

Issue 18

DECEMBER 2006

# IRISH IN LEEDS

PUBLISHED BY LEEDS IRISH HEALTH AND HOMES



**FREE**

## *GIMME SHELTER*

On the 23rd November LIHH launched its report *Gan Dídean* (Without a place to stay) at Leeds Irish Centre.

The report, commissioned by Shelter the national campaigning group on homelessness, looks at the support LIHH provides to Irish homeless people and how this model of cultural sensitivity can be transposed to other groups.

Shelter spokesperson Grant Everitt highlighted the importance of the report in raising the issue of Irish homelessness as they were often over-represented, especially older Irish men, in the numbers of homeless people, yet because of their white skin, overlooked when formulating policy to alleviate the problem. He said this report would go along way to redressing the balance and that Shelter were happy to recommend LIHH's model as one of best practice in dealing with homelessness.

The launch was also addressed by Aileen Ross, Director of the Ireland Fund of Great Britain who stated that the report would inform best practice in providing services to vulnerable members of the Irish community in Britain. She said how delighted the Ireland Fund was to be associated with the great work of LIHH.

Dr Mary Tilki, Chair of the Federation of Irish Societies recognised the importance of 'keeping homeless people in touch with their culture and community'.

Eddie Mulligan, Community Development Worker with LIHH and the report's author emphasised the need to involve Irish groups and the wider Irish community in policy formation and development by Local and statutory authorities.

The report is available from [eddie@lihh.org](mailto:eddie@lihh.org)



This picture was taken by Jim Mulhearn and shows from left to right: Eddie Mulligan Aileen Ross from the Great Britain Ireland Fund, Grant Everitt from Shelter and Geraldine Ryan, Director of Operations at LIHH.

## Editorial

Hi Everyone!

Well, it is nearly the end of another year and it has been a busy one. It has been our tenth anniversary as you know and we celebrated it in various ways. The highlight of the year was the visit to Leeds of the Irish President Mrs Mary McAleese and her husband. We launched the Heritage Project Róisín Bán which was on display in the city for a month and was very successful. The exhibition also went to Brussels and Derby and was well received. We played host to the Federation of Irish Societies AGM in Leeds and on November 23rd we launched our report on homelessness among the Irish in the Irish Centre. Once again we have a packed edition with the usual mixture of history, humour, poems and recipes and profiles of new staff as well as items of local and national interest. Could I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas on behalf of the staff and management and remind you that this newsletter is yours? Please feel free to contribute articles, stories or poems, particularly anything of interest to the local Irish community.

Nollaig Shona Duit,  
Eddie Mulligan.  
Editor.



## Get Fit in the New Year

Fancy joining a walking group for the New Year? Want to burn off a few of those Christmas calories? Would you like to meet up with other Irish people and enjoy a stroll in some glorious countryside?



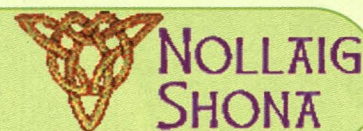
Leeds Irish Health and Homes' Rambling Group goes for occasional walks to places like Bolton Abbey, Fewston Reservoir and Golden Acre Park.

The pace is gentle so don't worry if you think that you aren't fit....we don't leave anybody behind!

If you want to know more then please contact Tony or Teresa on 0113-2625614.



## *LIHH at Leeds Market*



The Outreach Team were back at Leeds Market in August, promoting LIHH, dishing out gorgeous food and knitting up a storm.

