

IRISH IN LEEDS



FAILTE, CONAS A TA TU?

Welcome everyone to this special St Patrick's Day edition of 'Irish in Leeds' newsletter.

We hope you enjoy the new bumper-packed format and find the articles interesting and informative.

This is a free newsletter edited by Leeds Irish Health and Homes. While it is a vehicle for us to let you know about the services we offer, we would like it to develop into a community newsletter.

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

335 Roundhay Road

Leeds

LS8 4HT

Email: irishheal@aol.com

Hope you enjoy reading!

Anna

Irish in Leeds tackle the Irish Government's Task Force

In January 2002 the Irish Government formed a Task Force on Policy regarding Emigration. This Task Force was set up to tackle issues facing Irish emigrants living abroad. The Taskforce wanted to know about issues affecting:

- Emigrants leaving Ireland today;
- Irish living in the UK wishing to return to live in Ireland; and
- Irish living in the UK but unable to return to Ireland except for holidays due to family commitments, money constraints etc.

In response to this request for information Leeds Irish Health and Homes organised an open forum for the Irish Community at the Irish Centre in Leeds on January 31st 2002.

The evening proved to be a huge success. Topics addressed included the need for information on housing, benefits, employment for returnees; the requirement for the Irish

Government to provide extra funding for Irish facilities in the UK, and special travel rates for the older Irish returning to Ireland on holidays.

Excellent views about what the Community wanted were put forward. One gentleman noted "I would not go back to live in Ireland as my family are here, but it would be great to see the Irish Government extending benefits or discounts to the Irish living in Britain."

Finally, in response to this request for information and from views aired on the evening, Leeds Irish Health and Homes have sent a report to the Task Force. If you would like a copy please contact us on 0113 240 1130.

The next meeting to discuss how we, the Irish Community in Leeds, can begin to tackle Irish issues like those mentioned will be held at **Leeds Irish Centre on Thursday March 21st at 7.30pm**. Everyone is welcome so please come along and let us know what you want to see happening in your community.

"Take me Home Again"

Last year Leeds Irish Health and Homes organised a trip back to Mayo for some of the tenants that we, as an organisation, support. It was so successful that we have decided to try and organise another one this year.

Different tenants will be going this year but last year one of the holiday-

makers was a man from Co. Mayo who had not been back for 49 years.

Many of the people who come with us are in ill-health or purely have never been able to afford to go back. The difference a week's

holiday in Mayo makes to their life is amazing. As a charitable organisation we depend on the generosity of the Irish Community to fund initiatives like this. Allied Irish have already started the appeal for funds with a donation but with an approximate costing of £7000 to pay for this years holiday we have a long way to go. If you would like to get involved in fund-raising or would like to make a



donation, small or large, we would be very grateful. Every penny counts and it might be that you make those Irish eyes smile again!

For more information please contact **Anna Dunne on 0113 240 1130**.

'A Long Way From Home' but in safe hands!

What links Pancake Tuesday and a video about the Irish in Leeds? Well this was the day that Leeds Irish Health and Homes officially launched their video 'A Long Way from Home'.

About 80 people attended the launch at Leeds Metropolitan University to celebrate the making of this insight into the Irish culture in Leeds.

Maire McCluskey, Chair, Dion Committee gave a stirring speech about the importance of support organisations for the Irish and the need to promote archive material like this as a testimony to the Irish experience in the UK.

Guests included the Deputy Lord Mayor of Leeds and his wife,

numerous academics from the Irish studies course at LMU, representatives from Leeds Irish Centre and representatives from the Irish business community, as well as some of our tenants.



Maire McCluskey (Dion Committee), Ant Hanlon (LIHH), Clodagh Murphy (LIHH), John Pender (LMU), Michael (LIHH) at the recent video launch at Leeds Metropolitan University
Photo by Corinne Nicholson

Ant Hanlon, Director, Leeds Irish Health and Homes commented "We celebrate the achievements of the Irish in Britain...this video gives us visual tool to promote the services we can offer to the Irish community."

If you would like to purchase a copy of the video please call us on 0113 240 1130.

The Irish Experience in Leeds by Corinne Nicholson

Harehills Irish Music Project and myself, a photographer and community artist, are set to embark on an exciting 2-year arts project to create a community archive for people of Irish descent in Leeds.

We realised that, unlike Manchester or Liverpool, Leeds has no publicly accessible collection of recordings, photographs or writings for the Irish Community. Our plan is to create a visual, musical and written archive that can be accessed by the public and that will create awareness about and within the Irish population in Leeds, as well as being a celebration of our music and history in the area.

groups existing within Early Years Centres, Harehills Irish Music Project and Leeds Irish Health and Homes. I will also be documenting through photographs and interviews, the diverse range of Irish events and organisations in the city.



One of the photos from Corinne Nicholson's archive

Material from the workshops reflecting people's lives, memories and hopes for the future, will culminate in a series of exhibitions, and will also contribute to the 'Irish Experience in Leeds' website and book. Through participating, those involved will have the opportunity to work in a group to develop new skills in the arts, photography, design and computers.

This innovative project will allow people from the community to create their own visual archive and decide

This will be done through a series of photography, creative writing and web-design workshops working with different community groups of all ages, pre-dominantly in the Harehills and Chapeltown area. These will include, amongst others,

how they want to represent themselves and 'The Irish Experience In Leeds'.

For more information contact Corinne Nicholson via email on: corinnenicholson@yahoo.com or 07816 072132.

IT'S OFFICIAL: MOHAMMED ALI IS IRISH by John Pender



Above: Students attending a lecture on the Certificate (HE) Irish Studies course at Leeds Metropolitan University

STOP PRESS

Leeds Metropolitan University are holding an open lecture on Thursday 14th March at 6.30pm in Lecture Theatre B 2 (LTB2).

