


**FREE**

## DAVITT HOUSE BIDS FAREWELL TO RICHARD CONWAY

On 28th February 2005, Davitt House sadly saw the retirement of its original employee Richard Conway.

Richard has been House Manager since Davitt House opened on March 1st 1993 and has provided the foundation for this valuable resource for older Irish people to gain its reputation for warmth, friendliness and the best cup of tea in the business!!

Originating from Raith Aughamore in Co. Mayo, Richard came to Leeds in 1949. His career path started with Hartley Bros, a mechanical engineering firm in Headingley in 1954 then moved into the building game after his brother got him work with Bovis on the Woolworth's arcade, where the 'gimp' got you the job, as Richard puts it!

Working with Wimpey's and McAlpines throughout the country, Richard worked on many projects such as the Scammondon Dam which is visible from the heights of the M62. Spells at the Dunbar Nuclear Power Station and on the oil rigs during the 70's saw Richard wanting to be stationed more in and around Leeds as his family was growing up. He remembers one comment from the cold and blowy rig days when someone asked "I wonder why we're here; because we're not all there!" that had a big impact on him.

He enjoyed 6 years with Dews, a heavy civil engineering firm, and cites his work on the water works in Headingley and the Schofields Centre in 1986.

Then, 'out of the blue' he saw the advert for the Davitt House job advertised in the Irish Post. After much consideration and talking with his wife Betty, he decided to apply and was successful.

Opening in March 1993, Davitt House was the brainchild of the Davitt House Trust who



managed it until March 2003 when through a change in legislation for which they were not resourced to cope with, they asked Leeds Irish Health & Homes to takeover.

Still supporting one of its original tenants, Richard has administered to many people over the years and shown the care and compassion that have made him valued

by everyone. He imbued the place with his personality and this resonated for all who came to see it. A Presidential visit from Mary Robinson and An Taoiseach visits by Albert Reynolds and Bertie Ahern established Davitt House as a model of excellence in welfare provision for the Irish community.

On a personal note, we at LIHH are glad to have had the opportunity to get to know Richard as a colleague over the past 2 years and see the kind of service that he has provided, so that we can take these things forward as Davitt House reaches a new stage in its life.

Richard's retirement was marked by a Mass at Davitt House celebrated by Canon Maguire from the Holy Name parish. A retirement party was then held at the Skyrack in Headingley where a presentation was made.

I asked Richard what was the best part to being involved with Davitt House. He told me that when relatives write to you saying how well their kin are being treated and that they are in a 'safe' and 'homely' environment, all the work is worthwhile. If we all could feel this at the end of our working lives, I'm sure we would be happier people.

We wish Richard, Betty and his family all the best for the future and say a big 'Thank You' for all his excellent work.

**Ant Hanlon**  
Director-LIHH

## DELICIOUS DISHES



Photo: from left to right Mary Crossland, Jean Pearse and Mary Browne (Owner)

When you enter the small café "Delicious Dishes" on Strathmore Drive off Harehills Lane you are immediately aware of the friendly atmosphere in the place. You will most likely be greeted by the owner Mary Browne a wonderfully friendly woman from Glenties Co. Donegal. Mary came to England in 1967 after having worked in pubs and the catering trade in Ireland. She had eight children and so was unable to work full time while they were growing up. She always toyed with the notion of opening her own café but never got the opportunity while her children were young but now her youngest is 16 years old and the premises she now has become vacant, she jumped at the chance to fulfil her life-long ambition. The café is only a short distance from where Mary lives and she was aware that the local area had a high proportion of Irish people living there. She saw the requirement to cater for the culinary needs of the Irish and that has been the secret of her success. Many of her regular clientele are Irish and the menu reflects their tastes. Her Irish breakfasts are eagerly sought after and the place is very popular with local people of all races. Mary gets Irish produce from Ireland via a supplier in Birmingham.

The café is open seven days a week from 7am until 2pm. She does outside catering, sandwich deliveries and she also delivers food to St James' Hospital at the weekends. She currently employs three staff two of whom are Irish and her children also help out at the weekends. Many of the local people use the place as a way of meeting their friends in the morning over a cup of tea where they can enjoy the homely, family atmosphere. At lunch time the place is packed with people calling for sandwiches. It is worth a trip to this small establishment where you can enjoy genuine Irish cuisine and receive a welcome as big as the hills of Donegal. We wish Mary every success in her endeavour to cater for the culinary needs of the Irish people in this part of Leeds.

Hi! Everyone,

Hope you all had a good Xmas and New Year. Once again we are at the beginning of the St. Patrick's celebrations. A list of the events that are being held during the week can be found on page 16. You will see on the front page that one of our most valued staff has left and we wish Richard and Betty a long and happy retirement. You will also notice that we have three new staff and we wish them a long and happy association with us. They have each written a short piece about themselves and we have provided a picture so you can put a face to the name if and when you ring the office. There is no expense spared in our efforts to cater for all your needs. We have, as far as possible, given information about the forthcoming events in the local area but we are conscious that some of our readers may have information that we have no access to so we would appreciate your contributions. It is YOUR newsletter, use it to get your point across or simply share information.

We were very pleased with the response to our "Spot the Deliberate Mistake" competition in the last issue. The winner was Tim Mc Nasty from Wakefield for his interesting comments on the Fake Shamrock. He wins a weekend for two in Termafeekin.