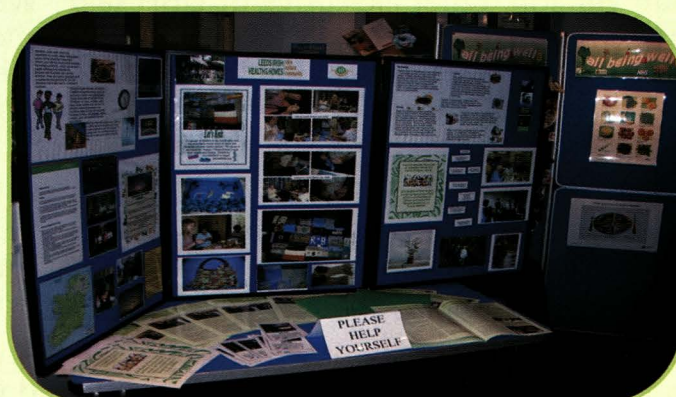


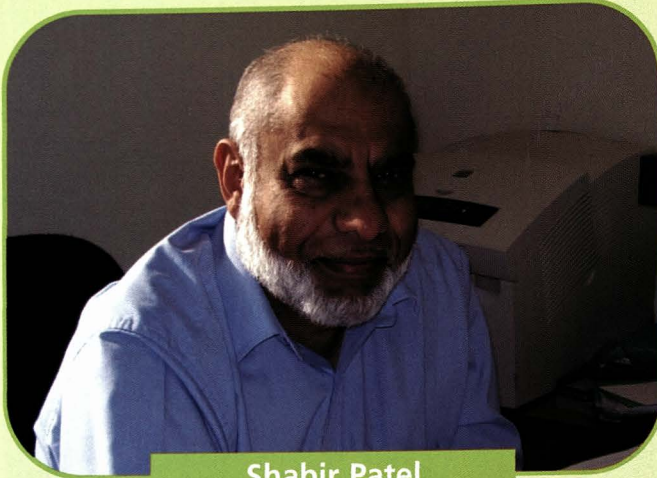
The 'All Being Well' stall provided by Leeds City Council is very well used by various organisations from around the city. On 24 August, Teresa who facilitates the Let's Knit group joined Community Links who were there promoting their organisation. The knitting proved very popular. We had one very keen male knitter (a rarity), Mervin, whose grandmother from Cork taught him to knit as a youngster. We also had a lovely lady, Joan, who hadn't knit for 50 years and sat contentedly knitting for most of the afternoon.

This was a great day and it's always very beneficial when different groups work together. Here are two more dates for your diary;

LIHH at Leeds Market on Monday 4 December – warm winter food and knitting.

Community Links, Alzheimer's Society and LIHH (knitting department!) at Leeds Market Monday 11 December.





Shabir Patel

I am Shabir Patel the new Finance and Business Development Manager. I was born in Malawi of Indian parents. In 1973 I came to England to study Finance & Accountancy at Huddersfield Polytechnic where I met my wife and settled in West Yorkshire.

I have over 25 years experience in financial management. I have also been involved with two local voluntary organisations for a number of years.

It is a privilege to be given the opportunity to serve the Irish community of Leeds and be part of this worthy organisation.

## *Brussels Exhibition Made Possible by O'Rourke Reid Law Firm's Sponsorship*

Sponsorship from a local Leeds Irish law firm, O'Rourke Reid allowed Corinne Silva of Leeds Irish Health and Homes the chance to take the Róisín Bán exhibition to the European Parliament in Brussels.

The exhibition and accompanying book highlighting the experiences of Irish people settling in Leeds had created such interest when exhibited in Leeds during March that Leeds MEP Linda McAvan wanted this universal acknowledgement of emigrant experience to receive its rightful accolades.

LIHH needed to raise sponsorship to exhibit the work and despite securing funding from Culture Ireland and the Home Office were left with a £2000 shortfall.

Ant Hanlon, Chief Executive of LIHH said "We thought the exhibition would not be possible after all our attempts to secure funds seemed to have come to a dead-end. I then had a conversation with John Reid and Chris Sayer of O'Rourke Reid who said they would be delighted to be associated with Róisín Bán and LIHH's work in general, donating the full £2000 to the fund.

I am extremely grateful to John and Chris who have supported us in many important ways over the past few years. Being able to exhibit the work in Brussels opened up so many opportunities for us to raise awareness about the work that we do and secure many more contacts with policy makers both in Britain and Ireland."

The exhibition is currently being developed in an IT friendly format so that it can tour the UK and Ireland, and plans are being formulated to dramatise the work.



## *A Day in the Life: Housing Support Worker*

After arriving at the Leeds Irish Health and Homes office in Sheepscar and shouting greetings to colleagues, I sit at my desk and switch on my computer to check emails. I find a message from the Housing Maintenance Manager asking for feedback on some recent decorating and carpet-fitting to one of our flats (we sublet a total of 72 flats from Housing Associations and the Council and support tenants to live independently in each one).

Then I email my colleagues asking them to inform their clients of the date and location of the next 'Ramblers Group' outing. The group encourages inner-city dwellers to take time to walk in local parks and countryside and meets once-a-month for outings to Golden Acre Park, Bolton Abbey etc.

I check my diary to organize the day ahead and before leaving the office I input my visits onto the computer calendar so that colleagues know where I am if they or anybody else needs me.

My first visit is to a client who is getting frustrated about noisy neighbours. I contact the Environmental Health Officer (who agrees to send information leaflets and a 'noise nuisance diary') and the Tenancy Support Officer from the local Council Housing Office (who promises to talk to the noisy neighbours as they are Council tenants).

My second appointment is to view a flat with a new client. He likes the look of the flat and it's location and we agree a move-in date. After his marriage broke down several years ago he lost touch with his wife and children and has struggled to adapt to life on his own. His current flat is in a terrible state and he spends his waking hours in local pubs to avoid spending time there. As a result his health is failing but we hope that his life will change for the better with regular visits from a Housing Support Worker and connection with an Irish support organization.

