

CEAD MILE FAILTE

Newsletter

52 Camden Square-London N.W.1

TELEPHONE: 485 0051/2

DIARY

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APRIL	
Thurs. 8th	Carlow Association Dance.
Sat. 10th	Tipperary Association B & C.
Mon. 12th	Dance - Kentish Town Parish Welfare.
Tues. 13th	Council of Irish County Associations Meeting.
Thurs. 15th	Ex Servicemen's Dance.
Sat. 17th	Naas Parish Reunion
April Nickey	Dance and Buffet.
Sun. 18th	Westmeath Association A.G.M.
Tues. 20th	Knocklong Parish Reunion.
Thurs. 22th	Killenaule Parish Reunion.
Sat. 24th	Kilkenny Association Dinner & Dance.
	Welfare Congress - Federation of Irish Societies.
Sun. 25th	Dublin Association. A.G.M.
Tues. 27th	Sean McDermott's Card Drive.
Thurs. 29th	Allenwood Parish Reunion.
Fri. 30th	Cork Association - Social & Dance.

MAY

Sat.	lst	Cavan Association.
Tues.	4th	Kingscourt Parish Reunion.
Thurs.	6th	Benefit Dance - Burke.
Sat.	8th	Monaghan Association Dinner & Dance.
Sun.	9th	Southern Regional Congress.

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1971.

It is so long since you had a letter from the Centre, that I dont know where to start. I left off writing after the Postal Strike until now for the simple reason that I was not 100% fit. When one is ill there is a danger of you getting a sick note instead of newsy letter. There is enough misery in the world without me heaping my problems on top of you. As I say I don't know where to start. A good note to begin with is to say that the Concert at the Royal Albert Hall was a big success. Many people rang up especially to say how much they enjoyed it. The concert at the Royal Albert Hall is a difficult programme to balance. This year we seem to have hit the jackpot. Of course with Joe Lynch as captain of the side one is certain of good material and continuity. All the artists were excellent. The audience at our annual Concert must be the best in the land. Not only do they come to support the Irish Centre but they also come to enjoy themselves. This is what creates the lovely atmosphere at the Albert Hall Concert. Thank you for your support and please God we will have as good next year, if not better.

On the day following the Concert you will remember the parade. We congratulate the committee who worked so well to make the parade such a success. One point of interest which I found touching! Blessed Oliver Plunkett was the last man to be martyred at Tyburn. He was an Irish man This was the first time that Mass was ever offered in Hyde Park. And where was the Holy Sacrifice offered? In the shadow of Tyburn. Who were responsible for bringing the Holy Sacrifice into Hyde Park? The Irish of course. This was indeed a historic occasion and a proud one for us all. It was also a proud one for me too since the Irish Centre is called Blessed Oliver Plunkett House and I was amoung the priests who concelebrated. Yes - a historic occasion and a memorable day. Heartiest congratulations to all the committee of the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Another very successful function was the Club Dinner and Dance. It was an outstanding Social occasion. The band was excellent, the meal was tops, the crowd were terrific, and above all the speeches were short. Lets hope this is an annual occasion.

The Irish Centre has a great warm atmosphere. People like coming here. The one thing we lack is a little bit of finance. In time we hope to cure this void. It will take time and money. As you know the hierarchy of Ireland have held a National collection. The target was £200,000. The details of the complete collection are not known yet but certainly from reports it has been an outstanding success. In almost everywhere it has exceeded any collection ever held. What our slice will be we do not know yet but whatever it is it will be both welcome and useful. We owe a great lot to the Bishop's and Priests of Ireland for all they have done. We are especially indebted to Bishop Eamon Casey. God Bless them all.

Perhaps we on this side could get down to the job of fund raising and get the Irish Centre well established. We could really make this a wonderful place. Have a think about it.

We had an awful let down on St. Patrick's night. When a band does not turn up for a dance it is most embarrassing, but when they don't turn up on a St. Patrick's night it is shocking. We booked this particular band for two nights. They did turn up for the first occasion. They were here at the Centre on the Saturday night previous to 17th March, but not a word from them on St. Patrick's night. When I contacted them on the following morning the only excuse was they were playing for a "friend". We could do nothing about it as there was no contract signed. The members were for the most part very considerate - naturally they were disappointed. Can you imagine our embarrassment? I need hardly mention that we will not be booking this band anymore and if you want to know who they were then I will let you know if you ring 485 - 0051.

Those of you who were at the Albert Hall will have seen the

Boy's Band uniform. It is made from Irish Tweed, the colour is St. Patrick's blue, and the style is Gards Siochana. All who have seen it are more than pleased with it. We are going to extend the band. We will put girls into it and also we will include a wider variety of instruments. It will probably turn out to be brass and reed. I believe there are many parents who would like to have their daughters in this kind of band. So if you are one who would be interested please contact us, we have band practice on Sunday afternooms.

A big welcome to all our new members. We hope you will enjoy the facilities of the Irish Centre.

INMEMORIUM

Mr. P. Sheridan - Fr. Sheridan's Father.

Mrs. T. Fanning - Fr. Fanning's Mother.

Mr. Doyle - Mr. P. Keegan's Uncle.

Mr. Keegan - Mr. P. Keegan's Father.

Mr. Joe Brennan - Mr. B. Brennan's Brother.

Mrs. Mary Hopkins nephew.

Every good wish.

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