Kind regards,

Eddie Mulligan

## Film Festival

Unfortunately due to circumstances beyond our control the Film Festival has had to be postponed. Hyde Park Cinema is closing for the most of March for refurbishment so the Festival has been rearranged for May. It will be the same format as before. The idea is to show a short Irish language film followed by a feature length Irish film in English on each of the four Mondays from the 9th May. We have now received funding for the project from the Great Britain Ireland Fund and the Lottery via Screen Yorkshire. We would like to thank Aileen Ross the Director of The Ireland Fund of Great Britain and express our gratitude to all the team at Screen Yorkshire and in particular Paul Staniland head of financial operations and Jay Arnold for his continued support and advice. Thanks is also due to David Thompson the manager of Hyde Park Cinema for his support and enthusiasm. Watch out for more details of the films that are to be featured and general information in the press and media during the month of April. We are still hoping to have a launch of the project somewhere in the city centre with a few celebrities from the film world in attendance.

Hi, My name is Christina Saunders. I am a social work student at Leeds Metropolitan University, and in my first year. I previously worked as a care assistant in an elderly people's residential home for 1 \_ years, then I decided to do social work. I must be a glutton for punishment! This is my first placement, and luckily for me I got sent to Leeds Irish Health and Homes. The people here are really friendly, and I can see me getting a lot out of this. Hope you all have a happy Easter.

Take care  
Christina

Christina



Angela

Hello my name is Angela Storey. I started working for Leeds Irish Health and Homes in December of last year as the new Administrative Worker, taking over from Paula. I have lived in Leeds all my life and hope to be here for a long time to come as I am enjoying working with my new colleagues and meeting all of the tenants.

Angela Storey, Administrative worker

Hi! there, My name is Sarah Smyth, I began working for LIHH in December, and prior to this I did some voluntary work for LIHH based at Davitt house which I thoroughly enjoyed. I was born in Leeds and am of Irish decent, my mum is from the West of Ireland a magical place called Belmullet, and my dad is from Limavady in Derry. I go back to Ireland on a regular basis, I have had some really good holidays everyone makes you feel really welcome, and the Guinness is even more welcoming!! I enjoy socialising, and going on long walks, however I have recently just bought a car with my boyfriend so the walks have gone out the window I'm afraid, I have recently taken up squash which is a good laugh, as I'm useless!! But I'm getting there. I got involved with LIHH as I think it's a brilliant organisation, and admire what it represents and feel privileged to be a part of it. The staff are a really warm bunch, and the clients are great too, I find the work really rewarding. We always find time to have a bit of craic!! Have a good St Patrick's Day

Take care,  
Sarah



Sarah

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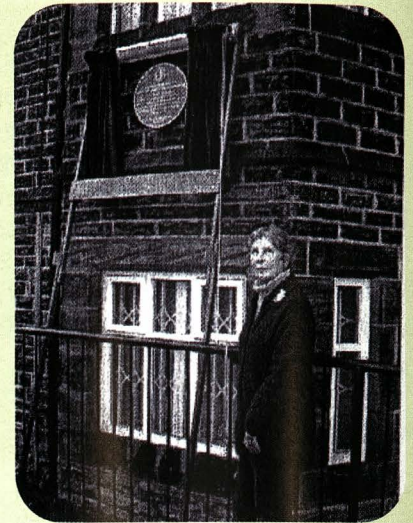
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## Leeds Civic Trust Blue Plaque Award Mount St Mary's High School

On 26th January Helen Kennally unveiled a Blue Plaque at Mount St. Mary's school. The Plaque was presented by the Leeds Civic Trust to buildings of significant historical interest and because Helen had written the history of the school she was invited to perform the ceremony. The event was attended by members of the Civic Trust and representatives of the school.



Early in 1853, four Sisters of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate arrived in Leeds to work at the newly established Mount St Mary's Mission on the Bank. This was a district largely inhabited by Irish families who had fled from starvation and deprivation and sought refuge in the narrow streets and already overcrowded houses of the Bank. From their temporary convent in Cross Green, the Sisters began their work. In July 1853, the first school of the new Mount St Mary's Parish was formed. It began in the convent cellar, which was in use as a wash house during the day and converted into a schoolroom at night. From this humble beginning there evolved a remarkable story.

When the Sisters first arrived there was no real community on the Bank, just a mass of sick and destitute people, but the formation of the Parish, helped families to rebuild their lives and educate their children. Gradually improvements were made. A church of cathedral proportions was built, a new convent, schools for hundreds of children, a large orphanage and in 1896, the crowning glory - the first Catholic secondary school for girls in the city. Girls came from all parts of Ireland to board at the College and receive their secondary education alongside girls from the Bank. Over the years, many of the college pupils became teachers in Leeds schools. When the Oblate Sisters were amalgamated with the Sisters of the Holy Family of Bordeaux, their work went from strength to strength. They always had the conviction that education was a way out of the poverty they witnessed around them every day.

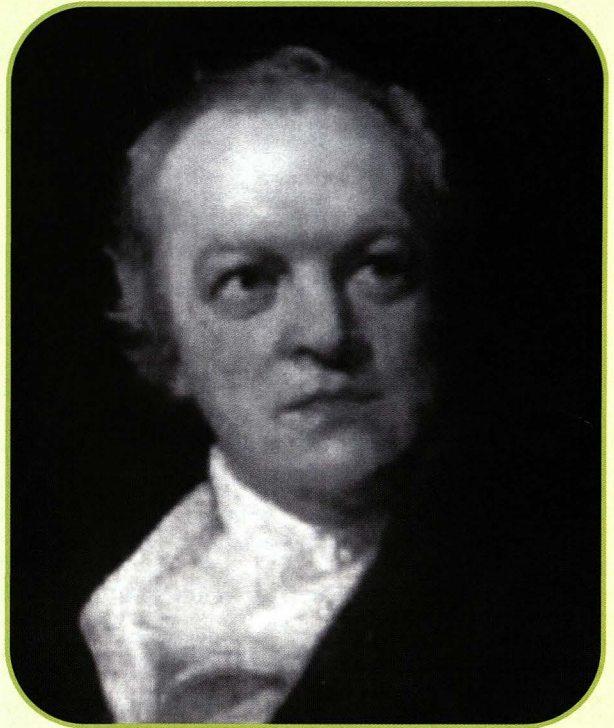
The present High School occupies the premises previously used as the convent, orphanage and college which are now Grade II listed buildings. These Victorian buildings are unique and teachers, pupils and parents are justly proud of their inheritance - 150 years of education on the same site is no mean achievement in what was always considered to be the poorest district of Leeds. The erection of a Leeds Civic Trust Plaque on the original convent building brings a wider recognition of the achievements, not only of the schools over the years, but also of the Irish families who made the Bank their home and seized the educational opportunities which were available to them.

