



**ÍRISH**  
in greenwich



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
ON THURSDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2001**

**IRISH IN GREENWICH AGM 2001**  
**THURSDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

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**The Irish in Greenwich  
Annual General Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> December 2001  
At the  
Forum@Greenwich**

**AGENDA**

- 1. Welcome to members & guests from the Management Committee**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Guest Speakers:**

**Cllr. John Fahy**  
**Fr. Jerry Kivlehan**
- 4. Minutes of 2000 AGM & 2001 EGM**
- 5. Matters Arising**
- 6. Chairs Report and Elders Outreach Video Presentation**
- 7. Treasurers Report**
- 8. Reappointment of retiring Directors - election of New Directors**
- 9. AOB**
- 10. Reception**

**IRISH IN GREENWICH  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
MONDAY 18<sup>th</sup> of SEPTEMBER 2000.**

**1. Welcome to members & guests from the Management Committee.**

The chair Cal O'Herlihy opened the meeting at 7.30, welcoming approximately 50 attendees, both members and visitors from other organisations to the A.G.M. It was noted that this was the first time our meeting was held in the Town Hall, which in itself is symbolic of our continuing growth and stature as an organisation. The chair explained that the 13 agenda items were not going to be taken in the order presented due to the two guest speakers having to arrive late.

**2. Apologies were received from:**

Fr. Martin Moran, O.M.I. Irish Welfare & Information Centre.

Fr. Gerry Kivlehan, O.M.I. London Irish Centre.

Jacqueline Dutton, The Ireland Fund of Great Britain.

Celia Sands, Home-Start Greenwich

John Garton, Cairde na nGael

Maire McCluskey, Dion Committee

Danny Maher, Cricklewood Homeless Concern

Brian McCarthy, Action Group for Irish Youth.

John Austin M.P.

**3. Minutes of A.G.M. 1999**

The minutes of the 1999 A.G.M. were passed as being a fair and accurate record.

**4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising

**5. Chairs' Report**

Cal stated that it has been a successful year for the Irish in Greenwich, with an increase in staffing from one full time and two part-time to now three full time and one part time. At this point Cal asked the staff to stand up in front of the attendees and briefly introduce themselves. The four members of staff namely, Paul O'Connell, Co-

difficult for one to proclaim one's Irishness. Reference was made to the days of the Greater London Council when it was often difficult to get funding for the Irish sector due to our bad press. Also reference was made to the 1950's when slogans such as the following abounded,  
"No Blacks, No Dogs, No Irish".

John mentioned the problems encountered in previous census data, in that the Irish community was not always included. In this regard he greatly stressed the importance of ticking the Irish box in the 2001 census.

The over representation of Irish people in being admitted to psychiatric wards of hospitals in Britain was mentioned. Parallel to this point was the vulnerable existence of many Irish men in the building trade during the 1940's and 1950's for whom the myth of returning to Ireland was a constant in their lives. Irregular work, lack of a proper pension structure and abominable working conditions led to a situation where alcohol was the main source of escape was the reality for many of these men.

While John acknowledged the vast improvements in working conditions and the fashionable Irish image that exists in Britain today he also stated that Prof. Jock Young's Report of 1999 documents how the Irish are over represented in stop and search actions by the Police.

Finally he spoke about St. Patrick's Day and the meetings he is having with Ken Livingstone. A theme being examined is that of a St. Patrick's month with lots of small events but still nothing like New York or Dublin. The overall emphasis in the celebrations should be togetherness and not conflict.

## **(2) Moire Gaffney**

As Cultural Officer for the Federation of Irish Societies Moire delivered a paper on the demographics of the Irish ethnic group in the Borough of Greenwich. The following is a summary of the central points.

Moire made the point that most of her data was based on the 1991 Census and in this respect one should bear in mind that the actual figures could be as much as three times greater than the figures given due to the fact that the figures do not include the second generation Irish.