My next visit is to a client who has received a letter threatening to cut off the electricity supply and take her to court over an unpaid debt. She is upset but after I contact the supplier and arrange a mutually agreeable repayment schedule she feels a lot calmer and reassured.

After lunch I accompany a client to see a Psychiatrist at the Newsam Centre in Seacroft Hospital. He is suffering from chronic anxiety and depression and was glad that I could accompany him as he finds any trip outside his flat tough-going due to agoraphobia. Afterwards we drop by Park Lane College which runs 'Stepping Out' courses specially designed to renew confidence in people with mental health problems. He gathered some information and will consider enrolling on a course.

Back at the office there is a message from a client who has an ongoing problem with his back. I call him and he asks me to make an appointment with his G.P. as he doesn't like talking to 'strangers' on the phone. He is virtually housebound due to his poor mobility so I arrange a home-visit from his G.P. and we discuss the possibility of an LIHH volunteer doing his weekly food-shop. He says it'll be lovely to see another face besides my 'ugly mug' in his typically good-humoured fashion. There's time to do some 'office-work' before the end of the working day, so I ring the Department for Work and Pensions and request a Disability Living Allowance Application form for a client with physical disabilities, then the local Jobcentre Plus office to apply for Income Support on behalf of another client.

Finally, I write up notes on the client contact that I have had today. I support 16 clients in all and organizations that fund our work need to see evidence of that support so it is important that client records are informative and up to date.

## *Douglas Hyde: First President of Ireland*

Douglas Hyde was born in Frenchpark County Roscommon in 1860. His father was a local Church of Ireland Rector. He became fascinated with the Irish language and entered Trinity College where he studied languages including French, German, Greek, Latin and Hebrew. He was determined to prevent the continuing decline of the native language and in 1893 he founded the Gaelic League. The Irish language had been in decline since the seventeenth century but this decline accelerated in the years after the famine. The 'Black Death' of 1845 to 1849 resulted in over a million deaths from starvation and a further million people were lost to emigration in the decade following the famine. The effect of the famine on the Irish language was devastating. The increased awareness in national identity that culminated in the Easter Rising in 1916 and the subsequent War of independence and eventual declaration of an Irish Republic can be traced to events in the second half of the nineteenth century. The formation of the Gaelic League by Douglas Hyde was crucial in the promotion of the idea of an independent Irish nation. Many of the iconic Irish nationalist leaders that were later to shape the course of Irish history formed their nationalistic philosophies during their membership of the Gaelic League. Pearse, DeValera and Collins were all members. Hyde was not a politician and had some difference of opinion with the other members of the League and resigned the presidency of the organisation he had founded in 1915. He accepted a position in Seanad Eireann (the appointed Senate) but later lost the post when an election was held. He returned to academic studies and became Professor of Irish at UCD. Eamon DeValera appointed Douglas Hyde once more to Seanad Eireann. His stay in the Senate was again short-lived but this time it was because greater office beckoned. DeValera and the opposition leader W.T. Cosgrove agreed that Hyde should become the first President of Ireland in recognition for the years of service Hyde had given to the Irish people through his tenure as president of the Gaelic League. In 1938 he became the first President of Ireland and settled into Aras an Uachtarain in the Phoenix Park, which has remained the home of all Irish Presidents ever since. Hyde was a popular President with the US President Roosevelt calling him 'a fine and scholarly old gentleman'. He suffered a massive stroke in 1940 and it appeared his demise was near. He recovered however and, although wheelchair bound, continued his presidential duties for another 5 years. He left office in 1945 but continued to live in the Phoenix Park until his death in 1949. He was granted a state funeral and was buried in his native Roscommon. His contribution to the cause of the Irish language, history, music and literature cannot be overstated with W. B. Yeats proclaiming him as the source of the Irish literary renaissance which continues to this day.

## *The Dead Jackass*

Father Murphy looks out his window one morning and sees a dead jackass on the lawn. He telephones the police station and says: "There is a dead jackass lying on my lawn. Can you send a few fellows over to take him away?" "I thought that Last Rites were your business," says the policeman. (Fr. Murphey remains silent for a couple of seconds...) And then he says: "but first we must notify the next of kin."

## Mutton Broth

It is a good idea to make this broth a day in advance. The fat that rises to the surface will solidify and can easily be removed.



