

Issue 10

October 2003

FREE

IRISH IN LEEDS

PUBLISHED BY LEEDS IRISH HEALTH AND HOMES



MOVING TIMES FOR LEEDS IRISH HEALTH & HOMES

Leeds Irish Health & Homes have exciting news for this edition. We have moved to new offices in order to accommodate the increasing number of staff we now have working for the service and the benefit of the Irish community.

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the Winter edition of 'Irish in Leeds'. As you can see the Irish community has been busy again over the last 3 months. We are delighted to see this edition reach 12 pages.

The Irish community is one of the most active and vibrant communities in Leeds so it is important for you to let me know of any up and coming events, celebrations or items of news that you have.

So if you have any suggestions, questions or articles that you would like to see printed please drop us a line at :

Unit 5 Gemini Park
Sheepscar Way
Leeds
LS7 3JB
Email:
anna@lihh.org

Hope you enjoy reading!

Anna Dunne



With the recent recruitment of a new Housing Support Worker, a Community Development Worker and a Community Outreach Worker this has taken LIHH's staff team to 15. The necessity for new offices has led us to Gemini Park near Sheepscar junction. The offices are modern and spacious and allow us to provide the one-to-one service we are proud of.

We moved in on 30th September and have been settling in since. Our doors are open from 9am-5pm Monday to Friday so why not pop in to have a look around, pick up some information and have a chat.

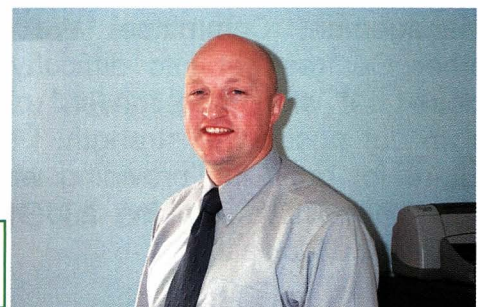
Our new contact details are:

**Leeds Irish Health & Homes
Unit 5, Gemini Park, Sheepscar Way, Leeds, LS7 3JB**

**Tel: 0113 262 5614
Fax: 0113 284 9040**

**Email: info@lihh.org
Website: www.lihh.org**

**Left: Ant Hanlon,
Director, Leeds Irish Health & Homes**



A WORD FROM THE CHAIR OF LEEDS IRISH CENTRE

Leeds Irish Centre, surely one of the finest Irish Centres in the land. I have frequented the Club, as I call it, since my teenage years and probably take it for granted. Other places I used to frequent over the years have come and gone, but the Club has stood the test of time. But take it for granted we must not. In a world that is constantly changing we must keep up with the times and trends and this the club has done well.

One of the main reasons for success, I believe, is the community of front line staff. One has been there since the place opened; others shortly after, so when you visit the Club at any time of the day or night a friendly face is always there to have the craic and beer with. The Club also hires many part time staff due to its diversity of functions, and soon they too inherit the friendly Irish ways, a credit to their selector and mentors.

As I said in my address to the members at this year's Annual General Meeting, I think we have reached one of those major transition periods now. It has always been the case that if you do not continually change to match or exceed the performance of your competitors then you face extinction. I think now the pressure for change has reached unprecedented levels. One of the main reasons for this is the speed of change in technology and the continuing success of the Irish economy. The speed is fast.

The tide of emigration from Ireland has changed, and now we are witnessing the ebb tide but we must not let our resolve and commitment ebb. This is a totally new experience we have to deal with as a Management Committee. We have seen other Centres get into difficulty and some close, but with good forward planning and from our position of strength, I see a bright future for our Club providing we do not let sentiment dull our vision and we have the courage to tackle it.

As a management team, we are aware of this. We accept and understand that change will not occur naturally by itself, but has to be managed and I am sure this shall be dealt with efficiently and affectively.