In the Borough of Greenwich 8.3% of the population are Irish. This means that 17,500 people in the Borough are Irish, the largest ethnic minority in the Borough.

Age structure:

44% of Irish born are over the age of 50.

806 Pensioners are now living alone. Hence there is a large elderly population and one third are living alone.

52% of the Irish born are in manual jobs compared with 38% of other white people in the Borough. Also, Irish men are over represented in the unemployment figures

Ordinator, Anne Ryan, Elders worker, Sinead Lunny for whom the A.G.M. happened to coincide with her first day of employment with the organisation and Becky Farrell, Administrator, all made themselves visible in this way.

A special mention was made in terms of the stalwart work and support of our Administrator Becky Farrell especially during this year's period of transition and change. In this regard reference was made to the resignation of Breffni O'Rourke his enthusiasm, skill and hard work were acknowledged. It was mentioned that the previous Chair, Maria Maguire, has returned to Dublin, her commitment to the Management for many years was stated unequivocally.

Cal pointed out that while many Irish emigrants in Britain have done very well, others have been less fortunate and the organisation's professional support is required in assisting and advocating on behalf of this group. Also, Irish Older People, who constitute a large sector of our population in Britain due to the high numbers of Irish people that emigrated here between the 1940's and early 1960's. In making these points Cal was reiterating some of the key aspects of his Chair's address as outlined in the Annual Report 2000.

#### **6. Treasurer's Report**

This agenda item was not pursued due to the fact that the Treasurer, Patrick Burns was unable to attend the meeting due to work pressure.

#### **7. Charity Status**

The implications of having charity status were outlined by Alice O'Connor. Alice told us that we had filed our application for charitable status on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 2000. She explained that the Charity Commissioners decide the criteria in terms of what constitutes a charity. One advantage of becoming a charity is that we will pay less tax. On the other one of the limitations of becoming a charity is that we would have to be careful in terms of political activities and we would not be allowed any political affiliations.

#### **8. Election of Management Committee**

All those standing for election were elected.

#### **9. Staff Report: From Co-Ordinator Paul O'Connell**

Paul gave a brief summary of his professional experience. He told us that he has been involved in managing services for the Irish sector for the last ten years and that he had qualified as both a Social Worker and a Counsellor. He stated that he is only in the job three months and acknowledging the hard work of the previous Co-Ordinator Breffni O'Rourke saying that Breffni worked to a high specification and so will be a hard act to follow.

Paul stated he is currently attempting to get to grips with the problems in the Borough. In doing so he is liaising with his colleague Anne Ryan (Older Persons Worker) who at present has approximately 50 clients on her books. A cluster of characteristics that

present themselves in Anne's client group include isolation, depression, alienation and clients not assessing mainstream services. Paul argued that Anne's work can be envisaged as a microcosm of the situation generally in the Borough.

The Advice & Advocacy Worker, this service has been sporadic the past year due to the resignation of the previous worker and the difficulties of filling the vacancy. As mentioned earlier, today is the starting date for our new Advice Worker Sinead Lunny.

September 25<sup>th</sup> is the launch of The Irish in Greenwich Luncheon Club as advertised in the A.G.M. 2000 Information Pack. We hope this will be a successful weekly event for Irish Elders in the Borough.

Paul acknowledged the great work of Peggy Heffernan in her role as Chairperson of the Irish Elders Pensioners Group.

### **10. St. Patrick's Day Parade**

The whole question as to how this day should be celebrated was raised. For example should we have a larger festival? What can we learn from the Notting Hill Carnival? Should we have more local events? This discussion was then open to the floor where one of the points made was that St Patrick's Day in London has never had the status that it receives elsewhere, for example in Birmingham.

