

IRISH IN LEEDS

PUBLISHED BY LEEDS IRISH HEALTH AND HOMES



Hello everyone,

We hope you enjoyed the St Patrick's Day edition. I think you will all agree the St Patrick's Weekend celebrations were great and the community should be thanking the commitment of the Parade committee in making it once again a great success.

This is the last newsletter that I will be editing as I have got a new job. In fact by the time you read this newsletter I will have been in my new post as a Recruitment Consultant for nearly 2 months.

The newsletter still depends upon community input so please continue to send us articles and details of community events etc.

Hope you enjoy reading!

Anna Dunne

FEDERATION OF IRISH SOCIETIES A NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

EITHNE RYNNE

I am delighted to take up the post of Director with the Federation of Irish Societies. Throughout the past three years the Board of Management of the Federation have been developing their strategic plan and we are delighted that the Irish Government has demonstrated its commitment to the Federation, recognising the central role we play within Britain and providing us with additional funds to continue this role.

The Federation has always been well placed to represent the Irish community in Britain and we are now in a position to further implement our plans for expansion. Our current plan is to put in place a regional structure affording our affiliates more opportunities to access support and advice at a local and regional level. We aim to build the capacity of the Irish community in Britain and to develop and enhance the power of Irish voluntary sector organisations throughout the country. One of our primary intentions is of course to strengthen the voice of the Irish Community in Britain. We will do this by expanding the services we offer to our affiliates to enable them to link more productively with statutory and other mainstream agencies. We are currently recruiting to the new posts funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Ireland. These posts are three Community Development Workers based in London, Midlands and the North, and a Networking & Partnership Worker. These posts will help us to expand and develop the range of services on offer to our affiliate organisations and build upon our capacity to reach groups who may not be linked in with any other Irish organisations such as ourselves throughout Britain.

More regional fora will be set up so that members can come together to discuss common issues and to gain support from each other. One of these regional fora is already up and running, providing



invaluable support to front line Advice Workers throughout Britain. It is hoped that this will be followed shortly with regional clubs and cultural fora.

My role is not only coordinating the service we offer to our members, it is also about a longer term vision for Irish services in Britain. My priorities include mapping our current areas of representation and to broaden the areas we are currently involved in. Many of our agencies are doing so well in raising the profile in their local areas and we need to draw on the expertise that there is within our own community as well as perhaps accessing support from other ethnic minority communities with which we have much in common and who themselves have gone through similar situations.

I'm extremely enthusiastic about my new position as Director of FIS and am looking forward to the implementation of our new structure. There is a tremendous amount of good will amongst the Irish organisations and I hope that we can continue to work closely together to progress the Irish agenda as quickly as possible. This will ultimately ensure that we are better represented at the levels we most need to be within Britain's statutory organisations.

DARAGH CORCORAN

Tune in to BBC Radio Leeds in the early evening and the strong Irish accent you will hear booming across the airwaves is the voice of Daragh Corcoran who presents the Drivetime news programme on the station between 4 and 6pm, Monday to Friday.

Living in Leeds for over 10 years now, broadcasting has always been his passion. "As soon as my mum brought a tape recorder into the house, I was recording my voice and playing it back", says Daragh. "I would mimic comedians, DJs and adverts and make my own little shows – all from the front room of our house".

Daragh grew up in Killester on the North side of Dublin, famous for little apart from having, he says: "just about the best Ladies basketball team in the whole of Ireland – The Killester Kittens. Oh yeah! and a Dart station". He graduated from DCU with a communications degree in the same year as Ardal O' Hanlon. His first job was on ABC, a pirate radio station in Waterford. "I had such a great time there for a year", says Daragh "I still love the place and have lots of friends there".

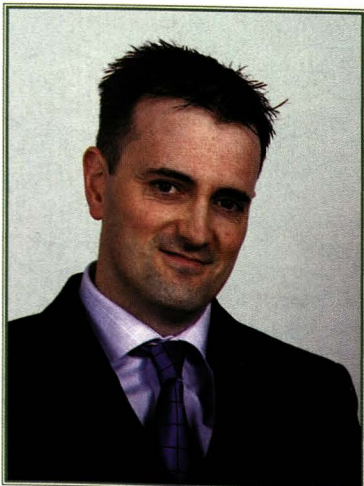
The Irish pirate stations shutting down in 1988 prompted a move across the Irish Sea. Things might have been different if he had accepted a job offer in Brighton but Daragh opted instead for the North.

"I've lived in places like Preston, Chester, and York but Leeds is home. I've stuck my flag down here and I love the city. Always a Leeds United fan and I'm lucky enough to work behind the scenes down there now, on the corporate side", says Daragh.

"I've settled in Cookridge and my other half is from Bradford. That's a help because on BBC Radio Leeds we have to strike a balance between our appeal to listeners in the two big cities and of course throughout the rest of West Yorkshire".

Daragh says Leeds is a fantastic city if you're Irish: "I have felt a bit like a fish out of water in some of the places I've lived, but as soon as I moved in to Leeds I felt at home. You get a very warm reaction from people from all walks of life. It's very cosmopolitan. I really enjoy it when people come up to me with full-on Leeds accents and tell me about their Irish backgrounds".

Meanwhile the soft Irish accent goes down well with listeners in West Yorkshire so Daragh looks like he'll be part of broadcasting map here for some time to come.