The Club deals with every celebration from the cradle to the grave, whether it is the christening of a new born baby, to the celebration of a life just ended. Events can be so diverse that on rare occasions some decisions have to be made on the hoof at very short notice by the senior staff, which can be very difficult and can affect other planned venues. This, if not dealt with professionally and sensitively, can result in distress and cause a lot of negative conversation. Our staffs deal with this type of situation effectively 99% of the time which no one hears about.

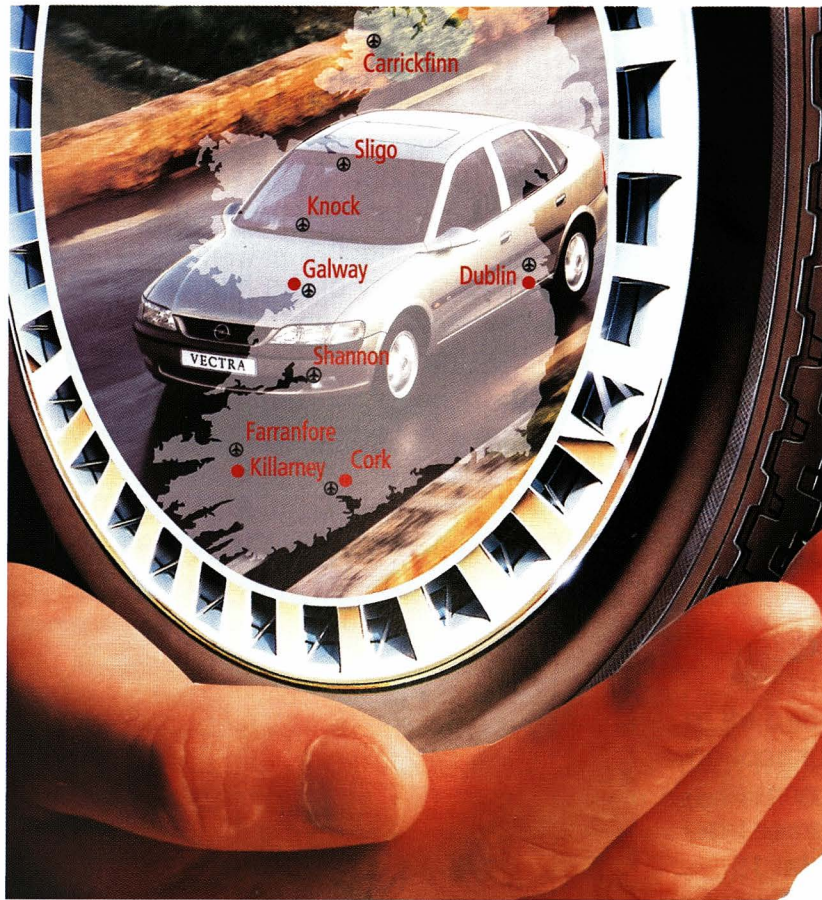
I am a great believer in staff development, as this keeps your staff on a level playing field with your competitors. The Management Committee and staff are committed to providing a high standard of service to our members and their guests. In our staff development programme, Customer Care, Modern Management, Health And Safety and ICT courses among others, are high on our priority list and some will commence at the beginning of the academic year.

When I became Chairman one of the promises I made to you, the members, was a more transparent and open system of operation, which hopefully will quell any inaccurate rumours. One of the new ways of achieving this will be through our new website which will be launched in the New Year. I will expand on this in the next newsletter.

I would also like to take this opportunity on behalf of everyone at the Club to congratulate Leeds Irish Health and Homes on the launch of their website.

James Gavaghan.
J.gavaghan@btopenworld.com
Chairman, Leeds Irish Centre





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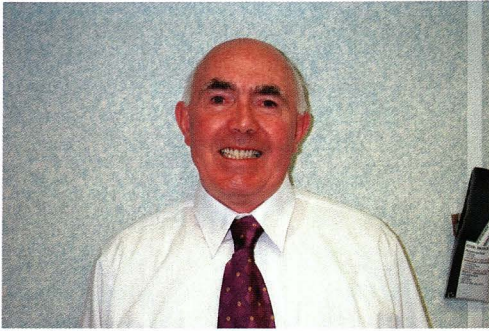
Advertise in the next issue of our newsletter

Contact Anna Dunne on 0113 262 5614
to book your space today

£60 per half page (colour)
£30 per quarter page (colour)

Copy deadline for January issue is Friday January 9th 2004.