- 2 lb neck of mutton
- 6 cups water
- 2 tbsp pearl barley
- 1 large onion
- 1 medium turnip
- 2 large carrots
- 1/2 small white cabbage
- (serves six)

Put the meat in a large pan and cover with the cold water. Bring to the boil and skim the surface. Rinse the barley and add to the pan. Cover, but not too tightly, and simmer gently for 90 minutes. Shred the cabbage and dice the other vegetables and add these to the soup. Bring back to the boil and simmer for another hour. Remove the mutton and separate the meat from any bones, fat or gristle. Chop the meat and return to the soup. Allow to cool and remove fat. Reheat and serve.

## Champ



Champ is a simple warming dish which is cheap, easy to produce and very filling.

- 8 medium potatoes, peeled
- small bunch of scallions (spring onions)
- 1/4 pt/125ml/1/2 cup milk
- salt and pepper
- knob of butter per person
- (serves four)

The best way to prepare the potatoes is to cook them in a steamer and then pass them through a food mill. Alternatively, boil until soft but not mushy, drain and return them to the heat to dry somewhat before mashing.

In any case keep hot. Chop the scallions finely, both green and white parts, and cook for 5 minutes in the milk. Beat this mixture into the mashed potatoes until smooth and fluffy, season to taste and serve a large mound on each plate with a good knob of butter melting into the top. Each forkful is dipped into the melted butter as it is eaten.

Very good with a glass of cold milk.

Colcannon is made in much the same way as champ, but with the addition of cabbage. In parts of the country white cabbage is always used. In any case, shred and chop a small cabbage (discard the stump) and cook until tender. Beat into the potato mixture and serve as above. From the Appletree Press title: A Little Irish Cookbook



## *Wherever the Feather Falls and the Seed is Blown*

### *Jess Smith*

Who am I? Mammy," I asked standing on yet another door step having been sworn at and physically pushed by two strong arms. A face swollen red with anger, eyes protruding grotesquely like golf balls from their sockets.

"A damn sight better than that object who just hacked another ten years off his life by spitting blue blazes at us."

The string vested man may have had his reasons for shooting from the hip at how he hated Gypsies and Hitler did the right thing but the answers I sought came neither from him and his ilk or my pleasant mannered mother who was only selling her wares around the doors. I grew up within my culture of living by wits and wisdom; yet always aware that we were a lesser people in mainstreams eyes. How many times did I ask my peers that question, "Who am I?" No one can say yet it was always asked and no matter how often I pestered, the same answer was, "don't know girl but does it matter?"

Question answered by a question infuriated! What could I do except the only thing open to an inquisitive mind- Seek one out myself.

Yet the more I searched the deeper I spiralled into a world of blood ties and language secrets; kept close through out history with meticulous inter-marrying. Academics can't seem to make up their minds; where some teach we are from northern India. Others say we here in Scotland are an ancient Aboriginal people; nomads with ties going as far back as the Celts. I have a belief that when Rome flooded the British Isles it brought galleys of slaves. Weapon makers were needed to supply her vast army to conquer wild Pictish Warriors who dominated ancient Scotia. There are places north of the border where grave stones of old display Egyptian hieroglyphics; does this signify we might have been Egyptian slaves. The pyramids were designed by the greatest minds so their builders would certainly know a thing or two. They too were slaves. Roman influence is still to this day a classic feature of our prominent structures.

Experts have dated some English Gypsies and a few families of border ones slipping into Britain in the fifteenth century. Yet in Scotland documents have been discovered dating a wandering Tinsmith as far back as the twelve century; even going as far as naming the gent as Thomas Johnston. Johnston incidentally, was the Celtic name for Perth. A stumbling block for such scant research is the prominent lack of written evidence; and without guidance all that I had to go on was similarity in cultures. This proved fruitless with dozens of cultures and a little drop of Gypsy/Traveller in all of them.

So here I am forty years from asking my mother who I am and still no closer to an answer. I have spent ages, travelled to many parts of the globe, sifted through museums, libraries and have purchased old books and documents filling my house to bursting without discovering who I am or where I come from.

"Lass," an old traveller man said to me recently, "some seeds manage to grow wherever the wind blows them." He went on with a wink of his eye, "some feathers are carried thousands of miles before falling to ground," he supped his tea, sat back and said, "see this comfortable cushion I lean on, its filled with feathers."

Jess Smith is an Author and Traditional Storyteller in the Traveller Tradition.

## *Dublin Boy*

In my unformed younger days  
my speech was rough:  
urban, Dublin, demotic—  
my thoughts chaotic,  
life was tough.

I wanted more of life's delights:  
music, culture, art.  
A raw and callow youth,  
ignorant and uncouth,  
I knew not where to start.

But as I grew, my thoughts  
cohered, took wing and flew  
to realms uncharted—  
my soul departed  
into pastures new.

The wondrous world of words  
opened up before me:  
I was entranced,  
my mind enhanced  
by the power of poetry.