SLÁN GO FÓILL

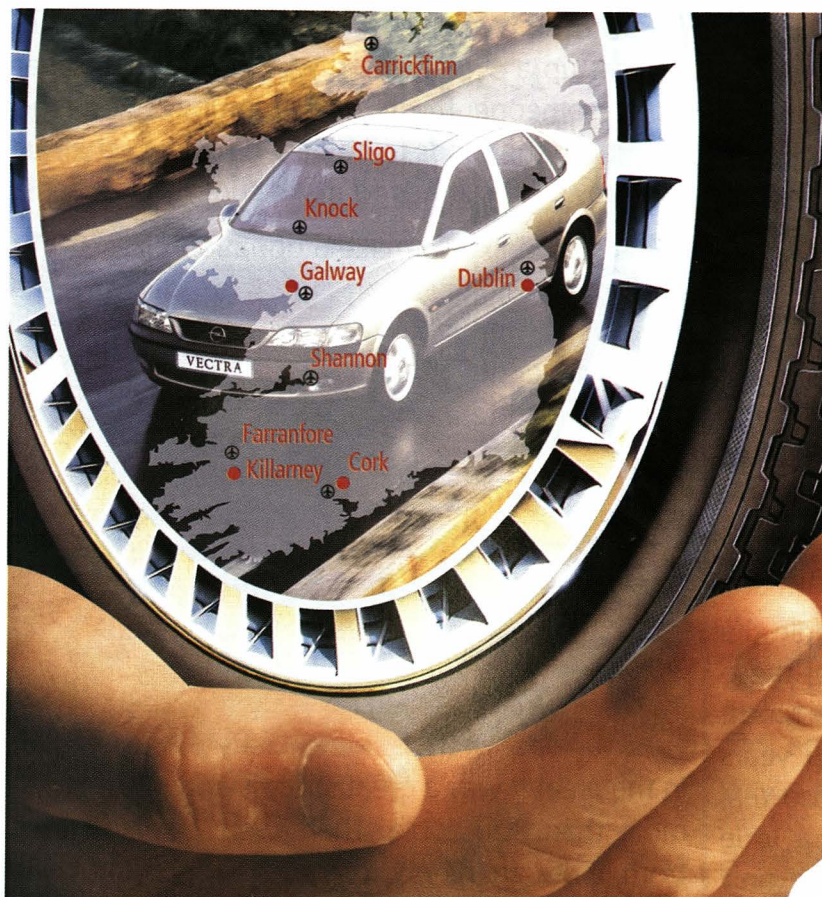
Sadly Anna Dunne who produced the Newsletter for the past two years has moved on to pursue her focus on marketing and public relations. Anna put a lot of effort into making the Newsletter an effective means of communication for the wider Irish community in Leeds. We wish her well in her new venture although she will continue to be involved with the Leeds Irish Community Forum in a personal capacity. Eddie Mulligan will now be responsible for producing the Newsletter and will endeavour to maintain the standard set by Anna so please contact Eddie on 0113 2849052 with any information.

Ant Hanlon

Getting into the Irish Spirit at Leeds St Patrick's Day Parade

(see page 8)





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LAURA'S WORK EXPERIENCE

Hi my name is Laura. I'm from Derry but came over to Leeds five years ago and still haven't gone home! I came over to do my degree in English at Leeds University. I had never been in Leeds before so I found it a wee bit daunting but I settled in quickly and soon took advantage of the shopping and nightlife Leeds has to offer!

After I graduated with my degree in English I began working for Leeds City Council in their one stop and call centers, giving housing and benefit advice and taking social services referrals. I had always thought of myself as eventually working in the social work field so after a year in the 'real world' I decided to go back to university and obtain my social work qualifications. I am now at Leeds



Metropolitan University in my first year of a two year postgraduate social work diploma course.

In the first year of our course we have to do a fifty day placement and I was delighted to hear my placement was with Leeds Irish Health and Homes. I didn't know much about the organization at the time but the thought of working with the Irish community immediately appealed to me, and I have not been disappointed. I feel that I have come home in a sense because everyone, the staff, clients and tenants have all been welcoming and friendly and from the beginning I have been made to feel part of the 'family'. I've

learnt so much during my time at Leeds Irish Health and Homes and had a good bit of craic in the process; I am just disappointed that my fifty days have to come to an end.

DIGNITY IN DEATH

One of the most important things in our community is how we treat people in death.

The need to have access to a religious ceremony, if desired, the need to be buried in a dignified manner and the need to inform members of the community of the passing are always commented upon.

Leeds Irish Health & Homes' focus on giving help and support to some of the most vulnerable members of our community often means that we start to provide this support at a time in people's lives when they are at their most poorly state.

Since April 2002, there have been 20 people die who we have provided support to. Many of these have died before the age expected in these times. In fact 16 have been between 45 and 59 years old. This statistic is unfortunately, an all too real fact for far too many Irish people. It is a little known fact that the Irish community is the only migrant community whose life expectancy drops on arrival in the UK.

When someone dies, if they have insurance or have made provisions for their death their dignity can be assured. Unfortunately, many of the people who we provide support to have experiences which mean they find the difficulties facing them in everyday life become so enormous that these types of plans cannot be made. When death comes then, they are often in a situation where there is no money to pay for a decent burial. Often with no family members around to cover the cost, the only option left is for burial in a communal plot or cremation.

A standard funeral today works out about £2000.00. The grave is about £900.00 which is normally covered by a grant from social security which leaves a shortfall of £1100.00. At LIHH we try to ensure that each individual's passing is marked respectfully, but unfortunately like most things in life, this situation is threatened when there aren't the funds to make this happen.

Most of the funds that allow us to make up the shortfall for people come from donations that are

made to us. We therefore want to open this up and set up a Dignity Fund which will ensure that when someone from the community dies who hasn't got the funds to be buried properly that we can provide the funds to make sure this happens.

If you would like to make a donation please send it marked 'Dignity Fund' to us at LIHH. Please indicate if you would like this donation to be acknowledged.

Please help us to make people's passing a dignified one.

Unity Day at Ebor Gardens

A Multicultural event was held at Ebor Gardens Community Centre on 24th April. The aim of the event was to celebrate and value the people in the community as well as the diversity of the cultures in the area. It was a great success and attended by more than 80 people. There were display stands from more than 15 different groups including Leeds Irish Health and Homes, Healthy Living, Gipton Fire Service, St. John's Ambulance Service to name but a few. Among the entertainment features were the Cassidy School of Irish Dancing which was very popular with everybody. You could have heard a pin drop in the audience during the performance. The event was organised by Threasa Cassidy from Ebor Gardens Community Centre and was a very enjoyable as well as bring many diverse groups together in a spirit of harmony.



'THE IRISH EXPERIENCE IN LEEDS' HERITAGE PROJECT

Leeds Irish health and Homes are delighted to formally launch 'The Irish Experience in Leeds' Heritage Project. With the Project Coordinator, Corinne Silva, now in post we are ready to embark on the first stage of the 18 month project.