Please email your advert to Anna Dunne at anna@lihh.org



NAME: Richard Conway

SCHEME NAME:
Davitt House

ESTABLISHED: March 1993

WHY: To reach out to those Irish people who may have felt isolated. To share in a family atmosphere in an Irish environment, and yet retain their independence.

HIGHLIGHTS: The visit of the President of Ireland, Mary Robinson on 9 March 1993 which co-incided with the 150th anniversary of Michael Davitt.

FRUSTRATIONS: With the introduction of 'Supporting People' it has become even more important to try and ensure a full occupancy most of the time in the rooms available. We currently have 1 room available and hope that someone will come forward soon to fill this space in our home.

HOPES FOR THE FUTURE: Now, with the benefit of being under Leeds Irish Health & Homes management, I hope that this ensures the future of Davitt House for the benefit of the Irish community.

CONTACT DETAILS:
Richard Conway, Davitt House, 36
Headingley Lane, Leeds, LS6

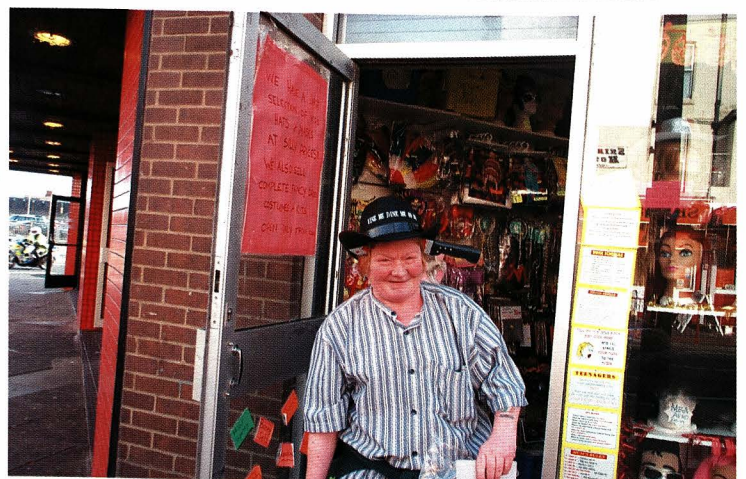
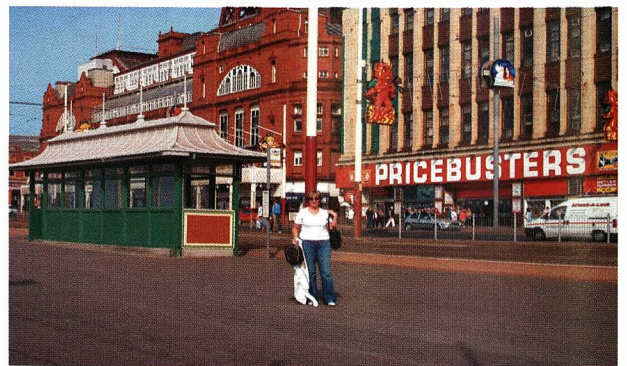
PHONE: 0113 230 6084

WEBSITE SUCCESS—www.lihh.org beats anticipated number of hits

After the launch of LIHH's website on 1st August we are delighted to report that we have had 5,515 hits. This is a phenomenal amount in such a short space of time but shows how important the information we are providing about the Irish community is. Many of the hits have come from other recognised sites such as Leeds Social Services and other support agencies throughout Leeds and the UK. Log on to www.lihh.org to keep up to-date with all our news. Remember you can also email any questions you have about our service on line.

SUMMER TRIP TO BLACKPOOL

In September our clients headed off to Blackpool on the annual summer trip. In total 15 clients went on the day and the weather held up as one of the best days in September. There were a few dares for all of them to ride 'The Big One' but I think most of them settled for a nice stroll along the promenade and a cup of tea.



