

THE IRISH CENTRE,
52, CAMDEN SQUARE,
N.W.I. - - - 485. 0051/2.

APRIL NEWSLETTER.

DIARY.

- 7th. Ballad session EASTER MONDAY.
10th. Parish Reunion Salshend, (Tipp)
12th. Tipperary Association Dance.
15th. Mountmellic Lavis Parish Reunion.
17th. Harrow Irish Society B/C Dinner and Dance.
19th. Cork Association.
22nd. Irish Centre Club A.G.M.
24th. Fermoy Parish Reunion.
26th. Sean Mc Dermot's Dinner and Dance.
29th. Killeshandra Parish Reunion.
- Ballads every Monday
Folk & Old time every Thursday.
Charity Walk 11th May.
Mayors Banquet Wed. 14th May. — Apply for tickets.
- MAUNDY THURSDAY Evening Mass 8p.m.
GOOD FRIDAY Liturgy 3 p.m.
Stations of the Cross 7 p.m.
HOLY SATURDAY Ceremonies at 11. 30. p.m.
Followed by Midnight Mass.
CONFESSIONS before all Services.
EASTER SUNDAY MASSES. 9. a.m. 11.a.m. & 6. 30p.m.

APRIL 1969

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As we write this News-Letter, the administrative committee have just held their A.G.M. This was a very well attended meeting, and for one of such importance, with so much ground to cover, it was conducted in a most constructive and professional manner. Mr. Dominic Donnelly was in the chair and he listened to all the proposals very patiently and sympathetically. Fr. Hackett gave a good account of the Centre's happenings for 1968. The new committee for 1969 was elected. Mr. Larry Arnold told us he was not going forward for re-election. Mr. Michael Casey, on behalf of the old and new members of the Centre, paid tribute to Mr. Arnold's dedication, zeal, devotion and loyalty, and proposed he be made a life-long Vice-President of the Irish Centre. Mr. Brian Duggan was another member not going forward. Brian has not been as long in the Centre as Mr. Arnold, but certainly his dedication and zeal have been no less great, a fact that has not been lost sight of, and indeed to do so would be almost sinful. Mr. Bobbie Graham will be known to you all too, and in the past everyone knew he could be relied upon to step into any emergency while keeping his own job going. He also could not go forward for re-election. To all three of these men, the Irish Centre owe more than they can ever pay, and we hope it will never be forgotten what they have done.

But the Centre must keep going; the work has to be continued. There is much to be attacked in the near future. Taking the place of the three men mentioned above are Luke O'Hara, (Mayo); Pat Hegarty, (Donegal); and Charlie Gallagher. Mr. Michael Casey is now on the executive. The Administrative Committee for the Irish Centre for 1969 is therefore:-

Mr. Dominic Donnelly	(Hon. Chairman - Outgoing)
Rev. Fr. Hackett	(Chaplain & Treasurer - Outgoing)
Mr. John Nee	(Hon. Secretary - Outgoing)

Dr. L. Morton, Mr. Michael Casey, Cllr. L.P. O'Connor, Rev. Fr. Ambrose Woods, Rev. Fr. A. Mulvihill, Rt. Rev. Canon Groves, Mr. J. Conway, Mr. T. O'Gorman, Mr. G. O'Flynn, Mr. M. Moroney, Mr. L. O'Hara, Mr. P. Hegarty, and Mr. C. Gallagher.

Mr. Donnelly told us that the next project to be undertaken is the Hostel. The Committee hope to acquire the adjoining property and build up-to-date hostel accommodation. This will cost in the region of £200,000, which is a lot of money by any standards. So you see, there will be no rest for anyone at the Irish Centre for many a long year.

On the 22nd April, the Social Club are holding their A.G.M. This is a very important meeting. It is at that meeting that every member for 1968 is expected to attend. There is not much use in criticising the Irish Centre to people who don't know whether you are right or wrong. The place to air your views is at the A.G.M., and perhaps when you hear an explanation of your criticism or question, you will be more satisfied. You are also entitled to cast your vote at this meeting. Remember when you vote for someone to be elected to the Club Committee, you are relying on that person to do a lot of work and even at times, a thankless job. So remember the date - 22nd April next.

In our last News-Letter I said there was a ticket application enc. for the Ballad Session on St. Patrick's Night. It is no secret now that the application form was not included, simply because, in the rush, I forgot all about it. However, very many people phoned and booked tickets nevertheless, and those who did not do so unfortunately found when they came on the night, they could not get in. I am sorry we had to disappoint some of you but we can only cater for the capacity of the Lounge. Those who booked, enjoyed the night - I honestly think we could have sold tickets on the black market on St. Pat's night.

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The Concert in the Royal Albert Hall was a great success. From the comments we've had since, we know that it was a very good and enjoyable night. Some people remarked on the empty seats in the Albert Hall, despite the 'Sold Out' notice we were giving to enquirers for last-minute tickets. Once again, let us explain that these seats are not released by the Albert Hall, as they are privately owned and all the tickets available to us were actually sold. Those of you who were present will have seen the Boys Band perform, and the audience was very pleased with them. Even though the band is now airborne, there is much to be done to make it into a first-class one, and that will take time and money. Please God we will arrive at that stage soon. The Mayor of Camden is holding his official Reception for the Lord Mayor of London next Saturday (29th March), and has insisted that our Boys Band be there to play for this occasion. Not only is this the only boy's brass band in Camden, it is the only one in London.

Every once in a while one gets the urge to set out on a campaign to raise money. This urge can stem from any one of a number of factors. More often than not it starts from something very simple like talking over a drink to very sincere people. But once the project is set in motion, one finds that the fuel of sincerity dies down very quickly and one either has to have recourse to pushing and shoving, or just simply sit there and look at it as another breakdown. This is what happened to our weekly draw. The writer of this letter was one person who thought there were enough people interested enough to take up the weekly draw and work hard for it. But it fell through for the want of support. At the A.G.M., Fr. Hackett spoke about Bankers' Orders. Now I can recall him speaking about this last year, but very little came of it. But honestly - why not get together and join in unity. Can you take a Bankers' Order? Can you get ten of your friends to take Bankers' Orders? Can even 50% of the Irish in London take Bankers' Orders and help the Irish Centre Welfare Fund? You know it all sounds so simple; it even sounds a marvellous idea. If you CAN do it, then you are doing an act of real charity.

Another project being undertaken is a CHARITY WALK on May 11th. Such Walks are taking place all around us. Be a Walker! Be a Sponsor! Get your friends in on it. Make this Walk a success. Go to the trouble of writing in to the Irish Centre and giving your word of honour either to take a Bankers' Order or Sponsor a Walker - or both.

The Ballad Sessions on Monday nights have proved a great success. All who have come to hear the music have enjoyed it, but more important still, they have got wonderful satisfaction from the beautiful atmosphere that prevails in the Douglas Hyde Lounge on these occasions. We have also started Thursday night Sessions with folk and old-time music, and this is becoming more popular every week. If and when you have time on your hands on either Monday or Thursday nights, come along to the Douglas Hyde Lounge and be assured that not only will you be more than welcome, but that you will enjoy yourself to the full, and indeed want to come back.

We wish you all the joys and blessings of Easter.

Rev. P. Sheridan, O.M.I.