Today, the school continues to grow and is proud not only of its past history, but also of its present contribution to education within the city of Leeds and looks confidently to the future.

## William Blake - Was His Father Irish?

William Blake, the son of James Blake, a draper was born on 28th November, 1757. At the age of fourteen he was indentured as an apprentice to James Basire, engraver to the Royal Society of Antiquaries. He married Catherine Boucher on 18th August 1782 and in 1784 he embarked upon a short, unsuccessful career as a freelance engraver. By 1786 he was back working for Joseph Johnson. The following year Johnson introduced Blake to the radical circle of Mary Wollstonecraft, William Godwin, Joseph Priestley and Thomas Paine.

In his books *The French Revolution* (1791), *America: A Prophecy* (1793) and *Visions of the Daughters of Albion* (1793), Blake developed his attitude of revolt against authority, combining political belief and visionary ecstasy. Blake feared government persecution and some of his work such as *The French Revolution* was printed anonymously and was only distributed to political sympathisers.



In 1800 William Blake moved to Felpham in Sussex, where he began work on his epic poems, *Milton* and *Jerusalem*. In these poems Blake provides a complex mixture of prophecy, social criticism and biblical legend.

In August 1803 he threw a drunken soldier called John Scofield out of his garden. Scofield afterwards claimed that Blake "damned the King and said that soldiers were all slaves". On this testimony, Blake was charged with high treason and put on trial at Chichester. After his acquittal, he moved back to London.

An exhibition of Blake's work at the Royal Academy in 1809 failed to attract any significant interest and he sank into obscurity. He continued to produce poetry, paintings and engravings but rarely found customers for his work. William Blake died in 1827 and was buried in an unmarked grave at Bunhill Fields. Now that is the story of one of the most quintessential figures of English literature. What is not widely known is Blake's Irish connection. The historian Peter Berresford Ellis wrote an article in the *Irish Post* on December 4th 2001 where he referred to W. B. Yeats' introduction to a volume of Blake's collected poems where he claimed that Blake was the son of an Irish immigrant to London. It appears that Blake's father was actually called James O'Neil and was born and raised in Rathmines, Dublin during the 1720's. James' father was John O'Neil who, having fallen on hard times and pursued by debtors and others for his political views, met and married one Ellen Blake who ran a shebeen in Rathmines. In order to escape his past, John took Ellen's name rather than the conventional bride taking the groom's. James moved to London with his family and opened a hosier shop at 28 Broad Street where they raised five children, William being the most famous. James' half brother John named after his father went into the wine exporting business and settled in Malaga, Spain. It was a chance encounter with John's great grandson one Dr. Blake that provided Yeats' with the information for his article which aroused a stir among the English literature establishment. They were less than pleased that the "Great English Man of Letters" had an Irish father.

## Leeds Irish Health and Homes Over 55's Luncheon Club

### Calling all over 55's... looking for something to do on a Friday afternoon?

Want to meet new people of a similar age & background? Then come along to Leeds Irish Health and Homes Luncheon Club to enjoy great food, a game of bingo, raffles and lots of laughs. We also have day trips to various places; our last trip was to Millstones Restaurant where our members enjoyed a lovely meal & live entertainment.

So simply come along & join the fun! New members are always made welcome.

The fun starts at 12pm, every Friday at Montague Burton Resource Centre, Banstead Street West (off Roundhay Road) Leeds 8. For further information call Caroline or Eileen on 2625614.



## Ireland of the Welcomes

Ireland is not just a country,  
it's a memory, a dream, an illusion;  
where history fades into myth  
and truth is lost in confusion.

From the time-scarred walls of Derry  
to the bigoted streets of Belfast,  
two versions of Ireland lie bleeding  
where prejudice shapes the past.

Not only the past, but the present;  
and maybe the future as well-  
hardly a vision of harmony,  
more like a vision of Hell!

And it isn't only in Ulster  
that hatred lays claim to the heart:  
there's a snake in the Garden of Eden,  
and it's tearing Ireland apart.

Ask any asylum-seeker,  
from Kilkenny to Killaloe,  
if Ireland is making them welcome-  
I know what they'll tell you!

Or one of the Travelling People  
who wander our ancient land:  
treated and scorned as pariahs;  
shunned, and cursed, and banned.

Yes, Ireland's a wonderful country,  
if you're one of the favoured few:  
if you're poor, or black, or foreign,  
then Ireland will never love you.

In the neon heart of Dublin,  
in the Celtic Tiger's lair,  
a brave new world is emerging;  
a world I'm glad not to share.

## Leeds St. Patrick's Day Parade 2005 Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March



During St Patrick's week the following events were held:

On Friday 11th March St Patrick's Dinner Dance was held in the Irish Centre and featured Sean Wilson.