DAVITT HOUSE TRUST SEEKS SUPPORT FROM LEEDS IRISH HEALTH & HOMES

As people may be aware, there have been changes occurring at Davitt House recently. Davitt House is a small residential unit in Headingley for 6 older Irish people offering an alternative to isolation and loneliness. Staffed by a resident House Manager, Richard Conway, it is now in its 10th year of providing an excellent service to its residents.



Since 1999, the Government, Local Authorities and Housing Agencies have been working towards a change in the way that supported housing services are delivered. This new legislation known as 'Supporting People' has had wide-reaching implications for resources such as Davitt House as it brings with it stringent rules and regulations which if not adhered to could threaten its continued existence. Organisations such as LIHH, which have dedicated staff working in this field are being taxed by its demands, but agencies such as the Davitt House Trust would have found it impossible to operate within its existing resources.

Its Directors therefore took the decision to ask LIHH if they would manage it on their behalf to ensure that Davitt House continued its valued service. Ant Hanlon, Director of LIHH highlighted, "The Irish community in Leeds were very involved in the setting up of Davitt House as they recognised too many of their older members were in isolated positions without regular contact. This valuable resource has been kept going through the dedication and tireless efforts of its current Directors and Richard Conway, but we know that it could not have continued in its present state for much longer". The fear was that if the Trust and LIHH had not acted quickly, the service could have been put out to tender and this could have meant an organisation taking over which was not particularly sensitive to the cultural needs of Irish people.

In fully endorsing this statement the Directors of Davitt House Trust recognise the difficulties inherent in changes like this; misinformation and rumour which abound, but we are all determined to ensure continuation of service to those people that need it. Our plans are to consult with the current and future residents to ensure the longevity of this important resource and secure it as a place where members of the Irish community would want members of their family to go for security and stability as they get older.

LEEDS IRISH HEALTH AND HOMES

OVER 55'S ACCOMODATION 1 ROOM AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY IN DAVITT HOUSE, HEADINGLEY LANE

Davitt House is a mixed residential house with 6 individual bed sits available, a communal dining room and large garden. There is currently 1 room available for Irish people over 55 who would like to move into this accommodation. Individuals must be able to live independently but also have support needs.

If you are interested in finding out more about this accommodation or would like to refer yourself or a client please contact

Mary Baillie, Support Services Manager on

Phone: 0113 240 1130 Fax: 0113 240 1340 Email: mary@lihh.org

TAKE ME BACK TO MAYO....WELL SLIGO THEN!

It had been two years since LIHH had been able to take some clients back to Ireland on holiday. The feedback from that holiday had been so positive that we made it our mission to try and arrange it again. This year in September, 5 of our clients set off at 6am in the morning for their flight to Knock. After this early start a few of the holiday-makers met relatives at the airport in Knock and then we made our way to the holiday cottages in Grange, Sligo.

These holiday cottages had been kindly donated by **Brody Sweeney, Chief Executive of O'Briens Sandwich bars**—two of these sandwich bars are based in Leeds city centre. I think this is a good opportunity to express our thanks to Brody for his hospitality. The cottages were lovely and everyone in the group felt the standard of accommodation led to an amazing break away from Leeds back in their home country.