I'm still a Dublin boy  
at heart, my soul unchained:  
but now I hear,  
sweet and clear,  
poetry calling, unrestrained.

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## *Irish Poets Scoop National Award*

Leeds-based Irish Writers Group, Lucht Focail, are going from strength to strength. Their poetry volume *The Fifth Province*, which was launched at the Leeds Irish Centre in March this year, was awarded the winner's trophy in the category Best New Anthology of the Year in a nation-wide competition organised by The National Association of Writers Groups (NAWG).

The trophy was presented to Lucht Focail at a Gala Dinner and Presentation Ceremony held at Durham University on Sept 2nd.

Needless to say, the members of Lucht Focail were delighted! As Deirdre McGarry, spokesperson for the group, said "This is a reward for the dedication and commitment of our members to the great tradition of Irish literature and especially poetry. We firmly believe writing to be a vital expression of Irish culture."

That Lucht Focail were worthy winners is confirmed by this ringing endorsement of the competition's judges:

*The Fifth Province* by Lucht Focail. Easily voted in first place by the majority of our panel of judges because of its professional appearance and the sheer quality of the poems....this was a runaway winner of the 2006 Anthology Competition.

And in the opinion of Mary Rothwell, a professional poet: "*The Fifth Province*" is a uniquely rewarding collection of poems which any reader will want to return to again and again....all pieces impress with their high literary standard.

We are sure our readers will join Irish Health and Homes in congratulating the poets and wishing them every success in the future.

Photos by Mike Wilson and Pam Fish.



## *Lets Knit*



The knitting group is going from strength to strength and we are now well on our way to producing a fine piece of work (Bringing It All Back Home). About 50 people have now contributed to the project. These include men, women, people from different cultures, Leeds, Mayo and Cork (that would be my family then)!

On 21 September we had a great Let's Knit Garden Party at Kingston Terrace. Lovely food was provided by our gourmet duo – Caroline and Eileen, music by Rodi, Sister Eileen and myself and a pretty good rendering of Galway Shawl by everyone.

We still meet nearly every Thursday at 2 Kingston Terrace (contact Teresa 01132625614 for more details).

Hopefully, another event will happen in February or March so keep your eyes peeled and your ears open and if you have access to the web, check out our website [www.lihh.co.uk](http://www.lihh.co.uk).

Slán anois

Teresa



## *Thankyou to the suppliers*

On behalf of Leeds Irish Health and Homes I would like to thank all the suppliers that have helped us over the past 10 years....

Tommy Gibbons the carpet man  
Bells Electrical Supplier  
Compton's Furniture  
Baileys of Morley Removals  
1st Choice Decorators



StyleDecs Decorators  
ProDec Decorators  
Lord of the Linens  
Leeds Furniture Stores Partnership

North Leeds Property Services  
Stanton's Locksmith  
O'Brien Gardening Services  
TM West Plumbers  
P.J & C Walkers Electricians

Edward Buckle Property Maintenance  
Domestic Cleaning Company  
Andy Beaumont Cleaning Services  
Perfume Gardens  
Argos...  
and many more.  
Thank you, Paula McCullough



## *Leeds Irish Health and Homes Carers Trip 5th October 2006*

This years Carers trip was a couple of days away in sunny Scarborough, not so sunny though as it was in October but we had no rain thankfully.



We stayed at a lovely family run Bed and Breakfast over looking the south bay, right beside the castle ruins. As we had no fixed agenda, the group decided that they wanted to do different things, some went for long walks on the beach, some headed for the market and some headed down to the beach front for a game of bingo.

On the evening, we all met at the B and B for a drink and a chat, laughing till the wee small hours. We all got up early and enjoyed a huge home cooked breakfast then walked it off on the beach. At 4 o'clock we headed back to Leeds, tired but happy.

## *The Leeds Gathering 2006*

" A great range of events featuring some brilliant performers"

"..the thing that struck me was the slick presentation – as good as any professional event I've seen"

"I particularly liked the way in which new artists and younger performers were billed with more established acts"

Just some of the feedback on this years' Leeds Gathering – the now established annual celebration of Irish Arts in Leeds presented by The Irish Arts Foundation.

The event was officially opened by Councillor Mohammed Iqbal, or Patrick Mohammed Iqbal as he referred to himself(!), the Lord Mayor of Leeds. Held in the impeccably presented O'Meara Lounge of the Leeds Irish Centre, it was attended by over one hundred and fifty representatives of arts, voluntary sector, business and Irish groups from Leeds and beyond. Guest speakers this included Mr Michael Lonergan (Embassy of Ireland), Karen Ryan (Director, Return to Camden Festival), and Eithne Rynne (Director, Federation of Irish Societies)

That evening, a full house watched Sean O'Riada's *Mise Eire* which was preceded by a particularly informative lecture from Professor David Cooper of the University of Leeds School of Music, this was then followed by a documentary screening and Irish Music showcase at the Carriageworks, Leeds.

