

DIARY - NEWS-LETTER

JUNE 1969

Sun.	1st.	Carlow Association - A.G.M.
Thurs.	5th.	Kilrush C.B.S. - Dance.
Sat.	7th.	Tipperary C.B.S. - Dance.
Tues.	10th.	Killeslandra Parish Reunion (Cavan)
Thurs.	12th.	Crean School of Dancing - Dinner & Dance.
Sat.	14th.	Federation of Irish Societies - Congress & Dance
Sun.	15th.	Save West - A.G.M.
Tues.	17th.	Benefit Dance - (Clare)
Thurs.	19th.	Eden Grove Parish - Dance.
Sat.	21st.	Monaghan - Dance.
Tues.	24th.	Benefit Dance - (Cork)
Wed.	25th.	Public Meeting United Ireland Association.
Thurs.	26th.	Athlone Parish Reunion - Dance.
Sat.	28th.	Armagh Fermanagh & Derry Association - Dance.

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Irish Song & Dance.....	Every Monday
Country & Western.....	Every Thursday
Bingo .....	Every Wed, Fri & Sun.

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10<sup>th</sup> OCT - 30<sup>th</sup> OCT.

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JUNE 1969.

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The month of May has been quite an eventful one. Early in the month we had our first ever Charity Walk. Then there was the official opening of the North London Branch of Comhaltas. We had the Mayors Banquet; the Wembley Games- which meant our annual Flag Day Collection; and of course we were all very busy for the holiday week-end. So all things being considered it was a hectic few weeks and we might add too, quite a baptism for our new club committee. There were several people who wanted it made known how pleased they were with the club committee for the interest they showed in the collectors at Wembley. We want to support that word of praise and we wish to put on record our appreciation of the work done by our collectors and club committee. Well done everybody and thank you one and all.

Our first Charity Walk was a great success. If we want to measure that success in terms of money then it was just wonderful. All the money is not collected yet but we think it will not be too far short of 1,000. If one wants to measure its success in terms of enthusiasm then it was 100% successful. One can look at the Charity Walk from the angle of enjoyment, interest, or any other way but no matter how one views it, as a first effort it was the greatest experience I have had since I came here and everyone has nothing but the highest praise for the whole performance. In a venture of this kind there are so many people to thank. We wish to thank with all our hearts the 120 Walkers, the many Sponsors; the Marshals who generously gave their whole day to patrolling the walk in their cars. It was remarked that some of the marshals were more tired than the walkers and also thank God for the beautiful weather and especially for keeping us all safe.

The Mayors Banquet was its usual success. The meal was beautiful, the speeches were sensible and good and the atmosphere was great. What more would you ask for? Fr. Hackett thanked the Camden Borough for their help ever since the Irish Centre came into being. He said too that as well as we appreciating the Borough of Camden they in turn must appreciate the work done by the Irish Centre. They have shown their appreciation by increasing their grant every year. One Councillor then told us that there was no doubt in the minds of his colleagues as to the good work done by the Centre and moreover he would guarantee that if the Irish Government were to give a healthy donation to the Welfare fund, Camden would raise their grant in proportion. This whole debate about the Irish Government giving help reminds me of the poor beggar on the roadside and all the different professionals passed him by until in the end the good Samaritan came along. The Samaritan was a foreigner and a stranger and yet he was the only one to do the charitable and positive act. Maybe all our own, will pass us by and perhaps the stranger will be the one who will pick us up. In the meantime we will have to doctor our own sores and limp along the highway- in a word "the show must go on."

Talking about shows, we had the opening of our branch of Comhaltas by Mr. Kevin Rush this month also. What a rocking success. The place was packed; the music was superb and the buffet prepared by Mrs Hopkins and Mrs Cafferkey was just the job. Finbar Dwyer, our Chairman, opened the night with a cead mile failte. Dominic Donnelly on behalf of the Irish Centre welcomed the Branch to the Douglas Hyde Lounge. Johnny Hynes spoke on behalf of the Comhaltas. Mr. Rush declared the North London Branch officially opened. Next session in 4th June, followed by 18th June. It takes place every second Wednesday.

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The Irish Club held a Wine and Cheese Party during the month, in aid of the Irish Centre Welfare Fund, which was very well attended, and a splendend social night. While Kathleen O'Connor made grand background Irish music, members of the Irish Club and the Irish Centre mingled and exchanged news. Fr. Malone thanked everyone and then he and the helpers distributed our leaflets. The results of this effort will be known next month.

Our grateful thanks to all who helped at the Wembley Games collection. Our thanks too, to the G.A.A. for giving us this day. This was the first year that there were other collectors from other organisations but dispite that we did quite well (I76.0.0.) We even had girls from France, Italy, Hong Kong, Malaya and Barbados collecting this year.

The holiday week-end was hectic. Brendan as many of you will know, is on crutches these days and he was missed behind the bar. But while saying that, we must add that all the bar staff and waitresses did a great job. It was tough going. Those of you at the Ballad Session on Whit Monday will agree that Seamus Cullen was a most wonderful singer. Please God we will have him again and I know there are many looking forward to hearing him.

On Saturday night we were hosts to Birmingham and Rugby Irish Clubs and we enjoyed their company.

On the night of the England v Scotland match we had a visit from a group of Leeds people including Jackie Charlton whom I understand became a member.

From now on our members will be either going on holiday or thinking about them. We can hardly expect last years weather to come again this year. But whatever about the weather. We wish you a very happy holiday. We hope you find all belonging to you very well and happy. We thank you for your support all along and hope for that same support when you return.

The next big event is the Autumn Fair on the 20th September.

Rev. P. Sheridan O.M.I.