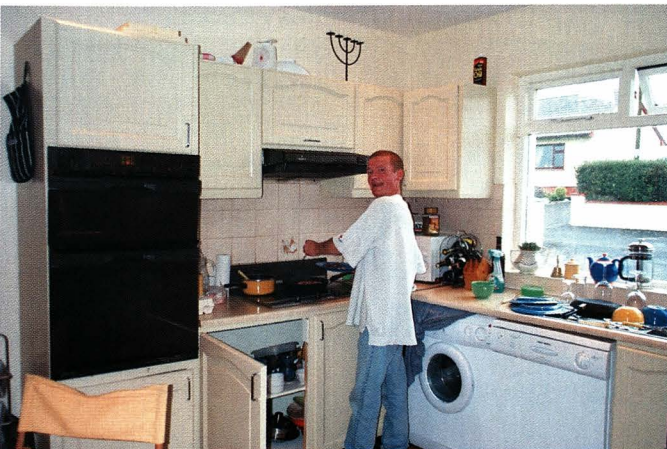
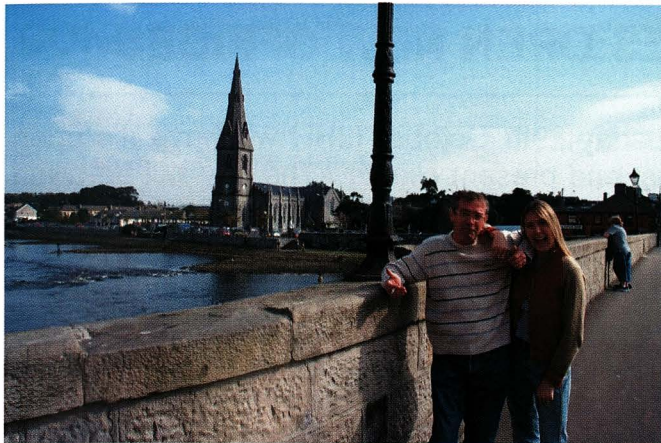
The rest of the holiday involved plenty of good food especially Noel's cooked breakfast and a few trips to the local pub. Other places the group visited included the beautiful Enniscrone beach, Charlestown, Ashford Castle, Knock, Mullagh Moor and Bundoran.

We hope to make this holiday a yearly occurrence. This year the individual's in the group contributed to the holiday and we hope we can give some more clients a holiday to look forward to for next year.



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LIHH TENANT VOLUNTEERS AT ST VINCENT 'S SUPPORT CENTRE

Leeds Irish Health & Homes tenant Albert has been volunteering at St Vincent Support Centre for almost two months, and thoroughly enjoys the challenges and variety that each day brings.

St Vincent's, on York Road near Great Clothes, is a charity. Under the one roof you can find an excellent charity store, a community café, a free counselling service, and a free debt advice and debt counselling service. October 2003 sees the launch of an Education Centre which will offer free and informal education taster sessions, which they hope will give local people the confidence to access more formal college courses. There will also be a resource room, which will be filled with information about a variety of subjects, including volunteering, training, job opportunities, health, local agencies and support groups.

You can find Albert in the café, serving up tea, coffee and snacks to the customers. A retired chef, Albert enjoys putting his skills to good use at the Centre, and putting something back into the community.

We are always on the look out for volunteers - in fact we are quite desperate for them at the moment! We require people to work in our shop and cafe - no particular skills or experience required - just a friendly disposition and reliability.

We also welcome donations of good quality items, such as clothing, bric-a-brac, electrical items, and small items of furniture which we can sell in our shop. We can usually collect if people cannot deliver to us.

Finally, financial donations, however small, help us continue our good work in helping disadvantaged and marginalised people in Leeds.

Call Charlotte Walton, Centre Manager on 0113 2484126 for more information. Alternatively email info@stvincents-svp.org.uk or pop in to our centre on Berking Avenue, York Road.

LEEDS IRISH HEALTH & HOMES OPEN NEW OFFICES



On Wednesday 29th October LIHH will have its open day for past and present clients. The day will be a fun day with music from Leeds Irish Music Project, lunch, raffle and jumble sale.

This special open day for clients will give them the chance to see the offices before an official opening for agencies that will be arranged in the New Year.

As clients are our prime concern we wanted them to be involved and informed as much as possible about our move and transition into larger offices.

Ant Hanlon, Director, commented: "We are delighted that we have been able to achieve one of our key aims for this year so quickly. For seven years we have been operating in an environment that has been difficult for our clients to visit us, because of lack of suitable access and space. This move shows that LIHH has grown considerably as an organisation and recognises the need for clients and staff to have a comfortable environment to operate within."