On the Friday afternoon it was back to the University again as Irish Arts Foundation members with guest musicians from Ireland delivered a recital to a packed concert hall as part of the University weekly recital programme - it was extremely well received. The Friday evening concert (a sell-out) began with a colourful and vibrant production from Leeds CCE who were followed by the well known Nollaig Casey & Arty McGlynn. The event concluded with a full dance floor for the ceili which featured a live caller and a fine band of players.



The Saturday evening concert featuring younger emerging stars of the Irish music scene also sold out with crowds then moving on to the late night festival club at Jurys Inn Hotel. Cara Dillon played what can only be described as a spectacular show at the City Varieties Theatre – and what a lovely venue. This has got to be one of the best arranged shows on the Irish/folk circuit at the moment. The fact that Cara attracted such a large crowd is testament to this.

Of course The Leeds Gathering didn't just involve the best in high-profile concerts... On Saturday and Sunday day time you could sample the best of acoustic music in the traditional sessions in the Skyrack & Trio or enjoy the vibrant literary event upstairs at Citrus Café where local poets showcased their work in the prestige company of established poets such as Mick Reeves who travelled over for the Gathering from County Clare in the West of Ireland. The Dare café was host to a highly original comedy club hosted by Mick Artistik and Sunday was nicely rounded off with a film at the Hyde Park Picture House. There were also very informative displays at the Gathering provided by the Leeds Irish Historical & Cultural Society and the Irish Diaspora Foundation

So, a resounding success all round, the Arts Irish Foundation would like to thank all who attended the event and all partners for support and funding.

## Christmas Horoscope

### Aries (Ram): March 21–April 19

So you've tried to sort everyone out this year and where has it got you? Put your feet up, take your horns off and dig in. The world won't come to an end just because you're not around for a day.

### Taurus (Bull): April 20–May 20

Don't be a bull in a china shop this Christmas Taurus and leave some pudding for those of us with more delicate palates. A run around the fields on St. Stephen's Day would do you the power of good – and shake some of the badness out of you.

### Gemini (Twins): May 21–June 20

You'll be your element no doubt – things to do, people to see and loads o' parties. Get the glad rags on and get rid of some of that energy, and don't forget to go back to work on the 27th. 'Got my twin staying with me' is not an option.

### Cancer (Crab): June 21–July 22

Come out from under that shell and join the festivities you old crab. You know how you love all that home cooking and warm fires and with lots of aunts to listen to your woes you can be cosy and back in your shell by midnight. You might take a risk one of these days and venture beyond home – you spruce up quite nicely you know!

### Leo (Lion): July 23–Aug. 22

Leo...who?? I don't see anyone, just a roaring lion waxing lyrical and holding court on every street corner. Comb out your tresses, don your finest coat and roar..... You know you're the king – and so do we.

### Virgo (Virgin): Aug. 23–Sept. 22

Ah you gentle creature, here's another occasion for you to be a right Holy Mary, slave over the kitchen stove for days on end, knit scarves, gloves and toilet roll holders and get walked on by one and all.....or have I got it wrong?? And where is Santa Clause??

### Libra (Scales): Sept. 23–Oct. 23

With your aesthetic sensibilities (yes indeed) I don't suppose you will want to be mixed up with this Christmas frivolity and will have wandered off to some unknown nick of the woods ...like Tír na nÓg or Courtmacsherry Bay. Failing that we will probably find you at Mass. Light one for me please and God Bless you.

### Scorpio (Scorpion): Oct. 23–Nov. 21

I suppose you will be looking dapper and mysterious and lolling around at your usual pace while the rest of us chase our tails. Get off your butt, do the washing up, take the kids to the park and your reward will be great!! Guaranteed.

### Sagittarius (Archer): Nov. 22–Dec. 21

It was the night before Christmas when all through the house not a creature was stirring apart from the Sagittarian buzzing with anticipation of fun, frolic and fairyland. The big child comes out to play and don't you just love it. You'll sparkle wherever you go.

### Capricorn (Goat): Dec. 22–Jan. 21

You're sure to nibble your way through Christmas you old goat and down a few heady brews into the bargain. Don't let that stubborn streak get the better of you and remember to give way now and again.....If all fails get down to the pub and give em a blast of McGinty's Goat.