How you can get involved

Contact us if:

- You are Irish born and willing to tell your story and experiences of migration and settlement in Leeds; as well as have your photographic portrait taken.
- You are 2nd or 3rd generation and would be happy to discuss what it means to you to be of Irish descent, and the positives and negatives attached to being of dual heritage.
- You belong to an organization, society or informal group or know of any upcoming events in the community and would like to have your group/event recorded and photographed for the archive.
- You have any old photographs/documents /objects relating to the Irish in Leeds that you would be willing to share with us. (Copies can be made if you want to keep originals).

What we will do with this material

All the stories, photographs and documents will be stored within the 'Irish experience in Leeds' archive we are creating. The archive will be available for the public to view, and act as a source of information for and about the Irish community in Leeds. The work created and stored throughout the project will also be turned into an exhibition, website, educational CD Rom and book which we aim to launch at the end of 2005.

Meetings with interested Irish groups and individuals are already underway; make sure your group or your story does not get missed.

Contact Corinne Silva at LIHH on 0113 2625614, or alternatively email corinne@lihh.org to arrange your meeting today.

BUNDORAN DISCUSSES EUROPEAN MIGRATION

In April, Ant Hanlon, Director of LIHH and Treasurer of the Federation of Irish Societies was part of an invited UK delegation to a European conference held in Bundoran, Co. Donegal considering reconciling mobility and social inclusion. The conference was hosted by Mary Coughlan, the Irish Minister for Social and Family Affairs as part of their European Presidency duties.

It was attended by many European delegates whose roles included employment, education, housing and welfare services. As the title suggests the conference was considering how the pan-European decline in birth-rates is leaving economies without enough labour to keep themselves buoyant and provide enough taxation to sustain health and social care provision, transport systems and other essential developments. Each country will therefore need to encourage labour to come in from outside the EEC and the new 10 accessing states.

It also recognised that in the current climate many highly skilled migrants arriving to work are automatically seen as asylum seekers or refugees. They therefore often come face-to-face with prejudice and barriers which do not help them to become economically active as quickly as they could.

Part of the conference looked at the Irish experience and how we have fared in different countries. Whilst we have successfully made homes in many countries, the prejudice faced by Irish people, especially in Britain, has had a major impact on their health and well-being. This then translates into costs on the economy in terms of health and social care provision when people can no longer work or look after themselves or their families.

It was recognised that if access to good support and information was provided to migrants very early on their chances of making a successful start in their new homeland would be much better for the long-term future of the country. It was also recognised that for those people who were struggling, the important support that community organisations could provide to ensure that the struggle didn't develop into a crisis was something which should be promoted.

With much being made by the far-right about keeping migrants out of the country, this conference provided an interesting alternative view. The Irish have added so much to cultural, business, sport and economic life in Britain. Alongside other migrant groups, our rich tapestry has added to the diversity which should be celebrated here.

TRIPLE SPIRAL BOOK LAUNCH

A new book of poems, *The Triple Spiral*, written by three local poets—Deidre McGarry, Bill Fitzsimons and Paddy Hannan was launched on 25th March 2004 at Leeds Irish Centre

All three poets have strong Irish roots and connections: Bill is originally from Dublin, Deidre is from County Antrim and Paddy is Leeds born, second generation Irish. In short they represent the Republic, the North and the Irish Diaspora.

The three poets met on an Irish Studies course at Leeds Metropolitan University. They founded an Irish Poetry group called *Luacht Focail* (Word People). This group meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at the Irish Centre. The group meetings, which are friendly and informal, are open to anyone, whether or not they have written anything before. The group meets at 8pm and new members will be assured of a warm Irish welcome.

The Triple Spiral book idea was conceived with the idea of weaving together the three different strands of Irishness represented by the poets. Deidre's poetry portrays strong emotional and spiritual feelings, infused with Celtic symbolism and mysticism.

Bill's poems reveal a keen sense of history and deals with themes of exile, love and family.

Paddy's poetry is based firmly on personal experiences and explores issues of identity and family ties, often with great humour and insight.

The Master of Ceremonies for the night of the book launch was Jo O'Síoran of Cúlra, the Irish cultural organisation. Bill, Deidre and Paddy read selections of their poems and the evening was enhanced by other members of *Luacht Focail* reading samples of their own work. The atmosphere was further heightened by some lively displays of Irish dancing, courtesy of the Joyce O'Donnell School of Irish Dancing, and beautiful renditions of Irish music by the accomplished harpist Berni Byrne.

The Triple Spiral poetry book is an eclectic mix of history, passion, humour and experiences of migration. The beauty of this book is that it makes poetry accessible to all. Many of the poems reflect our own lives experiences and give a powerful dimension to identity and our personal understanding of all that life throws at us. I can recommend this book to young and old and encourage the community to purchase a copy to read. Laugh at the Paddy's memory of his Irish dad who would not let them watch

England's World Cup game 'Up the 66 in '66', cry at Deidre's poignant reflection on the Magdalene Laundries in 'Wash Day Blues' and find hope in the love portrayed in Bill's 'Solace'.

Copies of the book can be found in all good bookshops or alternatively send a cheque for £8 made out to Triple Spiral Poets to Deidre McGarry at Lighthaven, North Marine Road, Flamborough, East Yorkshire, YO15 1LG.

We are more than a scattered people,
We are deeper than green name tags.
We are wider than the web we cast
Of where we're from and who we know.
MÓR

We are wilder than our shared songs and tunes
We are faster than the dancing patterns our feet
follow

We are higher than the prayers we fling.
We are sharper than our dream of home.

We are sadder than our history,
More meaningful than our poetry
And more beautiful than the landscapes
In the country of our mind.

We are more complicated than our stories
And funnier than our jokes
We are harder than our stone relics
And softer than our rainwater.

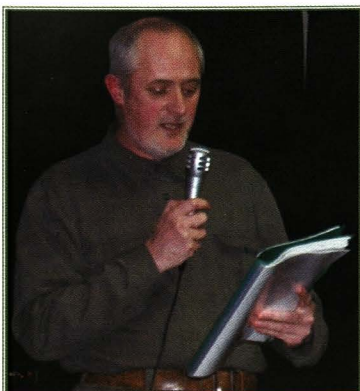
We are braver than our ancient heroes
And wiser than our saints
We are the diffused spirit
We are mór.