LEEDS IRISH CARERS GROUP GO ON BREAK TO DUBLIN

Leeds Irish Health and Homes Carers group have returned from a four day break in Dublin. The trip was arranged through Health Authority funding, by Julie Sutton. Julie is the Black and Minority Ethnic Carers Development Worker with a specific remit for mental health.

The eleven carers, 4 of whom are from the LIHH Carers Group, and four workers had a grand old time visiting Dublin castle, the Guinness Storehouse, Kilmainham Gaol, not forgetting the guided bus tour. The trip offered a unique experience for carers to share their experiences, struggles and joys. The diversity of the group also enabled people from various cultures to share both difference and similarity. The carers expressed how much they enjoyed themselves and that it was a real break from their role as carers. Many thanks to Julie Sutton for organising such a successful trip.



Left: Leeds Carer's enjoying the tourist attractions in Dublin

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Florrie on her 70th birthday

John on his 90th birthday

Liz Williams (staff) on passing her counselling course.

FIRST CHECK POINT LEEDS

Are you retired? Living on your own? Is your house in need of repair?



First Check Point do not do the work but will, **free of charge**, put you in touch with the right person to do the job at a reasonable price. They don't solve the problems but they do stop them from happening. They want to remind people not to be bullied into agreeing to work on the spot and not to give any money up front, not even for materials!

If you don't think the job needs doing or think the price is too high call First Check Point on 0870 013 27 27. Calls are charged at National Rates and the help line is open between 9.00am to 4.30pm Monday– Friday.

First Check Point works in partnership with Age Concern, Leeds City Council, West Yorkshire Police, Yorkshire Television, Help the Aged, Neighbourhoods Watch and other local voluntary groups.

LEEDS IRISH COMMUNITY FORUM

Next meeting Thursday 30th October at 7.30pm at Leeds Irish Centre.

At the last meeting it was decided that the Irish community would benefit from the creation of an 'Irish in Leeds' directory of useful names and contact details. Primarily this directory will hold details of all the Irish groups in the city. We also hope to include contact details of some of the other Irish support groups available in the UK.

We will also include details of other useful contacts such as hospitals and CAB offices.

How the directory develops is now up to you. If you are a Leeds based Irish organisation it is your responsibility to approach us and provide us with details of your organisation. If you a Leeds based company and would like your details to be included in the directory or would like an advert in the directory then please contact us to discuss rates.

You can either call us on 0113 262 5614 or submit your entry on-line at www.lihh.org on the Irish Community forum page. This is going to be the definitive directory of Irish contacts in Leeds so if you do not take this opportunity now you will be missing out.

The closing deadline for receipt of submission is 20th December 2003.

We are currently seeking funding for this directory and will do an initial print run of 5,000 copies. If the demand exceeds this we will ensure an on-line version of the directory will be available on Leeds Irish Health and Homes website (www.lihh.org) and the Leeds Irish Centre website.

TV company requests info about Mount St Mary's



Lippy TV are researching a documentary about the Bank and Mount St Mary's church. If you have a special relationship with the church or have lived on the Bank all your life, then please contact Suzanne Breen at Lippy TV on 01226 7331116. We'd love to hear from you.

FUNDING RECEIVED



Leeds Irish Health and Homes have just appointed a Community Outreach Worker (funded by Leeds Health Action Zone) and a Community Development Worker (funded by Dion — Irish government). More about

these posts on Page 11.

We were delighted to receive a donation of £200 from O'Brien Plant Hire towards the 'Memories of Change' Irish archive from Leeds. We are about £5,000 away from fully funding this important project and we appeal once more to important Leeds based Irish companies to give us the support required for this project to go forward.

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS



As we come up to Christmas Leeds Irish Health & Homes would like to ask all of those people who like to make a donation to a charity at this time to remember LIHH. We work tirelessly within the Irish community to improve the lives of people who are living in inadequate accommodation, who may have physical/mental health difficulties or just like support from an Irish organisation. Although we do get funding from various sources it is the extras that we provide that help to counteract some of the isolation and loneliness that many of our community face. This Christmas we are appealing to the Irish community to donate between £5-£10 to LIHH. Each year we have a Christmas party for our tenants and clients. For many, they will then spend Christmas Day alone. Help make this Christmas a special time for some of these people.

