakes. May was not Irish herself but loved the Irish people and culture. May was kind and caring to everyone. We will always remember you May

The Irish in Greenwich Pensioners Association

Public Lecture Series

The university of North London began there annual Public lecture series earlier on this month. There are still two slots left this month Fintan O'Toole - *Green, White and Black : Ireland and Racial Identity* 25/3/99 and on Thursday the 15th April BERTIE AHERN *Taoiseach na hEireann* - Title of lecture to be announced. The evening promises to be informative and timely. The Project have applied for a small number of tickets. If interested Please contact us.

Federation of Irish Societies

MEMBERS OVER

60

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25%

Discount To Ireland

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Irish Ferries*

For an application form and more details contact the Project

NOTICE

March 16th Tuesday Church service at St. Mary's Church 6.30pm followed by cultural event from 8.15 - 8.30pm. Phil Melly requires anyone who can do a 'turn' poetry, story, song etc...if interested please contact the Project who will pass on messages

Community Listings

March 12th - Friday - As part of international Women's Week the Irish in Greenwich Project and Woolwich Catholic Club present an evening's celebration. Including exhibition documenting Irish women, information, Project stall, Traditional Irish Music from the 'Real McCoy', Irish Dance exhibition from the Hawkins school. Full buffet, raffle, licensed bar. Tickets 2.50 From Catholic Club or Project.

March 13th - Saturday - South London St. Patricks Day Parade. Celebrate the Irish National day with music bands, Irish dancers etc in Lewisham. Assemble 10am Irish centre, Lewisham, 2a Davenport Rd. Reception, music, dance, displays and Bar 1- 6pm back at centre. ALL WELCOME.

March 13th - Saturday - Field of Vision - Authors inc. Clare Boylan, Sean Hughes and Fergal Keane, Music and late bar, Compton Terrac, Islington N1. Ticket price 10 and 5 concessions. More info 0171 278 8787.

March 14th - Sunday - Brendan Shine & Guests - The Orchard Theatre, Dartford, Guest appearance Linda Fryday School of Irish Dancing. Tickets available box office 01322 220000

St Patricks Day - March 17th - The Irish in Greenwich Project extend an open invitation to its new premises. 22-24 Greens End Woolwich (Opp Nat West, Powis Street). Meet the staff, Management committee and volunteers of your Project. FREE SHAMROCK & REFRESHMENTS ALL WELCOME.

Woolwich Catholic Club - March 17th - Full day of events, promotions and entertainment.

The Albany Theatre - March 17th - Deptford finest bring traditional session, free food and drink 12-2pm Free. From 8pm they are showcasing some of S.E London finest musicians Tickets 5/3.50 Conc.

London Irish Literary Festival - The Irish Bookfair presents three days of Ireland's greatest literary talent at the London Irish Centre, 52 Camden Square, London NW1. Doors open: Friday 19th March 6.00pm - 9.00pm; Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st March 11.00am - 8.30pm Admin: £2.50 (Conc. £2.00) Children FREE. Events include All the major Irish publishers, writers, books, readings, short film, discussion, children's events, licensed bar, food and traditional Irish music. For a full programme leave details on: 0181-694-9393

March 19th -Friday West Greenwich House presents -Slice Of Life- poems, music & stories by women in Greenwich for the close of International Women's week. 7.30pm onwards Admin:£1.50

March 26th Woolwich Catholic Club Benefit all proceeds to the handicapped. Performance by Jays Country Bar & Band, Adm.: £2.00 Tel: Woolwich Catholic Club

Membership

The Irish in Greenwich Project is a non-profit voluntary Organisation funded by Greenwich Council & The Irish Government, no money is available from these grants for cultural events or costs relating to the newsletter. The Project relies on the subscriptions of our members to meet the cost of the printing and distribution of the Newsletter, anything left over is pooled to subsidise cultural events.