

THE IRISH CENTRE

SEPTEMBER 1968

News - Letter

DIARY

- Sat. 7th United Ireland Assoc. Dance.
- Thurs. 12th Save the West Assoc. Dance
- Sat. 14th Cork Assoc. Dance.
- Tues. 17th Council of Counties Meeting
- Thurs. 19th Portsmouth Irish Soc. Dance in aid of
The Irish Centre at Portsmouth.
- Sat. 21st Dance
- Thurs. 26th Charity Dance
- Sat. 28th Brent Irish Society Bacon & Cabbage Dinner &
Dance.

Bingo

Sunday, Wednesday, & Friday

Weekly T O T E Draw

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A question that we priests are often asked here at The Irish Centre, is "How do you stick it?" or "Do you not get fed up?" I will answer that in a typical Irish manner by asking you another. Did you ever help a blind person across the road? When you took that person across the busy street did you find all traffic stopped? But more important, didn't you get great satisfaction? Well its much the same here. When any one of us know we have really helped a deserving case its worth all the other kicks, setbacks and trouble. When, for instance, a small town like Swinford in the Co. Mayo, hold a Dance and raise £300 for the Centre; or when a big name like Bing Crosby takes time off to come and see us, and says "you're doing a super job" - well folks it is worth it all.

The Swinford effort was quite outstanding, and it was completely voluntary. A lot of effort was put into it and that was seen in the result. Moreover, they have decided to run this Dance every year on the 1st Wednesday of August. We thank those who pushed the idea, and we thank all who put it into practice.

Down in another small part of Ireland (even smaller than Swinford), Fr. Galloghly, Lavey, Co. Cavan, held another Dance for The Irish Centre. It was all part of his festival week. We will not know the result until he has all his bills paid, but the point is, he made the effort. The writer of this letter was there and it was great to see the amount of work they put into it.

Maybe in your part of Ireland you too could get something going.

Bing Crosby paid us a visit at The Irish Centre, and Father Hackett took him on a tour of the place. He was delighted with what he saw and heard. Now of course you are asking what is he going to do to help? Well at this point, all I can say is he will do something but until further notice we cannot say what exactly that will be.

Our new extension is not completed. It is taking a long time and lets hope it will be worth waiting for. It is all the small jobs that take time but before our next News-Letter we hope to be able to tell you it is opening. We believe the new room will add much to the comfort of everyone especially at week-ends.

It has been said that The Irish Centre "stock" All Ireland tickets. We want to inform you right away that we do not get any tickets here. It would seem that half the Irish population of London want to see this year's football final. So if you have tickets, all you have to do is come to The Irish Centre and you will sell them.

If and when you know of a good band it is always wise to let us know. The fact that you give us such information does not mean we can engage them because the price may not be within our reach, but we welcome all information we can get.

In the near future we are hoping to give the J.F. Kennedy Hall a face lift. The trouble about all these things is time and money. We, just as much as anyone could wish, want to make The Irish Centre "tops", but we have to satisfy the Bank Manager, as well as keeping all the ordinary things going. As a matter of interest, we now must pay £2,000 licence fee for the Bingo. Our Committee work very hard to make the Bingo pay, but unfortunately they have to make £2,000 before they even start! You will have to admit they do a wonderful job. We are a registered charity but in spite of that fact we have to pay this large sum because of the new law which is based on the rateable value of the premises.

Well friends, we hope you enjoyed your holidays. We hope you found all near and dear to you in the best of health and we trust that for the coming year we will have your support and the support of your friends.

God bless you all.

Down in another small part of Ireland (even smaller than Wicklow) the Gulloughs have, for many years, held another place on the Irish Centre. It was all part of his festival work. He will not know the result until he has all his bills paid, but the point is, he made the effort. The writer of this letter was there and it was great to see the amount of work that had been done. Maybe in your part of Ireland you could get something going. The Gulloughs paid us a visit at The Irish Centre, and Father Mahony took him on a tour of the place. He was delighted with what he saw and heard. Now of course you are asking what is he going to do to help? Well at this point all I can say is he will be something but until further notice we cannot say what exactly that will be. Our new extension is not completed. It is taking a long time and I hope it will be worth waiting for. It is all the small jobs that have to be done before our next New Year we hope to be able to tell you it is opening. We believe the new room will do much to the comfort of everyone who comes.