### Aquarius (Water Bearer): Jan. 20–Feb. 18

Yes I'm sure there's a better way to cook a turkey or skin a cat, but while you're contemplating the possibility of a solar oven in your back to back we'll prepare a place for you at our Ikea table - won't you come and join us?

### Pisces (Fish): Feb. 19–March 21

Oh there must be some hidden agenda going on around here – everything is running too smoothly and what's life without a bit of serious drama? Maybe it's time to swim in someone else's pond Pisces?

## Rosspport 5

"We do not seek conflict, we know the strength of the forces arrayed against us. Know that because of them we can only use peaceful means, but we are determined that justice will be done!"

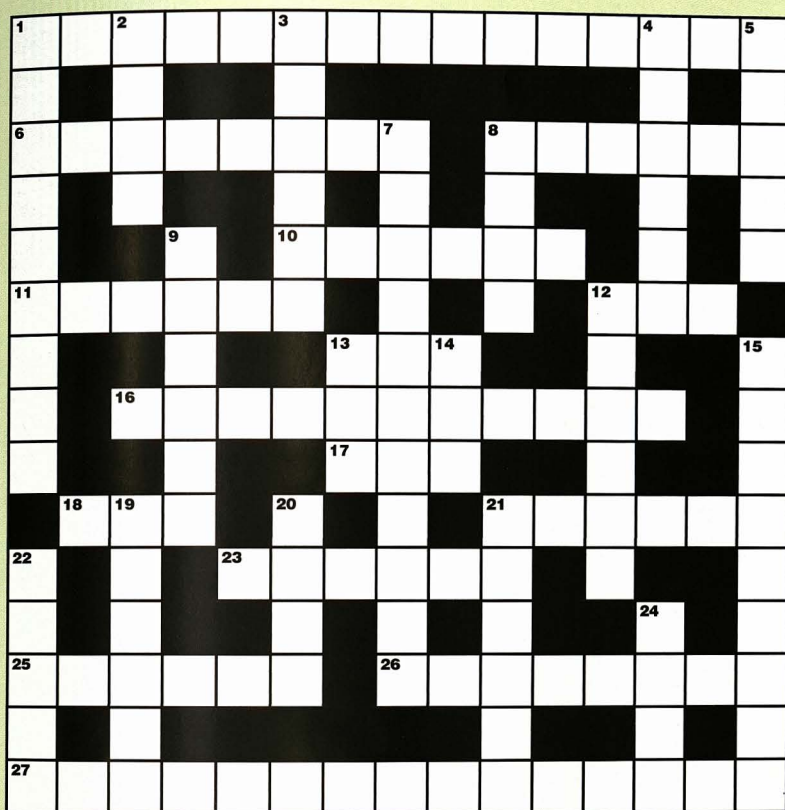
Mohandas K. Gandhi

One morning in October I was driving past a Shell garage in Leeds I noticed a picket in front of the filling station. As I stopped at the traffic lights a young man approached my window and thrust a leaflet into my hand. It was a protest at the shell's proposed Corrib gas field project of the coast of Co. Mayo. It reminded me that I had promised to update readers of the newsletter of what was happening following the imprisonment of the Rosspport Five last year.

It was very strange to see a group of people with banners in Leeds protesting about something that was happening in a remote part of the west of Ireland; so I looked on the internet for assistance and here is the result. On Monday 2nd October rumours circulated that the Irish government was ready to force the construction workers through a blockade of Shell's proposed refinery site at Ballinaboy Co. Mayo. At 3.30 a.m. Tuesday morning there was a large amount of police activity with roadblocks being set up; according to the Garda they deployed 170 officers directly at Ballinaboy with riot police brought up from Cork on standby. But the mood amongst protestors was resilient and solidarity protests were being organised. Ironically, that very day gas prices rose by 30%. Over the next few days outside the gates of proposed refinery site campaigners were out in force undeterred by the heavy police presence and inclement weather. For two days over 200 local residents and activists from all parts of Ireland and abroad gathered in the semi darkness of the early mornings to voice their opposition to the Corrib gas project. Although work has temporarily recommenced on site, local people's resistance to this project continues. The peaceful nature of the protest is a deliberate strategy with people sitting down on the road reciting the rosary. Hundreds of Gardaí have been drafted into the small community to facilitate Shell's work in the area and have maintained a strong presence outside the proposed refinery site since then. However their presence is more low-key with Gardaí waiting on standby in buses. This issue doesn't look as if it is going to go away anytime soon so we will keep an eye on it.



