

DIARY - JUNE - 1970

Tuesday	2nd	Abbeyfeale Parish Re-Union Quiz : Clare -v- Monaghan
Wednesday	3rd	Comhaltas.
Friday	5th	Donegal Charity Dance.
Saturday	6th	Monaghan Dinner-Dance.
Tuesday	9th	Donegal Assoc. Benefit Dance.
Thursday	11th	Kilnamartyra Re-Union.
Saturday	13th	Galway Assoc.
Tuesday	16th	Council of Counties Meeting.
Wednesday	17th	Comhaltas.
Thursday	18th	Eden Grove Dance. Sean McDermott's A.G.M.
Saturday	20th	Kilrush C.B.S.
Thursday	25th	Benefit Dance (Mrs. Wagstaff)
Saturday	27th	Tipperary C.B.S.
<u>First Week of July</u>		
Thursday	2nd	Geraldine's Football Club Victory Dance.
Friday	3rd	Donegal Assoc. Benefit Dance.
Saturday	4th	United Ireland

Bingo - Wed. Fri. & Sun.

Ballad Sessions - every Monday.

Song & music in Douglas Hyde Lounge - every Sat.

Music Lessons in Douglas Hyde Lounge every Sun. afternoon.

NEWSLETTER

There are a few bible stories that have always impressed more than others. One of these is about the widow's mite. What went through the widow's mind at the time is not known, but we can certainly surmise. For one thing, she was a widow. And more than likely she was on her way to ask God to help her carry her cross. In spite of her great loss she had faith enough to give in her subscription, which she was giving to God. Our Lord was impressed and He remarked on that good woman's faith and goodness.

We can see her enter that synagogue with a purpose. We can picture her sad countenance and yet her happy disposition. We can visualize the scene. She opens her purse, and indeed if that purse could talk as it gaped open mouthed, it probably would, at that moment, be so stunned it would not have been able to speak. It was her last and only mite.

After May 17th here at The Irish Centre, I have seen people standing open mouthed when they discovered that the one they sponsored walked the full 30 miles. They could see that the purse was going to be pretty low. But, like the widow, they were brave enough to give and consoled themselves with the fact that it was going to a good cause.

Yes, the walk you heard so much about has taken place. To the walkers, we express our deep and sincere gratitude. To the sponsors, we express the same. To the helpers and organisers we say, with all our hearts, a big thank you.

The walk was a great success. Financially it took in just over £3,000. At least it will do so when all the money is collected. That, by any man's standard, is wonderful. It all goes to show - where there is unity and determination - then there is always a great result.

Socially, it was a magnificent day. While we admit there was a bit of a mix-up before we set out, which was easily sorted out, the whole atmosphere was perfect. One could sense the spirit of achievement, the unity of purpose, the good Samaritan charity, the eagerness to get on with it and the joy there was in doing it.

For myself, as I gradually left the long miles behind me and came closer to the Douglas Hyde Lounge, where I knew there would be a cup of hot tea, I thought to myself that I must be like many another foot-weary soul, who had made his or her weary way to the same Irish Centre, where he or she found a welcome haven. And, after all, isn't that what it was all about. We walked for the welfare of our brothers and sisters. We wanted to help. We did our bit. To you fellow walkers - God Bless you and to you marshals - may God look kindly on you for your encouragement.

When we get all the cards returned with everyone's name and address we can then arrange a big walkers' night here at The Irish Centre. If you are one of those walkers, then you will collect from your sponsors and we can arrange a 'night' at The Irish Centre in the near future.

On 12th May we had the Mayor's Banquet. This year, as in the past, was most enjoyable. It is always a very proud evening for the Irish Centre to have the first citizen of our borough with us. There were many other important people there and if they enjoyed their visit to the Irish Centre half as much as we enjoyed their company, then they certainly had a delightful evening.

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One person I must mention from that very important gathering is Alderman Mrs. Kellat, Chairman of the Camden Borough Welfare Committee. This good lady is a very busy person. On hearing about the walk she simply asked for a card and went to all the people there and got them to sponsor her. Very quickly she filled her card. Not only that, but she walked every inch of the 30 miles. No one who has had the pleasure of meeting this very charming lady will mind my singling her out. We all felt honoured to have her on the walk.

As you know, there are always very few tickets available for the Mayor's Banquet because of the simple fact that it's mostly made up of members of both Centre Committees and, of course, the representatives from the various Borough Committees. My reason for mentioning this is that some of you may be disappointed that you were not able to get tickets. It is hateful to have to leave someone out or not to be able to take in everyone. But that is what often happens. It's a case of two into one won't go.

Those of you who were at the Wembley Games this year will know that the Irish Centre had a flag day there. The G.A.A. are always good enough to give this great opportunity to The Irish Centre. Many of the bankers and others came along to help us make the collection. To the G.A.A., we express our grateful thanks; to the collectors, we also express our very sincere thanks and also, of course, to the helpers.

On Friday night at the State Theatre in Kilburn, we had a late night showing of that great Irish film "The Playboy of the Western World." This was a first effort of this kind and it proved successful. Mr. Brian Desmond Hurst, who produced this film offered it to us some weeks ago. He was very enthusiastic to get it on the London screen, and we were equally delighted to be the ones chosen to put it on. We are most grateful to Mr. Hurst and Siobhan McKenna. The latter appeared in person. Again, our grateful thanks to all.

I often think that the one aspect of the image of the Irish Centre is that they are always asking for something. While I agree there are always being demands made on people, I must also say that there is a fund of goodwill on the part of very many, and it is only right that those people should be given the opportunity to help. One of the bodies always wanting to help is the Irish County Association. This year, they have set themselves a target of £1,000 for the Centre. To help them reach that target, they have organised a Summer Fair at the Gresham Ballroom for the 11th July. This is an excellent date to choose as it is the feast of Blessed Oliver Plunkett, Patron of The Irish Centre. So, whichever County you hail from, rally round that county and give what you can to their stall at this Summer Fair. We feel certain the counties will do very well. We at the Centre will do all in our power to help everyone, and we will have a stall of our own. The date is July 11th.

Many of you will soon be off on holidays and we hope you have a very happy one. Let's hope the weather is good. That bit of sun is so important to those of you who take your children over. Above all, we hope you find the folks in good health.

God Bless You All

Fr. P. Sheridan, O.M.I.