### **11. "Irish in You" Festival.**

The date & venue of this festival were publicised at the A.G.M. in terms of fliers and posters. Teresa Walsh made the point that (as advertised on the Poster), that the festival is not exclusively Irish in that it is being also promoted as a multi cultural festival. One question raised from the floor was that in the second half of the festival bands promoted such as the Hot House Flowers and the Popes meant little to the older generation who would prefer Daniel O'Donnell for example. Teresa defended the presence of these bands arguing that firstly, we need the money that these bands will generate in terms of ticket sales to cover our costs and secondly that all attempts were made at the planning stage to have a range of artists and musicians to accommodate the widest possible spectrum of artistic and musical tastes.

### **12. Guest Speakers**

#### **(1) John McDonnell M.P.**

John McDonnell, M.P, Chair of All Ireland Parliamentary Committee gave an overview of what is happening both nationally and in London within the Irish community. He made the point that at present being Irish is now quite fashionable and that the way in which Irish culture is at present being marketed is perpetuating a positive and dynamic Irish image; in this regard reference was made to Riverdance, Lord of the Dance and the Roscommon to Hollywood phenomenon. However, John pointed out that being Irish was not always so full of positive connotations. For example in the 1970's and 1980's, during the troubles in Northern Ireland, it was far from fashionable to be identified as Irish. The hunger strikes of the 1980's made it

compared with the general white population. One in four Irish households has a member of household that is either disabled or elderly or has health problems again this ratio is higher than that of the general white population.

Moire demythologised the alcohol stereotype arguing that the Irish are no more likely than the rest of the population to be heavy drinkers. However, the minority that do have alcohol problems do drink very heavily.

The point was made that the Irish community want to be assisted in terms of social care and health care by professionals that understand them and need a listening ear that does not dismiss their problems as automatically being alcohol related.

### **13. Vote of Thanks.**

The vote of thanks to the two guest speaker's was given by Jimmy Doyle & Breffni O'Rourke.



**Company No 389069**

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**Companies Act 1985 and 1989**

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**Company Limited by Guarantee**

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**Special Resolutions of  
The Irish in Greenwich  
Extraordinary General Meeting [ EGM ],  
held at 24-24a Greens End on 15th January 2001**

**This EGM chaired by Cal O'Herlihy was convened to clarify some points regarding the 'Irish in Greenwich' becoming a registered charity. The Companies Acts 1985 and 1989 imposes some amendments as special resolutions of our 'company'.**

- 1. That Article 7 of the Articles of Association of the Company be amended by the substitution of the word 'four' by the word 'eight' and the deletion therefrom of the words 'or one half of the total number of such persons for the time being whichever is the greater'.**
- 2. That the introductory paragraph of Clause 3 of the Memorandum of Association of the Company be deleted and substituted by the following:**

**'The Charity is established particularly for persons of Irish descent in the Borough of Greenwich South East London generally to assist in the relief of poverty, sickness and distress [ the ' Objects' ]. And by the removal therein of Clauses 3[I] to [viii].**

- 3. That Clause 4 of the Memorandum of Association of the Company be altered by the addition before Clause 4[I], of the current Clauses 3[I] to [viii] and the renumbering of Clauses 4[I] to [viii] as Clauses 4[ix] to [xvi].**

**The meeting was chaired by Cal O'Herlihy. The MC agreed that it would review its charity status if that proved a problem for the organisation**

**THE IRISH IN GREENWICH**  
(A Company limited by guarantee)  
Company registration No. 3890639  
Charity Registration Number 1085033



**íRísh**  
in greenwich



**ANNUAL REPORT 2001**

**CHAIRMAN**

Cal OHerlihy

**OTHER DIRECTORS**

Patrick Burns  
Treasurer

Noel Bishop  
Vice Chair

Stephen Garland  
Secretary

Jimmy Doyle

Agnes Forde

Jim Kirby\*

Alice O'Connor\*

Breffni O'Rourke

Mary Twomey\*

\* Paperwork pending

**DIRECTORS REPORT TO AGM**  
**FROM CHAIR ON BEHALF OF THE MC**

At the last AGM I was able to report how our staffing had increased by having two extra full time workers. Anne Ryan, our Elders Outreach worker was funded by several organisations for one year while Sinead Lunney, our Advice and Advocacy worker was funded by Dion, in principle for three years. Furthermore we had commenced the Monday luncheon club at the Glyndon Centre. Our tasks for the coming year, thus, included ensuring that we carried out delivering excellent services in elders' outreach, advice and advocacy and providing an excellent luncheon club; it also required ensuring the continuation of the funding for Anne's post.