On Saturday 12th March Michael Bracken was in the Davitt Bar.

On Sunday 13th March the St Patrick's Day Parade started from St. Peter's Place at the rear of the playhouse at 11.30 am and ended in Millennium Square. It was followed by a mass in St. Anne's Cathedral. In the evening the entertainment was provided by Sean Wilson in the Tara Suite.

On Wednesday 17th March in the Tara Suite, Collette & Jive Beat plus Resident DJ provided the entertainment.

In the O'Meara Suite on St Patrick's Night, there was a Dinner Dance featuring Frank McCaffrey.



## St. Patrick's Day Events in Huddersfield



The St. Patrick's Day Parade in Huddersfield was held on Sunday 13th March and started at 1pm from the Irish centre on Fitzwilliam Street. There were two bands from Ireland, Brosna CCE from Offaly and the Millstreet Pipers from Cork. There were also ten decoratively themed floats, majorette's dancers, musicians, children's entertainers and face painting. There was also a St. Patrick's Day eve concert with the two bands from Ireland, admission £2 at the Irish Centre 8.30pm.

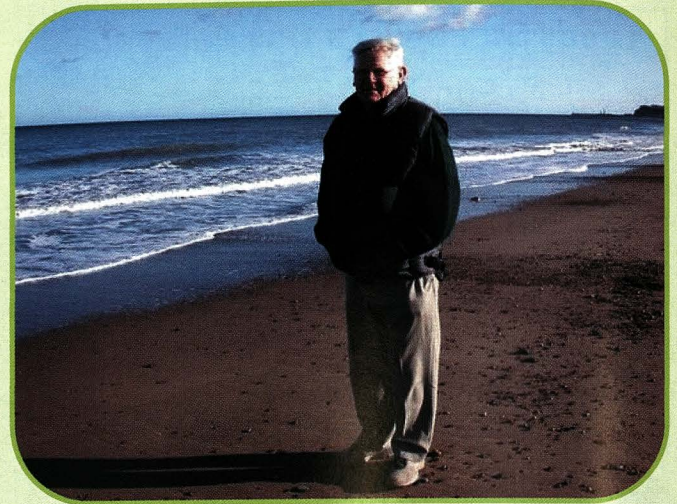
In the Irish Centre on St. Patrick's Day in the afternoon people were able to watch the Club championship finals on the big screen and in the evening there was entertainment with "Amigo".

Their 5th anniversary dinner dance was held at the Irish centre May 7th at 8pm. Music by the "Ranchers". admission £20.



## In Focus: Pats Life

I was born in Oughterard, Co. Clare, the second oldest of 16 children. At the age of 6, I started serving Mass for the parish priest Father Smith. When I was 8 Father Smith suffered a stroke that paralysed him down one side. He did recover after about 6 months and started saying Mass again but I had to help him to get his vestments on and off every morning before school. That continued until I was 16 when I had to help my father on the farm and the forge as he was also the local blacksmith. I also enjoyed playing with the local Gaelic football team until I left home at the age of 20.



Work was scarce so I went to work in the mines in England, which was the only option. I went to Askern in Yorkshire, had 6 weeks training and straight down the pit. A week was enough for me so I went to the labour exchange where they told me off for leaving. I got a job in engineering in Hunslet, which it was alright but I decided that I had to learn a trade. Painting and decorating became my career which I loved. In 1953 I went to Crossley carpets in Halifax to paint offices and stayed there until 1984 apart from 2 years painting the American army camp on Blubberhouse Moor.

While returning from work in the engineering shop one afternoon in 1950, I was crossing the Headrow when I heard this hullabaloo. It was a runaway horse with the shafts flying at both sides. Further on there was a woman with a pram in the middle of the road and people were shouting to get off the road. By this time the horse was passing me I jumped at it and managed to get one hand on its mane, it dragged me a few yards until I got my other hand up its nose and turned it upside down in the middle of the road. Within minutes 2 policemen on horseback were with me, we got the horse back up on its feet by which time its owner arrived. I was taken to the Town Hall for a mug of tea and a photographer came from the local press and took all the particulars. By the time I got out of the Town Hall the man selling papers across the road was shouting, "Brave Irishman stops runaway horse"! In the evening counsellor Sidney Porter, a lovely person that I still can visualise, came to see me. About 6 weeks later he took me to the Civic Hall where I was presented with a Certificate of Bravery (which I have mislaid and sadly regret) and £10 by Lady Masham who had fallen from a horse and was confined to a wheelchair.

The early years were a lonely existence, going back to the digs each night, having your dinner and that was it. Back at home we would be out playing football but here, most of the lads went to the pub, the highlight of the week being Saturday night at St Francis's dance hall that closed at 10.30pm. We met hurlers from Limerick & Galway. One of them returned from Ireland with a bag of hurleys and a few balls for which we gave him 10 shillings each. We went off to Woodhouse Moor to practice but that didn't last long, as somebody called the police on us. We found new pastures on a cinder dump where St Patrick's new church is now. It was rough but we made it playable and attendance increased. I bought a football and we were looking to affiliate to the Lancashire Co. board in 1949 where teams from Keighley and Barnsley were already playing. Father Donal Stritch, a Kerry priest based in Keighley heard about us and decided to form a Yorkshire County board where, by 1954 we had teams from Bradford, York, Sheffield & Huddersfield competing with us. Hugh O'Neills was a great club; we won every competition in Great Britain more than once. Some of our most outstanding players were born in Leeds of Irish parents. Today, with immigration at a low ebb all teams are finding it very hard to keep going. 1983 saw the birth of the Yorkshire minor board, Anne & I are involved in the running of it and it is a great pleasure to watch the children play particularly when they run out onto the pitch at the Leeds Irish Festival each year. Leeds Irish centre is a God send to all teams coming from afar. They can have a shower and a good meal after a match and they go away singing our praises. I have been involved in the G.A.A. in Yorkshire for 56yrs now & have many happy memories.