## Ireland In Crosswords



### ACROSS

1. Mown when tail not straightened out in Armagh village in picturesque hill country of the Fews. (15)
6. Keep an eye on male for the overnight security worker. (8)
8. Pub disagreement concerning river on which Carlow Town stands. (6)
10. "I will arise and go now, for ----- night and day I hear lake water ..." W.B. Yeats. (6)
11. Run fast in Southern impression on surface. (6)
12. Holy Vatican look? (3)
13. "If a writer has to --- his mother, he will not hesitate" William Faulkner. (3)
16. Rearrange later, by wall in Down resort village on the shores of Strangford Lough. (11)
17. "By a high star our course is set, Our --- is Life. Put out to sea." Louis MacNeice. (3)
18. "I hear a sudden --- of pain! There is a rabbit in a snare;" James Stephens. (3)
21. Mop lab up with self confidence. (6)
23. 'Tis up to little Richard to find the old Danish invader of Ireland. (6)

25. Inclusive legal charge in Rathlin dictation. (6)
26. Di frowns but is out of order in quiet Mayo market town on a tributary of the River Moy. (8)
27. Lace it, gauge heel. (anag.) Founded by Douglas Hyde in 1893 to restore the Irish language.

### DOWN

1. Lest we can get excited in famous Down seaside and golf resort at the foot of Slieve Donard . (9)
2. Powerful unit! (4)
3. W.B. splits atom to discover Australian marsupial. (6)
4. "A man may build himself a ----- of bayonets, but he cannot sit on it;" Dean Inge. (6)
5. Northern water-jug is not so old. (5)
7. Drawn to news about busy Down linen town on the Belfast to Donaghadee road. (11)
8. "Where are the ---- of the Old Brigade, Who fought with us side by side?" Frederick Weatherly. (4)
9. C.I.A. pry into crime, in the main. (6)
12. "The shrill, demented choirs of wailing --- ---; and bugles calling for them from sad shires." Wilfred Owen. (6)
13. Crop sounds distorted to one side. (3)
14. "Things that are --- for me do not tempt me." G.B. Shaw. (3)
15. Brag in bed. (anag.) Busy Down linen town on the River Bann. (9)
19. "The ----- of the Sands." Erskine Childers. (6)
20. Irish this whiskey liqueur, seen on a soft day. (4)
21. Accountant returns for a rise on Ireland's largest island, in Mayo. (6)
22. Did this Irish writer (1667-1745) write Gulliver's Travels quickly? (5)
24. "The ill-bred son of a livery stable keeper - Luxuriant ----." W.B. Yeats. (4)

## Crosswords Solutions



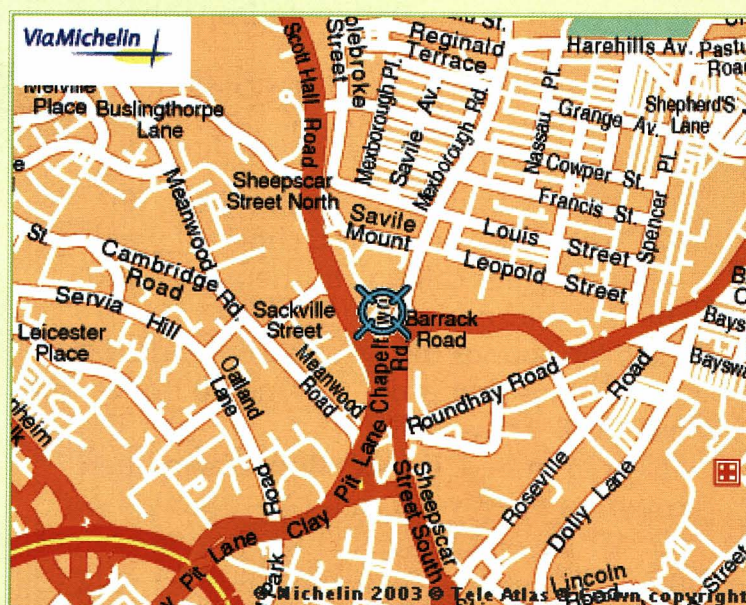
## Live In Concert

York Road - Leeds phone: 0113 248 0887  
 Tickets from: Leeds Irish Centre & JUMBO  
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 Wednesday 20th DECEMBER 2006  
 THE MAD, THE BAD & THE DANGEROUS  
 THE HAMSTERS  
 WILKO JOHNSON  
 JOHN OTWAY  
 £15 advance - £17 door

Thursday 22nd February 2007  
 WHOLE LOTTA LED  
 How The West Was Won  
 £10 advance - £12 door

Thursday 22nd March 2007  
 LIVE/WIRE - A WHOLE LOTTA AC/DC  
 The BON SCOTT + BRIAN JOHNSON years  
 (Two vocalists)  
 £9 advance - £10 door

Thursday 19th April 2007  
 LIMEHOUSE LIZZY  
 £10 advance - £12 door



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