I am delighted to tell you that our efforts to retain Anne's post have been successful for another year due to funding from Dion and the City Parochial Charitable Trust. We will still have to seek funding for future years but I am confident that we will be successful. We achieved this funding, I believe, because of our work in two main ways. First and foremost, Anne developed the service quickly responding to those vulnerable people in need. Thus she visited immediately and assisted in seeking financial benefits (income support, council tax, housing and disability benefits) for some; negotiating with housing and medical services for others; and helping with issues such as debt problems, Irish pensions and so on for still others. Most importantly she helped link people back into the Irish community with either regular visiting or helping them attend the Monday luncheon club. (Some people received her help in more than one way)

The second way we developed the outreach service was to record Anne's work by detailed files and by the preparation of reports on her work. The interim report (by Paul O'Connell and Anne Ryan) looked at the first six months work by which time the caseload had reached 50; the final report (by Cal OHerlihy and Anne Ryan) looked at the full year's work on a caseload of 80. Copies of the interim report were sent to funders and enclosed with funding applications and, I am sure, helped raise our image. And played no small part in gaining this year's funding. At the suggestion of Cllr John Fahy, a high profile launch of the final report took place on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Along with John as chairman, the speakers included the Mayor of Greenwich, Cllr. Terry Malone, Maire McClusky, First Secretary the Irish Embassy and Mike Marriott, assistant director of Social Services at Greenwich Council. The main presentations were made by Gerry Leavey, Director of Research and Development at Barnet, Camden and Haringey Mental Health Trust and Cal OHerlihy on behalf of Irish in Greenwich. The presentations covered:

- Seven key facts about the bad health of the Irish-born in Britain
- A possible explanation of this state of affairs using research conducted in Haringey
- The results of Anne's work which included evidence of how she

increased the annual income of (some) clients by £32,000 in total.

- A video showing some of Anne's clients and their families which revealed how people got more Irish with age and benefited from contact with other Irish people.

About 80 people attended the seminar that was aimed at professionals dealing with elders in the boroughs of Greenwich, Bexley and Bromley. We feel that it will have raised awareness of the special problems facing the Irish-born amongst these people. We also hope that it will enable an Irish Social Care Forum to be established which will help us devise (fundable) programmes for new services to the Irish Community in Greenwich and Southeast London.

I now turn to the Monday luncheon club. This is open to all Irish elders and the regular attendance has risen from an average of just under 50 last autumn to about 60 now. While some belong to Anne's caseload of vulnerable and frail, most are fit and lively and on some occasions stagger me with their skill, speed and stamina on the dance floor. Special events like the Christmas lunch, St Patrick's Day and the official opening by the Mayor of Greenwich had attendance's closer to 100. Mary Twomey, a valued member of the Management Committee, leads the team of volunteers, who ensure that both the menus offered and delivered are mouth watering. The sessions are made enjoyable with raffles, singing, sometimes bingo and the music of Kevin Keys. Many people help to make it a success and I hope all their names are included in the credits to the seminar video, which we hope to show at the AGM. I also want to thank the Greenwich Irish Pensioners Association for their significant help.

Though given less space in this report, Sinead Lunney provided stalwart service in her role as Advice and Advocacy worker. Next year I hope we will be able to report the accreditation of the Irish in Greenwich to the new standard just established by the Government for voluntary organisations offering Advice and Advocacy services.