## Irish Recipes:

### Boxty

Boxty is a traditional potato dish, celebrated in the rhyme.

Boxty on the griddle,  
boxty in the pan,  
If you can't make boxty  
you'll never get your man

#### Ingredients:

8 oz/ 250 g/ 1 cup raw potato  
8 oz/ 250 g/ 1 cup mashed potato  
8 oz/ 250 g/ 2 cups plain flour  
1 tsp baking powder  
1 tsp salt  
large knob of butter, melted  
about 1/4 pt/ 125 ml/ 1/2 cup milk



Grate the raw potatoes into a bowl. Turn out onto a cloth and wring, catching the liquid. This will separate into a clear fluid with starch at the bottom. Pour off the fluid and scrape out the starch and mix with the grated and mashed potatoes. Sieve the dry ingredients and mix in along with the melted butter. Add a little milk if necessary to make a pliable dough. Knead lightly on a floured surface. Divide into four and form large, flat cakes. Mark each into quarters but do not cut right through, and bake on a griddle or in a heavy pan.

If you like, more milk and an egg can be added to make a batter which can be fried in bacon fat like drop scones.

### Beef and Guinness Stew

#### Ingredients:

- 3 cups Guinness
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- Sprig of fresh rosemary
  - 2 bay leaves
- 3 pounds beef stew meat, cut into cubes
  - 3 tablespoons canola oil
  - 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 to 3 onions, peeled and sliced
  - 3 stalks celery, chopped
- 3 carrots, peeled and thickly sliced
- 1/2 pound white mushrooms, quartered
  - 1 tablespoon all purpose flour
  - 1 garlic clove, minced
- Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
  - 2 tablespoons minced parsley

#### Directions:

In a large glass dish, combine 1 cup of the Guinness, mustard, rosemary, and bay leaves. Add the beef cubes, stir to coat, cover, and refrigerate overnight.

Preheat the oven to 325°F. Drain the meat and discard the marinade. In a large skillet, heat the oil over medium heat. Brown the meat in batches, 3 to 5 minutes on each side, then transfer to a large casserole dish. Add the butter to the skillet, and when it foams, add the onions and cook for 5 minutes, or until browned. Add the celery and carrots and cook, stirring constantly, for 5 minutes, or until tender. Reduce heat to simmer, stir in the flour, and cook for 2 minutes, or until blended. Add the remaining 2 cups Guinness, garlic, salt, and pepper.

Pour the vegetables over the meat, cover, and cook for about 2 hours, or until the meat is tender. Stir occasionally, and add a little more Guinness if the stew seems dry. Adjust seasonings and sprinkle with chopped parsley.

Serves 6

## Irish Cancer Appeal

**CROAGH PATRICK IN CO MAYO IS IRELAND'S HOLY MOUNTAIN. 762 METERS ABOVE SEA LEVEL AND IS HOST TO MANY PILGRIMAGES. ON WEDNESDAY 8TH JUNE 2005, THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE LEEDS IRISH CENTRE, A GROUP WILL CLIMB THE REEK TO RAISE MONEY FOR**

### THE LEEDS IRISH CANCER APPEAL.

#### **Please Give Generously**

Croagh Patrick, a mountain ridge which overlooks Clew Bay, is named after Ireland's national saint, Patrick. He, according to tradition, fasted on the mountain for forty days and nights in 441 AD and while he was there he ousted the pagan Celtic God Crom Dubh from his lofty citadel. In doing so, Patrick transformed the mountain from a pagan to a Christian cult Centre. Once a year on the last Sunday in July (Reek Sunday) this mountain becomes thronged with visitors. The well-worn path up the side of the Mountain becomes a sea of people. The pilgrimage is said to atone for sins - some even do the trek in bare feet.

Throughout the year many climb the Reek and our group will follow in the footsteps of many a pilgrim. Our climb of 2,500 ft will take two and a half hours to ascend.

The target is £24,000 to buy medical equipment for the new cancer wing presently being built at St. James' Hospital in Leeds. To that end several fundraising events have been arranged:

- 200 Club - running over 16 weeks (fully subscribed).
- Bacon & Cabbage Night - £10/ticket, Irish Centre. April 2.
- Fun Day - Leeds Irish Centre. May 2.
- Croagh Patrick Climb - June 8. (Self-funded by participants)
- Famine Route Walk (35 miles!!!) - June 9. (Self-funded by participants)

There are plans to have a race-night and a 50's and 60's Fancy Dress during May.

Tickets for any of the functions at the Irish Centre will be available from the Irish Centre or any committee member. Sponsorship forms are also available, and donations will be very welcome. For further details please contact Tommy McLaughlin at the Irish Centre on 0113 2480887.



## Robert Boyle

The volume of a given quantity of gas varies inversely with the pressure when the temperature is constant. That's Boyle's Law. We see its practical effects every time we watch the weather forecast to find out whether tomorrow will be fine enough for the beach, for camping, for going to a summer holiday. Boyle's Law underlies the forecasts: areas of high and low pressure and the fronts between them. Important though it is, Boyle's Law is just one of the many achievements of one of the most remarkable Irish scientists. Born in Lismore Castle, Waterford, on 25 January 1627, Robert Boyle helped establish science as we know it today. He has been called "the father of modern chemistry" and "the man who turned chemistry into a science". His name is most often linked with chemistry, but he also studied widely in physics, languages, agriculture, mathematics, philosophy and religion.

