

THE IRISH CENTRE

LONDON

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NEWS - LETTER

SEPTEMBER 1969

D I A R Y

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- Sat. 6th Brent Irish Society
- Fri. 12th CHARITY SHOW - Fortune Theatre, RELIEF FUND
- Sat. 13th Cork Association
- Tues. 16th Benefit Dance - Missions
- Sat. 20th GARDEN FETE - Regent Rooms, Camden Town.
(evening) DANCE - Clare Association
- Sat. 27th Kerry Association

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The Centre will be holding a series of events for the people of Northern Ireland. The Centre has been working and continues to work in. Everyone who has been affected on the I.R.A. but as one who has been to the I.R.A. falls very seriously, I can say the I.R.A. is not, and will not, be the final picture. One thing is certain, and that is to replace the I.R.A. The facts are there to be seen but the important fact is the spirit that prevails in Derry and Belfast. It comes with suspicion, fear and hatred, and a society that tries to build itself on such a shaky ground cannot stand.

There is no chance of the Catholics of Northern Ireland ever accepting the B special's again. They were given a 10-year chance and in that time there has been no improvement. The B's will be there. It is difficult for outsiders to see the situation, but we do hope that Westminster will speed the B's so that they can continue their work. It is a pity that in 1969, when I have spent the first 1000 pages and that will mean that very important things will be done.

The Centre has received the aid of the people of the County of Londonderry. It was \$5000 and it was a very important aid. It was received in a very timely way and it was very important.

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By the time this letter reaches you, most of you will have returned from a well earned holiday. That will simply mean that the free and easy life will have ended and that reality will be staring you in the face. The clock might as well have never been invented at holiday time, but now it takes it's place in society again as an essential nuisance. And now that thought brings me to reminding you of times and venues to be remembered.

We have to get down to the business of running our GARDEN FETE at The Regent Rooms, Camden Town, on SEPTEMBER 20th. We need your co-operation in every possible way. If you have anything that can make a few shillings then we will be only too glad to accept it! If you know of any toy store - or any kind of store - that would like to give some of their goods to a charity, then put in your "spake" and we will collect it. Please do help. We need your generosity; we need your help; we rely on your co-operation; we bank on your charity....

In a short time you will see many of the big stores taking on a Christmas look. At this stage, we would remind you that there will be Christmas Cards on sale here at the Centre. People were very pleased with them last year, and I'm sure will be even more so this time. Do think of us therefore, when you start thinking of Christmas Cards.

I often thought when writing this News-Letter that it was a bit "Irish", and that our English friends might find they had not much interest in it. Well, you know it is The IRISH Centre, and we are a very patriotic race. Moreover, these days, trying not only to help our Irish immigrants but also our Irish friends home in Derry and Belfast, we are becoming more Irish than ever. The Centre here has been chosen as headquarters for the Relief Fund of the people of Northern Ireland. The response has been excellent and continues to come in. Everyone will have seen extracts on the T.V., but as one who has been to Bogside and Falls very recently, I can say the T.V. has not, and cannot give the full picture. One thing a camera cannot do is capture an atmosphere. The facts are there to be seen but more important than that is the spirit that prevails in Derry and Belfast. It oozes with suspicion, fear and hatred. Any society that tries to build itself on such an atmosphere cannot stand. There is no chance of the Catholics of Northern Ireland ever accepting the B specials again. They were given given a 50-year chance and in that time there has been no improvement so now the boil has burst. It is difficult for outsiders to get the honest truth, but we all hope that Westminster will unveil the facts and then that positive action will be taken. Unless this is done, then I'm afraid the fight will go on and that will mean that many innocent victims will suffer.

Early in August we received the sad news of the death of Lord Longford's daughter. It came about in a tragic manner in a road accident. We all associate in sympathising with the Longford Family in their very sad bereavement.

Finally, on Friday next the 12th September, there will be a Late-Night Matinee commencing at 11-15 p.m., at The Fortune Theatre, London, in aid of The Relief Fund for the victims of Northern Ireland. This show is presented by The Park Theatre Company, under the direction of John Neville, (by arrangement with Oscar Lewenst ein Plays Ltd), and is a performance of:-

Brian Friel's

"LOVERS"

2 Irish Plays entitled "Winners" & "Losers"

with

Joe Lynch
Ruth Durley
Anna Manahan
Eamon Morrissey
Fidelma Murphy
Mairin D. O'Sullivan

directed by

Hilton Edwards.

All seats are bookable from The Fortune Theatre
Box-Office - Tel. No. TEM 2238
FORTUNE THEATRE, Russell Street, W.C.2.

Special Charity Prices

STALLS £2.2.0., £1.10.0. £1.1.0.

DRESS CIRCLE: £2.2.0., £1.10.0. £1.1.0.

UPPER CIRCLE: 12/6d.

We hope this show will be well supported in view of the kind gesture of the management and artists putting this at the disposal of the Relief Fund sponsored by The Council of The Irish Centre.

God bless you all,

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