By Deidre McGarry



Up the 66 in '66

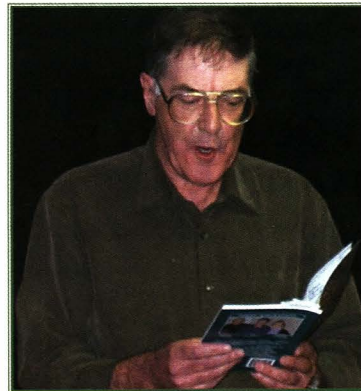
Oh England's on the tele Da
 Paddy, Seamus—get in the car
 But it's the World Cup Final of '66
 I want to watch the German's dirty tricks
 They're just ordinary men folk like me and you
 They have no tricks; I met a few back in '42
 Molly get them a change of clothes, a blanket for a bed
 Get out me camping stove, the boys will have to be fed
 On England's glory you won't be weaned—so get it out of your head
 It's glory is in the history of Ireland—it's something you should dread
 The passion and the Patriotic infusion won't infiltrate your head
 The might is only right when it's accompanied by lead
 We left me Ma, waving at the gate
 Street kids shouting, goodbye mate
 Any other weekend, for this adventure I'd be bold.
 But tomorrow is the greatest day in football—so I was told
 Where will I lay my head, where will my blanket unfold?
 Are we off to uncle Paddy's out in ancient York?
 He hasn't got a tele, so it might as well be Cork
 Ireland's plight might be in me name
 But holy Jessus I only want to watch the game
 All night we drove the Great North Road
 Da got bored and at me he'd goad
 Paddy, if the Germans win, it won't be a shame
 After all it's not a war, only an old footballing game
 They won't believe me back at school
 That before the tele I didn't drool,
 Instead was kid napped by this old fool.
 We awoke in the car, high above a hydro-dam
 Built of course by a McAlpine gang.
 Da takes out picture, then makes the tea
 Not far now boys to Lockerbie.
 Outside the Inn, we sat in the car
 Paddy and Seamus waited...for Da was in the bar
 Out he came with pop and crisps
 No Rule Britannia, this place is bliss
 When you recall Hurst's golden hat trick
 Please remember poor Seamus and Patrick
 The commentator said:
 "Some people think it's all over...it is now."
 It was...outside the Highland Cow."
 Mention England v Germany, Wembley 1966
 I think of Scotch corner and the A66
 Leaning on a statue of Robert the Bruce
 I realise, the Scots, like me Da, don't give a hoot!



By Paddy Hannan

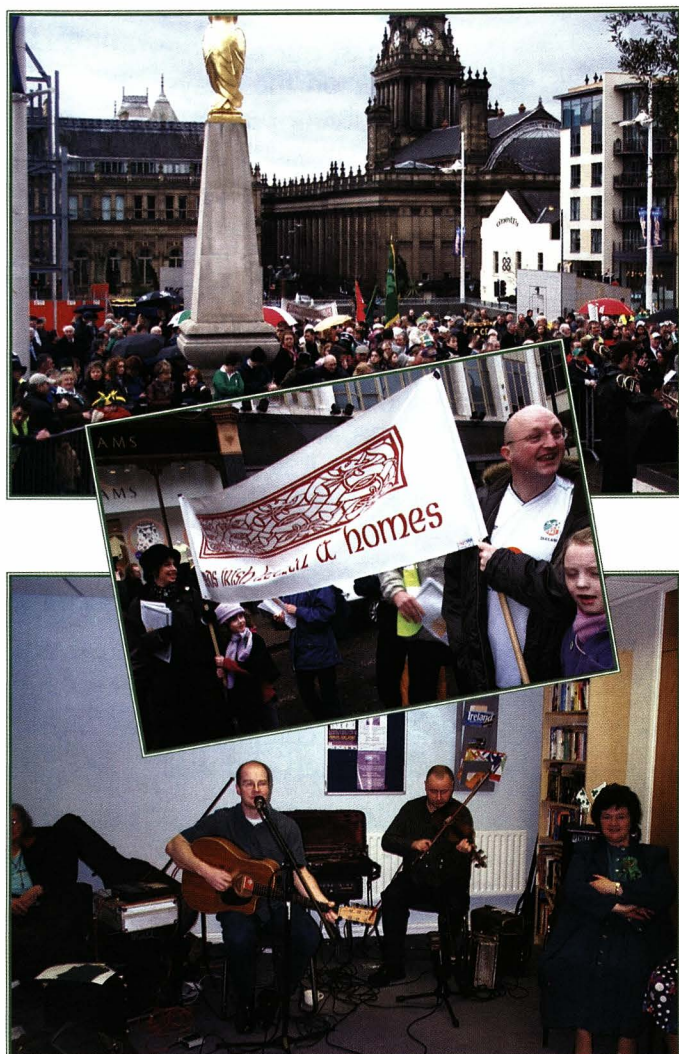
Farewell to Ireland

August 1955:
 the hard glare of summer
 sunshine; lancing light
 stabbing at our eyes
 as we gather on the quays
 At Dun Laoghaire harbour.
 We, the emigrant Irish,
 waiting for our journey
 to the Unpromised Land.
 My thirteen -year-old mind
 unable to grasp the pain
 or fully understand
 the reality of bitter loss.
 Farewell to Ireland;
 An old tune, new to me.
 Farewell to Ireland;
 To the life I knew, the life
 I would never see.
 Under hammer-blows of August heat
 The crowd shuffles,
 Sweating and fretful,
 Excited and afraid.
 Men try to hide their feelings,
 uncomprehending children watch
 their mother weep and wail.
 Time to go now;
 Final goodbyes, tears, embraces.
 Trudging up the gangway,
 emigrant cattle, Ireland's rejects;
 The raucous din of seabirds
 A mocking accompaniment
 To our inner turmoil.
 Standing mutely at the ship's rail,
 Watching our past recede;
 Heat-haze dimming the Wicklow hills
 And the placid water of Dublin Bay.
 Oh, Ireland! Who can we blame
 For thorny economic laws
 And the heartache of an exile's shame?
 Farewell to Ireland;
 An old tune, played once more.
 Farewell to Ireland and the final closing
 Of the heart's door.