Quick student Boyle was the youngest child and seventh son of the earl of Cork, one of the richest men in Britain and Ireland. He received the best education available for his day. He was sent to Eton school in Britain and then as a teenager to tour Europe with a tutor and his older brother and to study in Geneva. He was a quick student of languages and learned six. Of all the fields of study open to him, he focused on science at an early age. There were new ideas being promoted, in particular the "new physics" of Bacon, Descartes and Galileo.

Returning to England in 1644, Boyle discovered that his father was dead and he had inherited a manor in Dorset and lands in Ireland. He devoted himself to study and scientific research and became a leading member of the group studying the "new philosophy".

### Air pump

After moving to Oxford 1654, Boyle set out to improve the air pump that had been invented by Otto von Guericke. With the resulting "Pneumatical Engine", finished in 1659, he carried out a series of experiments on the nature of air. Using his air pump to create vacuums in a large vessel, he proved that that air is necessary for the transmission of sound. As he pumped the air out of the vessel, the sound of a watch inside became fainter and fainter. He also showed that air was needed for a flame in the vessel to go on burning. Boyle was among the first to carry out scientific research in a manner that we would recognise today. In particular he:

- Insisted on experiments that could be repeated as the basis for his conclusions
- Wrote in detail about his work and described his methods and results
- Defined the modern idea of an element, attacking the 2,000-year-old Aristotelian theory of four elements -earth, air, fire and water.

Boyle went on inquiring and experimenting throughout his life. He wrote on religious as well as scientific topics

and argued strongly that God created the universe according to definite laws that could then be studied by scientists. Long before his death in 1691 Robert Boyle had established a huge international reputation.

## Badly worded Signs

Outside an electrical store:

- Why go elsewhere to be cheated when you can come in here!
- Sign in a launderette:  
Automatic washing machines: please remove all your clothes when the light goes out
- In a dress shop window:  
Don't stand outside and faint - come in and have a fit
- Sign in a London department store:  
Bargain basement upstairs
- In an office:  
Would the person who took the step ladder yesterday please bring it back or further steps will be taken
- Outside a farm:  
Horse manure: 50p per pre-packed bag, 20p do-it-yourself

- In the window of a dry cleaner's:

Same day dry cleaning - all garments ready in 48 hours

- Road sign:  
Turn right for the Fairy Glen. Beware of heavy lorries
- At the zoo:  
Please do not feed the elephants. If you have any peanuts or buns give them to the keeper on duty.
- In an office:  
After teabreak staff should empty the teapot and stand upside down on the draining board
- On a church door:  
'This is the gate of Heaven. Enter Ye all by this door.' (This door is kept locked because of the draught. Please use side door.)

## digyorkshire

More and more people are using the Internet and it's not just holidays, bargains and books that are attracting people to the web. In Yorkshire, residents can find out what's on at theatres, museums and cinemas at the click of a mouse. A not-for-profit website, [www.digyorkshire.com](http://www.digyorkshire.com) lets readers know about Yorkshire's cultural life and has hundreds of ideas for days out and nights on the town.

The site keeps visitors up to date with the latest shows, exhibitions, live music and children's activities, with a searchable directory of events, previews of the best of the month ahead, interviews and reader reviews. In March, we're focusing on the St Patrick's Day celebrations, we're chatting to prankster performers The Yes Men and we have theatre tickets to give away for a musical night out in Scarborough.

Anyone running a cultural event in the region is welcome to publicise it on the site, it's free and easy to do. Just visit [www.digyorkshire.com](http://www.digyorkshire.com) and select Add Events to get started and let more people know what you're planning. But just as importantly, log onto the site, take a look around and tell us what you think...after all it's open 24 hours a day!

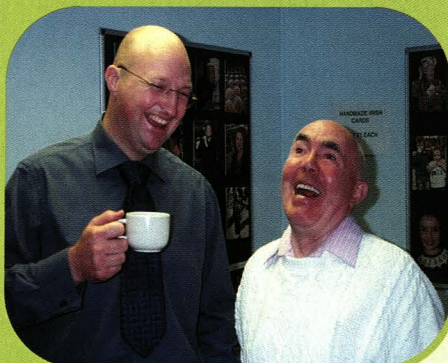
[digyorkshire.com](http://digyorkshire.com) is online at [www.digyorkshire.com](http://www.digyorkshire.com)

For more information or to sign up for monthly emails previewing the month ahead, email [fran@digyorkshire.com](mailto:fran@digyorkshire.com)

## Farewell to Richard and Betty Conway

We the residents of Davitt House in Headingley would like, through your lovely paper, to wish Richard and Betty Conway a very happy and healthy retirement. Richard was the warden here and would help anybody who had problems or needed help in any way. The both of them will be sorely missed. Good luck and have a great retirement.

Thank you,  
**The residents,**  
Davitt House.



## Irish Music Project Leeds

### PRESENTS

#### Frankie Gavin & Brian McGrath

Legendary Galway fiddle player Frankie Gavin (ex De Dannan) joins pianist Brian McGrath (ex Four Men and a Dog) for an evening of superb Traditional Irish Music (plus support)

At 'The Sheepscar Club', Scott Hall Rd, Leeds, LS7 3ET

Thursday 5th May 2005 Tickets: £10, Doors 8.15 pm

Contact: Irish Music Project Leeds

Tel: 0113 217 0841

email: [info@irishmusicleeds.org.uk](mailto:info@irishmusicleeds.org.uk)

Tickets: SAE and cheque payable to Irish Music Project

269 Roundhay Road, Leeds LS8 4HS

Jumbo Records, Leeds (plus Jumbo's £1 booking fee)

Helen Kemp (Shop), Saltaire (plus shop's £1 booking fee)

## Shelter Street Homeless Project Report Brief for Leeds Irish Health and Homes

Shelter is funding Leeds Irish Health and Homes to research and write a report illustrating their housing and community support work, focusing in particular on the work undertaken with clients who have experienced street homelessness.