If you would like to donate some money this Christmas please send your cheques payable to Leeds Irish Health and Homes, Unit 5 Gemini Park, Sheepscar Way, Leeds, LS7 3JB. Maybe you would like to organise a raffle like Mr Tommy Brennan of the Royal Oak Public House. Thank you for your support Tommy! Or you could sponsor our staff who are doing a sponsored swim. Some of them are even attempting 2 miles. Good Luck to all of you. Rather you than me! My grandad may have been a fisherman but I did not inherit his love of water.

ANNUAL REPORT 2002-2003

DIRECTOR'S REPORT : CARE, CULTURE & COMMUNITY: SUPPORTING PEOPLE

This year has seen final preparations being set in place for the biggest change to the supported housing sector for many years through the 'Supporting People' programme. Much of our focus this year has involved ensuring that our future stability has been secured both in financial terms and in the **CARE** and support we can offer to our tenants.

The constraints of the new programme have put pressure on smaller groups. Davitt House, a 6-bed residential unit for older Irish people, has now come under our management after members of the Davitt House Trust approached us realising they were no longer in a position to guarantee the longer-term welfare of its residents or the scheme itself. This next year will see the project having to make the necessary changes to be brought in line with the 'Supporting People' requirements.

I believe that LIHH are now prepared to embrace the opportunities that 'Supporting People' presents in order ensure our tenants maintain the levels of independence they require.

Our Outreach services have had 3-year funding secured which gives us a chance to develop a long-term focus to our work. The need for services sensitive to the **CULTURE** of Irish people continues to grow with new referrals constantly coming in. As an Irish organisation, trust in the services we provide is paramount; over half of our referrals come from people approaching us themselves or via a friend or relative. We recognise that culturally we are the same as the people we provide services to, but there is a deeper culture within LIHH which respects individuals for who they are and the experiences that have brought them to need our service. We welcome diversity in people and try to respond to people in a way that we would wish to be responded to. Our aim for the future is to ensure that ethos is maintained.

Our report 'Diggin Deeper' which was launched in October highlighted the lack of services targeted at the Irish community. LIHH recognises the need for choice for Irish people; as yet there is very little of this in support services. This year, in an effort to support a stronger Irish voice within the City's debates, we have developed the Irish **COMMUNITY** Forum which aims to bring interested members together to drive forward our participation in many of the areas where the Irish do not currently have a voice.

INTRODUCING.....

New funding has been gained to develop our Community Outreach services. We have now recruited 2 new workers who will be commencing work in November. We would also like to welcome Gerry Gallagher who has joined us as a new Housing Support Worker.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH WORKER

This post has been filled by Eileen Igoe. Eileen's key purpose is to help to develop and provide culturally sensitive services for the benefit of the vulnerable Irish people in Leeds, particularly with regards to the provision of day care services for older Irish people in Leeds. An important part of her role will be to link up with the Tuesday Club at the Irish Centre to discuss long-term development plans.

Eileen's responsibilities will include:

- Consulting vulnerable Irish people to identify support needs they may have, preferences and service requirements;
- To establish contact with isolated Irish people not accessing community services;
- To work in partnership with other Irish voluntary agencies in Leeds, such as the Tuesday Club, to develop the capacity of existing services; and
- To produce evidence-based reports and statistics which can then be used to raise awareness of the needs of vulnerable and isolated Irish people and promote culturally sensitive practice amongst other statutory and voluntary agencies.

If you would like to contact Eileen you can call her on 0113 262 5614 or email her - eileen@lihh.org.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER

This post has been filled by Eddie Mulligan. Eddie's key responsibility is to develop sustainable initiatives in order to improve the public health of the Irish community in East Leeds. Also to raise awareness of the needs of the Irish community in terms of health inequalities and ensure the community's participation in the regeneration of their neighbourhood.