By Bill Fitzsimons

ST PATRICK'S CELEBRATIONS IN LEEDS



The St. Patrick's Day celebrations went off successfully once again in the city this year. The St. Patrick's Day Committee along with Leeds Irish Centre and local Irish pubs organised a plethora of events during the week. The march was well attended and very colourful as usual. Leeds Irish Health and Homes organised a party at the offices for clients and tenants which was well attended. The live music was performed by Des Hurley and Kevin Muldowney and Anna Dunne demonstrated her prowess as an Irish dancer. There were lots of activities and a good time was had by all. We look forward to next year.

WHAT IS A VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION?

When we talk about our work at LIHH a common topic raised is why as a voluntary organization, do people get paid who work for you.

People hear the term voluntary organisation and

automatically think of people giving their time freely as volunteers. This is true for many voluntary groups such as Church groups, or the Brownies or Cubs. But voluntary organisations can be representative of small to nationwide ventures. Many voluntary organisations exist as philanthropic and altruistic businesses in the space between the public and private sectors.

Voluntary groups form when people come together of their own free will to work collectively to meet a community need. LIHH began because people felt that too many Irish people were not receiving help and support in a manner which knew about and respected their heritage and experiences. Voluntary organisations work on a range of issues, for example to deliver services, research and advocate needs, press for change and fundraise. Organisations affiliated to any political party are not eligible for inclusion. Staff are often employed who, in turn, support volunteers. The need for staff often comes about because of the requirement to have someone working on the issues in a full-time capacity. Volunteers are often people with only a small amount of time to give, or have another job to hold down too, but would like to contribute in some way. These can then support the work of full-time staff and ensure the organisation covers as wide a gamut as possible.

The Irish community in Leeds has a thriving voluntary sector with clubs and groups representing music, culture, welfare and older people's issues. Many of us do not have paid workers and rely on the generosity of people giving their precious time to a cause they feel strongly about.

The voluntary sector is a very diverse group. However, we share many things in common.

Firstly, we are non-profit making organisations. Although raising the financial resources we need to operate is an important aspect of what we do, our objective is to achieve something beyond producing an income for shareholders.

Secondly, we are usually dependent upon our members and supporters to survive. Often the visible public face of such organisations is only a small part of a larger network or community of individuals.

Lastly, although our definition of the voluntary sector will include highly professional organisations with a large paid staff, most of these organisations require the assistance of volunteer effort to operate. Without the support and dedication of volunteers many of them would not exist.

Hillary Benn MP opens Leeds Gypsy and Traveller Exchange (GATE) for Gypsies and Travellers in Holbeck, Leeds

On Friday 26th March members of Leeds Gypsy and Traveller Exchange (GATE) held a 'drop in' open day between 2pm and 5pm at their new office on Shafton Lane in Holbeck. Visitors met with GATE staff and community members and saw displays of photography, demonstrations of traditional Gypsy craftsmanship. Hillary Benn MP arrived to officially open the new office, which is in his South Leeds constituency.



"A place of our own after 500 years".

Gypsy rights campaigner, Ada North highlighted the importance of this new office, "Gypsies first came to Leeds over 500 years ago, so we are very pleased to have a community base of our own at last. Travelling people have taken longer than other ethnic minorities to come together to stand up for ourselves; perhaps this is why some of us feel we've been left living in the dark ages. For many years travelling people have stayed on the outskirts, we felt 'if we don't bother them they won't bother us'. Now there is nowhere to go that we aren't bothering someone. Things are very hard for us. We need to reach a new understanding with settled people. These new

offices will be a base of our own where we can meet on equal terms. It's time to be a bit more open with settled people so that they can understand that our needs are very similar to theirs - we are humans just the same. Children in school learn about the Native Americans and the Inuit but learn nothing about the Gypsy people on their own doorstep"

The GATE project works with healthcare and education providers to make sure Gypsies and Travellers are included in service provisions that others take for granted. With the donation of a laptop computer from the Co-op Bank Foundation we are now able to give access to a computer and the internet to community members. This can be done in their own homes and for many this can be their first chance to use a computer.

Our new Connexions Personal Advisor, Violet Tucker, works with Gypsy and Traveller young people to help them access training and employment opportunities, Violet says "As a Gypsy myself I have experienced how hard it is to get on in the world when you are faced with discrimination and abuse. We are helping employers and trainers to move away from a stereotyped view and see Gypsies and Travellers as they really are - talented and vibrant people with lots to offer."

For more information please contact:

Helen Jones (co-ordinator) on 0113 2346556

7 Shafton Lane

Holbeck

Leeds

LS11 9LY

or email leedsgate@yahoo.co.uk

Background Information

- The need for an independent organisation representing Gypsies and Travellers in Leeds was first put forward in 2000 by members of the South Leeds Health for All; Travellers Health Partnership.
- Development work has been supported with practical assistance from Leeds Connecting Communities and the Charities Information Bureau.
- Funding from Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (racial justice programme) and Dion enabled us to employ our first paid worker in January 2004.
- Further support has been received from The Community Chest, The Allen Lane foundation, The Co-op Bank Foundation and the Network Fund.
- We are also funded by Connexions West Yorkshire.

FUNDING

MINIBUS APPEAL



You will be aware that Leeds Irish Health and Homes work with many people who have difficulty using public transport. Mr Tommy Brennan, Landlord of the Royal Oak Public House very generously donated £100 to start an appeal for a Minibus to help us in our work. We need to raise £35,000 so if you would like to help our appeal, please contact Shelagh Fallon on: 0113 2849047

Twenty-Five years a-growing

On Sunday 15th May 1979 St Kieran's GAA club of Leeds played Matt Talbot's of Dublin at Croke Park in a curtain raiser to the National League final between Roscommon and Cork. Despite the club only being established in 1977, the team was granted the enormous privilege of playing at the home of Gaelic sports.