Street Homeless Project would like this report to look at the following questions:

- The extent to which Irish people in Leeds experience street homelessness
- The work undertaken by LIHH with clients who have experienced street homelessness
- The level of LIHH's success in sustaining tenants with street homeless backgrounds in tenancies
- The aspects of LIHH's work which contribute to successful work with this client group
- The potential for replicating LIHH's model of service elsewhere

We welcome this opportunity to raise awareness of the plight of some people in our community who have fallen through the social network for reasons of ill health or misfortune. The report will be published early next year.

### Our Strength is in Working Together

Leeds Irish Community Forum is going from strength to strength. As a body established to provide a representative voice for the Irish community in the development of our city, we have a growing membership both of groups and individuals who feel that by working together we can ensure the Irish community's history and future is part of a regenerating Leeds. At the recent meeting it was announced that we have been successful in achieving funding of £3000 from the Ireland Fund of Great Britain to develop the Forum's work.

LICF Chair, Ant Hanlon said "This is an important grant from the Ireland Fund as the forum was recently constituted and it will help us press on with much of the work asked for by the affiliates.

All LICF meetings are open meetings and we welcome new interested parties. For further details please contact Ant Hanlon on 0113 2625614.

The next meeting is on Thursday 28th April, 7.30 p.m. at Leeds Irish Centre.

### RESEARCHERS WANTED

- ARE YOU INTERESTED IN RESEARCHING THE NEEDS OF THE IRISH COMMUNITY?
- DO YOU WORK FOR ONE OF THE LEEDS PCT'S?
- WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LEEDS IRISH HEALTH & HOMES?

The Leeds PCT's (Primary Care Trusts) currently have some grants available for research on specific health issues such as:

- Older people's health
- Community health
- Teenage pregnancies

The research needs to be carried out by a health professional working for a PCT in Leeds. The researcher would be supported by an academic from the PCT. LIHH would like to work in partnership with you to look at health needs among the Irish community in Leeds.

If you feel this would be appropriate for you please contact Ant Hanlon on 0113 2625614 to discuss the matter further.

## Bros Pearce GAA Club Huddersfield Schools Project

The underage structure adopted by the Brothers Pearce GAA club of Huddersfield has proved beneficial, especially in the last couple of years which has seen a lot of English born lads come through the underage to play in the same team as those who have joined us from Ireland. The present day success of our teams is down to this blend of players and the club would not be in the solid position it is today were it not for the strength of the youth section. Those who have represented Brothers Pearce over the years made it possible for us to celebrate 25 years of underage football in Huddersfield in 2003, a great achievement for the club.

While we look forward to celebrating a successful year both on and off the pitch it is important to remember the roots of our success. The hard work and dedication of countless people within the youth section have kept the club alive and it is important that we now keep this tradition going to ensure the long-term success of the club. It was these thoughts that prompted us to introduce a new initiative this year. Following the example of clubs in Birmingham and London, we developed a pilot scheme, involving four primary schools to introduce children to Gaelic Sports which received a positive response. We decided to visit each school to deliver a presentation on the game which would be followed by a taster session for those wanting to participate. The presentations were a huge success. Many of the children had never seen the game before and it prompted questions such as "do you take corners"? "Which team is the Brazil of Gaelic football"? and our personal favourite that was asked first at every session "can you head the ball".?

The taster sessions were attended by up to 60 boys and girls at each school who eagerly took part in each of the skills sessions and showed great enthusiasm for the game. As this was the first time such an initiative has taken place in Huddersfield the response that we got reinforced the idea that the club needs to continue the outstanding work that has been done over the past 25 years. As a result of the initiatives success, the club has now decided to continue the project next year and involve more schools in the hope that a schools league can eventually be formed. It is hoped that the underage section will continue to produce players and teams as it has done in the past while providing the children of this area with an outlet for their sporting talent.

The club runs teams at U10, U12, U14 and U16 and is hoping to repeat its successful underage tournament from last year, which attracted 26 teams from across Britain. All boys and girls welcome and any additional information can be found from the following contacts.

Andrew Kitterick - Youth Officer - 01484 542279/07709732282

Ollie Walsh - Chairman - 01484 536945

Kitty Higgins - Treasurer - 01484 535813

Andrew Kitterick has represented Yorkshire and Britain and is currently captain of the senior team and the Youth Officer of the club.

## Early Days of the G.A.A in Leeds

### Early days of the G.A.A. in Leeds

Jim Neville remembers travelling by tram one Sunday in Spring 1948 and spotting four lads playing hurling on Woodhouse Moor. He got off the tram and introduced himself to the four men, one of whom was a Cork-man called Andy Creagh who would arrive on his bicycle every Sunday with a bag of sliotars; and another was a Limerick-man called Jim Hallinan.

Their ranks gradually swelled with hurlers and footballers as news of the 'puckabouts' and 'kickabouts' spread, no doubt across the building sites and dance halls of Leeds and beyond. Jim Hallinan remembers the police chasing them off Woodhouse Moor because someone had reported 'Irish men using clubs!'. They moved the following week to a grassed area near the allotments but were chased from there too.