Eddie's responsibilities will include:

- Facilitating consultation with members of the Irish community in order to identify their concerns, aspirations and needs in terms of public health, community development and regeneration;
- To produce evidence based reports and statistics for the East Leeds Primary Care Trust;
- To work with East Leeds PCT in identification of areas of disadvantage within the Irish community;
- To develop dialogue with newly formed and embryonic groups who engage with members of the Irish community; and
- To enable groups within the Irish community to capacity build through the provision of advice, support and information.

If you would like to contact Eddie please call him on 0113 262 5614 or via email eddie@lihh.org.



Would you like to get involved in helping to organise next years St Patrick's Day parade?

The St Patrick's Day Parade Committee are starting to put together the first thoughts for next year's Parade and the Committee would like to let interested individuals and groups who would like to be part of the set up in the future know that there will be a meeting at the Irish Centre on 13 November 2003.

If you would like to come along please call Cinta Culkin on 0113 277 4767 for more details about the time of the meeting etc. The Committee hopes to see some new faces joining them to make St Patrick's Day parade 2004 as big as ever!

SPORTS LIFE by Eamon Fallon

FEILE PEILE NA NOG 2003

IN July/August we set off from the Leeds Irish Centre for a long journey on the coach to Co. Galway. We were a team of 23-strong. Our host team was Portumna, who made us feel very welcome when we arrived. We also made lots of friends during our time there.

In the first group stage we had three games against Portumna, St Gabriel's and New York. As a result of our performance we were then awarded a place in the overseas group and faced Brussels. Unfortunately we were beaten by a weaker side in the end. New York were the overall competition winners.

Some of the teams met again at the Leeds Irish Festival at South Leeds Stadium. Our U14 Yorkshire team played against Grange (Co. Carlow). Grange had

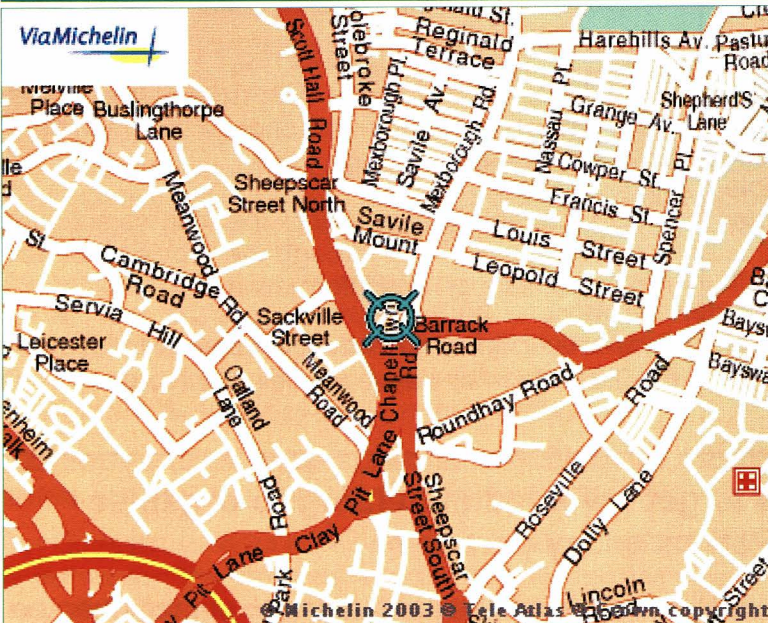
been our host team last year. We won by 2 points but were put under severe pressure from Grange and it was a credit to all the lads to hold out.

YORKSHIRE TEAM



Back Row (L to R): Anthony Leeman, Danny Walsh, Daniel Anderson, Sean Carroll, Richard Hellowell, Aaron Rooks, Josh Fieldhouse, Liam Tyrer, Danny Murtagh, Sam Lightfoot

Front Row (L to R): Declan Kelly, Matthew Mullan, Eamon Fallon, Matthew Bravo, Mark Best, John-Michael Koulouris, Craig Lee, Harry Gudgeon



CONTACT US

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