Sunday 13th May 1979



Back Row: S. Hopkins, C. Durkan, N. Diamond, A. Mone, J. Joyce, M. Hussey, A. Reilly, A. Alwell, J. Hourigan, T. Lynch, P. Kissane, J. Mone
Front Row: H. Igoo, M. Giboy, A. Gallagher, M. Lynch, J. McGrath, M. Ferry, P. Hourigan, D. Fahy, D. Greene

Many of those involved with running the club and other veterans of Gaelic football doubted whether the significance of that honour would be fully appreciated by a group of Leeds based, second generation Irish, teenagers who were new to the game. However, the memories of that great day were revisited when the team organized a reunion to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the game.

The guest of honour was the team manager, Seamus Hopkins, who traveled from his home in Co. Mayo to attend a celebration, held at the Irish Centre to commemorate the day when a team from Yorkshire graced the hallowed turf of Croke Park. Players on the team traveled from Ireland, Germany and France as well as nearer home to remember the undoubted highlight of their Gaelic football careers.

The team expressed their grateful thanks to all those who played a part in establishing under age Gaelic football in Leeds and were part of creating a memory that has stood the test of time. Waistlines may have been a little thicker and hair a bit thinner than the teenagers who proudly had their photograph taken at Croke Park, but twenty five years on the St Kieran's team showed it could still knew how to party like their younger selves. Great memories were shared and absent friends remembered. Fortunately, common sense prevailed when it was suggested that we get our boots back on play a match to rekindle the team spirit of 1979.



James Bronterre O'Brien [1804-1864]

Born in Co. Longford Ireland on June 20th 1804, son of a wine merchant Bronterre Ó Brien became the famous journalist and political activist who played a major part in shaping the working class movement in Britain. Trained as lawyer in Dublin and London he was active in O'Connell's Repeal Movement and in the campaign against the stamp duty in the 1830s, editing various radical journals. Elected to committee of London Working Men's Association in 1836 along with fellow Irishman, Fergus Ó Connor he helped to set up the world's first working class movement. He was on first National Chartist Convention in 1839. Known as the "schoolmaster" of Chartism he fought for universal suffrage freedom of the press as well as advocating currency and land reform.

This extraordinary Irishman died 1864 after a life dedicated to the freedom and democracy of the working people of this country so it is the bicentenary of his birth as well as the 140th anniversary of his death. It is hard to estimate the extent of Ó Brien's influence on modern Britain but is safe to say that the ordinary people of this country benefited from the life's work of many remarkable Irish men and women of whom Bronterre Ó Brien is just one shining example.

Feargus O'Connor [1796-1855]

Another very important Irish Chartist leader, Fergus O'Connor was a trained lawyer, MP for County Cork and then for Nottingham (1847-52). He was a gifted speaker and built up popular following with his speaking tours of industrial districts. He was also owner of the Northern Star (1837-52), the most important Chartist publication. He advocated mass demonstrations and pressure to achieve change, mainly staying within the law but frequently appearing more radical. Sentenced to 18 months imprisonment following first peak in Chartism in 1839, he was tried in 1842 but acquitted. He was a leading figure in agitation in 1848 which peaked with Kennington Common demonstration and the third national petition for the Charter. After 1848, though remaining popular he ceased to be the leader of a mass movement. He died in 1855 at the age of 61 years. Along with Bronterra O' Brien, Fergus O'Connor made a major contribution to the modern world we live in which is difficult to quantify but which should not be underestimated

Royal Armouries Museum

Life in Leeds a Community Exhibition 6Th July – 30th August

From 6th July until 30th August the Royal Armouries is holding a Community Exhibition to highlight the diverse nature of the population of the city. Entrance to the exhibition is free and will be open daily from 10am until 5pm. On the 14th July there will be a live broadcast of performances of different cultural groups including the Irish. On August 26th and 27th the exhibition will feature exclusively Irish cultural items including music and dance as well as poetry and art over the two days. All members of the Irish community are welcome to attend.

Music review: Danu in concert

On June 12th the award winning Irish traditional music group "Danu" appeared at the Leeds College of Music. This excellent example of all that is good about Irish music won the BBC Radio 2 award for best group for the past two years and they also won the best song award this year for their rendition of the beautiful "County Down" written by Tommy Sands from the well know Sands family from Belfast.

The concert was a great success in terms of the quality of the music and the audience were enraptured for over two hours by the dazzling display of talent of the individuals as well as the wonderful blending of the different instruments and vocal renditions of the female lead singer.

The group takes its name from the ancient Celtic Goddess Danu which means Divine Waters and whom the great river Danube is named after. This is part of the ancient Irish mythology that is older than and just as valid as those of Greece or Rome. It is the Celtic Irish story of the origin of the world. The Goddess Danu provided the divine water to nourish and fertilize the earth so that life could flourish upon it.

For music lovers who missed the concert, the group's music is available in most good record shops. Go buy a copy; you will not be disappointed, I promise.

APPLEBY FAIR TRIP...

The trip to Appleby horse fair was a great success; we took the beautiful scenic route on the Settle Carlisle railway, on our arrival people went their separate ways to explore the village of Appleby, most of the time people spent down by the river where the traders were washing their horses, an age old tradition and most enjoyable to watch, the rest of the group was up by the camp site experiencing the hustle and bustle of camp life, watching the horses and traps race and the odd one or two had their fortune told!!! An amazing day was had by all.

By Eileen Igoe



Community Forum update

The last meeting of the Leeds Irish community forum was held on Thursday 29th April at the offices of Leeds Irish Health and Homes. The meeting was well attended and it was agreed to bring a draft constitution to the next meeting for discussion.

The Forum is intended to become an umbrella organisation for all the different groups in the Irish community in the city to use as a resource. The next meeting will be held at the Irish Centre on Thursday 22nd July at 7.30pm. Representatives from all Irish groups are very welcome

SUCCESS is:

At age 4 success is . . not peeing in your pants.
 At age 12 success is . . having friends.
 At age 17 success is . . having a drivers license.
 At age 20 success is . . going all the way.
 At age 35 success is . . having money.
 At age 50 success is . . having money.
 At age 60 success is . . going all the way.
 At age 70 success is . . having a drivers license.
 At age 75 success is . . having friends.
 At age 80 success is . . not peeing in your pants.