Inevitably there are changes in the faces that serve you. Paul O'Connell and Rebecca Farrell have moved on. Paul Fitzpatrick replaced Paul O'Connell as co-ordinator and joined us in August to face a baptism of fire helping organise the seminar. He responded well to the challenge with skill and enthusiasm and great things are expected of him. Rebecca's post is shortly to be filled.

We look forward to further expansion in 2002, developing partnerships and building capacity to serve the interests of the Irish Community in Greenwich. We are also helped by the fact that the Irish in Greenwich was recognised as a Charity this year.

Cal OHerlihy  
Chair—Irish in Greenwich

## STAFF

Paul Fitzpatrick  
Development  
Co-ordinator

Anne Ryan  
Elders Outreach  
Worker

Sinead Lunney  
Advice and Advocacy  
Worker

## REGISTERED OFFICE

24-24a Greens End  
Woolwich  
London  
SE18 6JY  
TEL: 020 8854  
4466/0465  
FAX: 020 8854 2992  
E - M A I L :  
irishigp@nascr.net

## BANKERS

Allied Irish Bank PLC  
209-211 Lewisham  
High Street  
London  
SE13 6LY

## VOLUNTEERS

The Irish in Greenwich would like to thank all of our magnificent volunteers.

## Principal Activities

The Irish in Greenwich is a registered charity (No. 108533) and a company limited by guarantee (No. 3890639), and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The Irish in Greenwich was established to meet the needs of the Irish Community in Greenwich and the surrounding areas.

## Description of Objects and Future Developments

The objects of the Irish in Greenwich were formally agreed at the Extraordinary General Meeting held in January as follows:

- (i) To carry out outreach work in homes of older and vulnerable members of the community;
- (ii) To provide a welfare benefits advice and advocacy service to members of the community;
- (iii) The provision of free legal advice and representation for members of the community;
- (iv) To campaign for the provision of new community services and the extension and development of existing services;
- (v) Working against anti-Irish and wider racism within the community through information, education and community participation and multi-agency working;
- (vi) The referral of members of the community to other voluntary and statutory organisations where appropriate;
- (vii) To lobby and carry out research and analysis of the Irish community in south-east London to assist in the equitable distribution of resources, and to best meet the needs of the Irish community in Greenwich and South East London;
- (viii) To support the activities of affiliate groups through capacity building, promotion and specialist advice.

The recent appointment of the new Development Co-ordinator has proved an appropriate juncture for the Irish in Greenwich to begin to review its internal systems, external relationships and the developing nature of the business activity. The result is that a strategic approach to business planning is to ensure the maintenance and development of the services currently on offer with an emphasis on improving quality and striving towards the Quality Mark from the Community Legal Service in the forthcoming year.

## FINANCE

The Accounts for the year ending April 2002 will be audited and submitted to Companies House and the Charities Commission. The Organisation has benefited from funding from The London Borough of Greenwich Social Inclusion Unit and Social Services. The Ireland Fund of Great Britain. The Dion Fund (Irish Government). Help the Aged, Age Concern and the City Parochial Foundation. We are grateful to all of these funders.

TIN WHISTLE & FLUTE CLASSES  
WITH SHEENA VALLELY

FOR BEGINNERS & INTERMEDIATE LEVELS



ALL AGES WELCOME

MONDAYS  
6.30pm-7.15pm  
7.15pm-8.00pm

AT WEST GREENWICH CENTRE  
(OR WHEREVER!!)

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT SHEENA DIRECT

TEL: 0208 525 9109 (OR WHATEVER!!)

OR THE IRISH IN GREENWICH



TEL: 020 8854 4466/0465 E-MAIL: [irishigp@nascr.net](mailto:irishigp@nascr.net)

# QUIZ NIGHT !!

8PM WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2001



THE BULL TAVERN - WOOLWICH

Spot Prizes  
Winners Prizes

£2.00 Entry

Minimum 2 per team Maximum 4



TEL: 020 8854 4466/0465 E-MAIL: [irishigp@nascr.net](mailto:irishigp@nascr.net)  
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