Later in 1948 a club was formed with Andy Creagh as Chairman, Jim Hallinan as Treasurer and Jim Neville as Secretary. The hurling team was called St. Brendan's and the football team Hugh O'Neill's. Affiliation to a County Board was the next step but there was no Yorkshire County Board at that time (Barnsley had been playing in the Lancashire competition and were, in fact, the reigning 'Lancashire' county champions). A meeting was convened at St. Anne's Cathedral in Leeds with representatives from Bradford, Keighley, Barnsley and Leeds where a Yorkshire County Board was established.

New jerseys were bought and St. Brendan's travelled to Barnsley for the club's first ever game. Barnsley were captained by a stylish Dungarvan hurler called Charlie McCarthy, father of the former Republic of Ireland manager, Mick.

The next step was to locate a suitable pitch. Leeds Corporation had an open patch of ground at Torre Road but this turned out to be far too rough and uneven as it had been used as a coal tip. So, in Spring 1950 Jim Neville called to the Parks Department of Leeds Corporation and was offered grounds at Kirkstall Abbey and Halton

Moor. The Kirkstall pitch was too short for hurling so Halton was rented for £15 per year.

A farmer had grazing rights on the pitch but he was persuaded to cut his meadow early. A horse-drawn mowing machine and trailer were sent and, with the help of the Irish lads, the grass was collected and loaded on to the trailer.

However, the mowing machine wasn't very effective and the shorter grass had to be burnt using paraffin. The first match on the new pitch took place in May 1950.....and within 10 minutes you couldn't tell one side from another as they were all black from the burnt grass.

## Hugh O' Neils GAA Club

### Cumann Luthchleas Gael

The Hugh O' Neills GAA club has recently held its 55th Annual General Meeting and is looking forward to another successful year both off and on the pitch. Training has already started and some events are being planned for the clubs members in 2005.

At the meeting the following officers were elected:

Paddy Hanrahan - Chairman  
 Gerard Enright - Secretary  
 Mark Rowland - Treasurer  
 Niall Cox/Frank Gallagher - Manager  
 Fergus McNicholas - social secretary

Of course the club is always looking for new players. If you are interested in playing Gaelic Football for Hugh O Neills then please contact Niall Cox 0113 2663676 or Gerard on 0113 2484332/07803 745995.

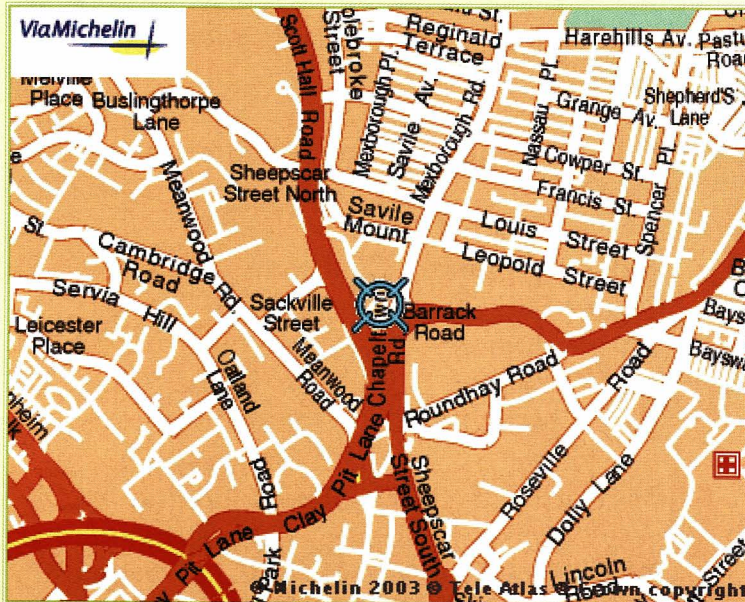
## Pennine League

This is a Gaelic football competition for all clubs in Yorkshire and Lancashire. The first of the League games is on Sunday, March 20 with St. Benedicts playing St. Peter's, Young Ireland's against Oisins, Bros. Pearse playing St. Brendan's. all these games are in Manchester. The second round is on April 10 when Bros. Pearse will play Oisins, John F. Kennedy's will play St. Brendan's and St. Benedicts will take on St. Anne's. The latter two games on April 10 will be played at Beeston and Bros. Pearse will play their game against Oisins at Huddersfield. The main local venues are Beeston, Scott Hall Road and All Saints School Huddersfield. Following the league there will be a knockout to decide the winners of the 2005 Pennine League. All games throw in at 1.00pm or 2.15pm if there is more than game at any venue.

For further information on games, results and venues - please contact Willy Mullan (Yorkshire P.R.O.) on 07770 608694 or by email [willy@willymullan.com](mailto:willy@willymullan.com).

## GAA CONTACTS

<b>Hugh Ó Neill's</b> Gerry Enright	07803 745995
<b>St. Anthony's</b> John Kehoe	0113 2281387
<b>Young Ireland's</b> Jimmy Houghton	07940 302541
<b>St. Benadict's</b> Liam Ó Hara	0113 2567627
<b>John F. Kennedy</b> Padraig Kenning	07813 528764
<b>Bro's Pearse (Huddersfield)</b> Ollie Walsh	01484 536945
<b>Ladies Gaelic Football</b> Claire Mahoney	07834 687968



### Contact details

**LEEDS IRISH HEALTH & HOMES  
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GEMINI PARK,  
SHEEPSCAR WAY,  
LEEDS.  
LS7 3JB**

**PHONE: 0113 262 5614  
FAX: 0113 284 9040  
EMAIL: [info@lihh.org](mailto:info@lihh.org)  
WEBSITE: [www.lihh.org](http://www.lihh.org)**

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