Someones Son

He is a lovely man but he drinks
 He drinks, he won't wash, he stinks.
 He once was 7lbs in weight,
 He laughed when he was eight.
 Now he is 71
 He limps, he is homeless, he is alone ,
 He is all he has.
 Intelligent once admired,
 He is now in A+E
 He is in dire straits, he is you and me.

The Irish — Montserrat Connection

by Eddie Mulligan

The Montserrat link with Ireland goes back nearly 400 years to the time of Oliver Cromwell. He landed in Ireland in 1649 and began a campaign against the Catholic population in Ireland with the primary aim of reducing their numbers. It is reported that his novel way of doing this was when the Irish surrendered at Drogheda for example he killed every tenth man and sent the rest of them to the Caribbean Islands as slaves.

Many of those Irish people landed on the tiny volcanic island of Montserrat which is about twelve miles long and seven wide rising to a height of 3000 feet above sea level at Chances Peak. This is the volcano that destroyed much of the island in 1997 and killed nineteen people. It was only the most recent in a series of natural disasters to befall this island throughout the 1980's and '90's.

Although Cromwell was responsible for much of the settlement of the Irish on the island, some Irish had arrived via Virginia as early as 1633 and by the 1650's there was approximately 3000 Irish people on Montserrat and many more on the neighbouring St. Kitts. According to the Historian, Tim Pat Coogan as many as 40,000 Irish people had been sent to the Caribbean during the seventeenth century. By 1670 there were also about 8000 Irish people on the island of Barbados and large numbers on many of the other islands. The difference with Montserrat population was that the Irish made up the largest group amongst the white population and between the years 1632 and 1687 six of the island's governors were Irish.

My first encounter with the phenomena of the "Emerald Isle of the Pacific" was through an old black and white film back in the sixties. I watched with astonishment as these black people of this tropical island with Irish surnames used Shamrock taxis and Shamrock laundries and two elderly black women singing "Mother Mo Chroí". Their national day was St. Patrick's Day and their accent was a strange admixture of Caribbean patois and

west of Ireland English. It was only whilst reading Tim Pat's excellent book, "Wherever Green is Worn" that I realised the full extent of the connection between the two islands.

The island had been given its name by Christopher Columbus because it reminded him of the Abbey Santa Maria de Montserrat near Barcelona. The Irish left their indelible imprint on this tiny piece of heaven just as they have done elsewhere and although they were originally sent as slaves; because they were white they tended to get the better jobs such as overseers or foremen. Some even became plantation owners and a combination of the intermarriage with the indigenous population and the trend for slaves to take their master's surname explains the large number of Montserrattians with names like O'Grady, O'Farrell, Lynch and Moore.

By 1768 many of the plantation owners were Irish and were indistinguishable from their English counterparts. A group of slaves sought to take advantage of the St Patrick's Day celebrations that took place at the governor's mansion.. The attempted uprising was brutally crushed and it is reported that some if not all of the rebels were executed.

Montserrat is the nearest thing that Ireland ever had to a colony and the link has not been generally recognised or known about. Although the Irish are no longer present on the island in any visible way, their presence is still discernible. The similarities between the two islands are still striking. The national day of both countries is St. Patrick's Day, they have the shamrock as a national symbol and the Montserrattians eat a dish called "Goat Water" which is based upon the Irish stew recipe. The accent of some people on the island is similar to that found in the west of Ireland.

This is just a snapshot of the relationship between the people of the two islands.

Anyone who wants to know more about this subject should read "Wherever Green is Worn" by Tim Pat Coogan 2000. Published by Arrow Press.

THE REDRESS BOARD

The Redress Board was set up by the Irish Government under the Residential Institution Redress Act 2002 to make fair and reasonable awards to persons who as children were abused whilst resident in Industrial School, Reformatory and other Institutions subject to State regulation or inspection in the Republic of Ireland.

All applications for Redress are treated in the strictest confidence and all hearings conducted by the Board are in private.

If you were resident in an Industrial School, Reformatory, Children's home Special Hospital or similar institution in the Republic of Ireland whilst you were under the age of 18 you may be able to claim Redress.

If you were subjected to physical, sexual or emotional abuse and have suffered some physical or psychological injury as a result you may be eligible for compensation. It is not necessary for a person to have been prosecuted or convicted of any criminal offence against you.

How do I apply?

To apply for Redress you should ask your solicitor to complete an application form giving details of the Institutions. You will need to make a statement to your Solicitor and have a psychological report prepared to establish how severely you were harmed. All discussions with your solicitor and the Redress board are treated in the strictest confidence. There are no legal costs to you as the Redress Board will pay your solicitor direct and none of your damages will be taken from you.

If an award is made you will receive an award in a lump sum. The average award to date is 80,000 euros. The maximum award that can be made is 300,000 euros. Since the start the Redress Board has completed over 1,000 cases. 250 of these cases were for applicants resident in the UK.

Jordan's solicitors

Did you suffer abuse as a child in a Residential Institution in the Republic of Ireland?

If you suffered abuse as a child in a residential institution in the Republic of Ireland you may be entitled to compensation from the Residential Institutions Redress Board.

Jordan's Solicitors have a great deal of experience of helping survivors of abuse pursue claims for compensation. Home visits can be arranged.

All information is treated in the strictest confidence.

You will pay no legal costs.

You must apply early as the Board has put a time limit on these claims.

For a confidential chat about making a claim contact:

David Greenwood
Jordan's Solicitors
Neil Jordan house
Wellington Road
Dewsbury
WF13 1HL
FREEPHONE: 0800 542 3586

LEEDS IRISH FESTIVAL



Thousands of visitors will gather at the South Leeds Stadium on the weekend of 17th and 18th July to enjoy the craic at the city's Irish Festival.

The free event was first held in 1996 and is a showcase for Irish music, song, dance and Gaelic games.

Teams from Ireland and throughout the UK will take part in a range of sporting competitions. There will also be sports and games for children with medals for all those taking part.

Pupils from Leeds-based dance schools will display their Irish dancing skills and the programme also includes rides, shows, stalls, face painting and hair braiding. A free bus service will ferry people from Leeds Irish Centre in York Road to the stadium in Middleton Grove, off Dewsbury Road.

The event runs from noon until 6pm on Saturday and noon to midnight on Sunday

IRISH CHAMPIONSHIP DANCING

The British National Dance Championships will take place on July 17th and 18th in Blackpool. We wish all the local dance teams every success in these events.

CENTRE PARCS TRIP JUNE 2004

At the beginning of June six carers from Leeds Irish Health and Homes Carers Group went on a well deserved break for 5 days to Centre Parcs in Cumbria. Caring is pretty much a full time job and some of the people on this trip hadn't had a break for some considerable time. The idea of this holiday was to relax, de-stress, get pampered, have some support from other carers, enjoy the scenery and play cards.

Centre Parcs is an ideal environment for this as its set in a beautiful forest with plenty opportunity for swimming, spa treatments, horse riding, walking, cycling, simply watching the world and the wildlife go by. We took advantage of quite a few of these activities. We also spent a lot of time sitting outside our Scandinavian-style lodge watching the red squirrels (one of the few remaining colonies in the UK) scurrying around as well as robins, finches, pheasants and the occasional frog, though Shelagh was more interested in bringing the frog indoors and frightening the rest of us! Delia on the other hand kept the birdies well fed. A few of the highlight were roast beef, Yorkshire pudding and all the trimmings served up by Sue, getting lost on the way to the horse riding (we were very fit by the time we got there), Teresa treating a few people to a foot massage, Delia and Shelagh's skill at 25 (the card game not their knack of looking THAT young), the sight of Tina flying around on a bicycle Heather's lovely accent and ability to sleep for long periods (she had a lot of catching up to do).

One of the really great things about this group is the level of understanding amongst its members. The group are very supportive of each other regardless of age or individual situation. Some of the group have known each other since the Carers Group was formed in October 2002 but on this trip there were two relatively new members who were made very welcome and had a much needed break. Trips like this mean that people get to know each other well very quickly and consequently the regular two hour meetings once a month are much more effective.

The Carers Group would welcome new members so if you look after someone and need some support please contact Eileen Igoe on 2625614

GAA EVENTS AT THE IRISH FESTIVAL

St. Benedicts under 12's won the All-Britain 7 aside competition in Birmingham on June 5 from a total of 22 teams from all over Britain. They won the cup sponsored in the name of the late Charlie Beirne. The under 14's from St. Benedicts are in the All-Britain Club Championship final against Roger Casements of Coventry in Birmingham on July 11 having beaten Luton Shamrocks in the semi-final by 7-17 to 2-2.. Both these teams have performed brilliantly and are a credit to themselves, their families, their mentors, Pat Moriarty and Mickey Connor and the club. Details of the final will follow for the next edition.

St. Benedicts held their inaugural dinner Dance on Friday, May 21 in the presence of Sam Maguire. The cup was brought over by the Tyrone County Board Chairman, Liam Nelis and fellow board member, Cuthbert Donnelly. It was a very successful evening and the cup was also on display on Saturday, May 22 at the Irish Centre during an under 13's game (St. Benedicts v. rest of Yorkshire) before going down to Birmingham to join the Tyrone squad. I have attached a photo for your perusal.



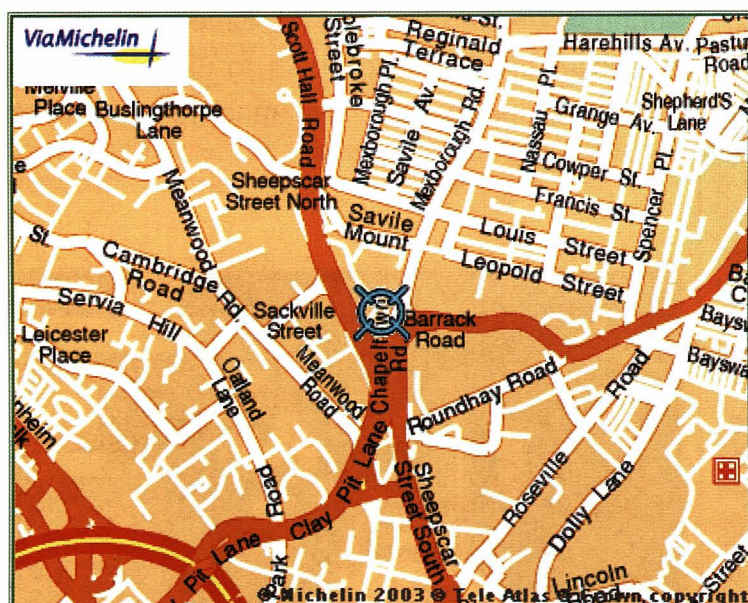
Sam McGuire Cup in Leeds to celebrate Tyrone winning the all Ireland.

GAA fixtures for the coming months:

- Yorkshire Senior Championship semi-finals Sunday, Sept 19 - Young Irelands v. Hugh O'Neill's and St. Benedicts v. Bros. Pearse at Beeston. First game at 1.00pm and the second game at 2.15pm.
- Yorkshire Senior Championship final Sunday, Oct. 3 at Beeston at 1.00pm.
- Pennine League quarter-finals - Sunday July 11 (Teams to be finalised on Monday evening)
- Pennine League semi-finals - Sunday, August 1
- Pennine League Final - Sunday Oct. 17.
- Yorkshire Junior Championship semi-finals - Bros. Pearse v. J.F.Kennedy's (Scott Hall Rd, July 28 at 7.30pm. St. Anthony's v. St. Benedicts at Beeston at 7.30pm on July 29.
- Yorkshire Under 18's - Semi-final St. Anthony's v. J.F.Kennedy's at Beeston on July 14. Final - winners v. St. Benedicts at the Irish Festival on July 18.

GAA CONTACTS

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Hugh Ó Neill's | |
| Gerry Enright | 0113 2484332 |
| St. Anthony's | |
| John Kehoe | 0113 2281307 |
| Young Ireland's | |
| Jimmy Houghton | 07940 302541 |
| St. Brendan's | |
| Liam Ó Hara | 0113 2567627 |
| John F. Kennedy | |
| Padraig Kenning | 0113 2402298 |
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