The lecture will be on the contribution that Father Ted has made to the construction of Irishness.

We would love you all to come along. If you would like more details please contact Rachael Varnish on 0113 289 2600 or via email: r.varnish@lmu.ac.uk.

The above headline recently appeared on the front page of The Irish Times newspaper. While we cannot promise that you will discover that Ali is a long lost relative, we can, among other things, equip you in your endeavours to explore your family tree and wider sense of Irishness.

At Leeds Metropolitan University you can now undertake a Certificate (HE) in Irish Studies. Established in 2000, Irish Studies has attracted over

60 students to date who have studied a wide range of modules including: Irish Family/Oral History, Irish History, Irish Politics, Women and Ireland, Irish Language (Gaelic), Contemporary Issues in Modern Ireland, The Experiences of the Irish in Britain and Irish Myth. With university approval, we hope to offer two new and exciting modules on Irish Music during 2002/2003.

Because the course is part-time, usually one evening

per week, flexibility in the delivery of modules is paramount. To obtain the award of Certificate (HE) Irish Studies, students must successfully complete eight of the above modules.

If you are attracted to a specific module then we are happy to facilitate a single module learning experience. Ordinarily, the course begins in October and finishes in June and is delivered over two semesters i.e. October to January and February to June.

If you are interested in learning more about our Certificate (HE) Irish Studies Course or would like an application pack, then please contact:

Rachael Varnish
Irish Studies Course administrator, School of Applied Social Sciences, Leeds Metropolitan University, Leeds, LS1 3HE
TEL: 0113 289 2600
Email: r.varnish@lmu.ac.uk

Institutional abuse

There has been a lot of coverage in Irish press recently about the abuse suffered by Irish children in the 1950's /1960's and 1970's where the state had a responsibility for their care. This includes industrial and reformatory schools, orphanages, children's homes and special needs schools including orthopaedic and Magdalene Laundries. This runs on from the scandal concerning abuse within religious congregations from the same era.

The Irish Government have set up Survivors Outreach Services in Sheffield, Coventry, London and in near future Manchester. The Outreach Workers aim is to provide support, advice and information to survivors of child abuse whilst in institutional care in Republic of Ireland. Eileen Burn, York-

shire Irish Survivors Outreach Worker commented: "We have already had a lot of response to our service and I would like to highlight that it is a completely confidential service. We can organise to meet people where they feel comfortable whether that be at our offices or in their own home and we can look at any aspect of support they may require".

Currently Leeds Irish Health and Homes do not have the resources in Leeds to provide this service but you can contact Eileen Burns on 0114 221 0481. If Eileen is unavailable Julie, her assistant will be happy to take your call. Alternatively we are very happy to listen if you would like to call a Leeds organisation first and then we can help you organise a visit from Eileen. Call us on 0113 240 1130.

Turn Leeds green on St Patrick's Day

Well the time of year is here again. Last year I was standing looking at Sydney Harbour bridge ringing my parents at some ungodly hour to wish them a Happy St Pat's Day.

This year I am a far cry from the sun of Australia here in Leeds. But it is not where you are but the people you are with that makes St Pat's Day and this year promises to be as good as previous.

The St Patrick's Day Parade Committee from the Irish Centre have given me details of the parade happening on St Patrick's Day (Sunday March 17th), through Leeds City Centre so why not head down and support your Community.

Cinta Culkin, St Patrick's Day Parade Committee commented this week: "This will be our 3rd Parade and all the groups from the Irish community are very welcome to join in. We hope to see the great support that we have seen on previous years. This is an opportunity for the Irish in Leeds to celebrate their culture and their country so come on down and enjoy the day."

St Patrick Week Events—LISTINGS

Just a taster of some of the events happening around the city on St Patrick's Day.

IRISH CENTRE

Friday 15th March

Dinner Dance with Shawn Cuddy + Res. Disco
ets £19.50

Saturday 16th March

The Po' Boys in Concert (£5 Adm.)

Sunday 17th Traditional music all day

Tara Suite - TR Dallas and plus Res. Disco

O'Meara Suite- Frank McCaffrey entertains

Davitt Bar - Traditional Music

O'NEILLS

Late licence Sunday till 12.30pm

Live band Sunday evening

Weekend 7 'Irish' Parties

Call 0113 244 0810 for

details

THE GROVE

From 2pm March 17th

£2 adm.

Brewers Marathon

Hotpot Belly Band

Crosscut Saw

Southside

TIMETABLE OF EVENTS FOR ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

12:00 noon

The Parade is starting from St Paul's Place at the rear of the Playhouse/ College of Music, that is very near the Markets / Bus station in town

We will be progressing to Millennium Square. There will be some dancing in Briggate and then more music & dancing in Millennium Square

The walk will take approx 30 mins, culminating at Millennium Square with music and dance.

2.00pm

Mass in the Cathedral

There will be free entertainment all afternoon & evening in the Irish Centre. Details below.

St Patrick's Day Comittee will be circulating posters around the city from the beginning of March, so look out for bright green flyers in your local libraries, community centres etc.



Celebrations at Leeds Irish Health and Homes
St Patrick's Day 2001

THE NEW ROSCOE

Irish Dancing afternoon

'The Groundhogs band in the evening

Call 0113 246 0778 for more details

.....And so all that remains is for us, at Leeds Irish Health and Homes to wish you all a

'Happy St. Patrick's Day'



Harehills Irish Music Project

Des Hurley and his colleagues from the Irish Music Project are working tirelessly within the Irish and wider community to foster the development of Irish Traditional Music and Culture.

The Music group is gaining a growing reputation for musical development and tuition for a number of second and third generation Irish youngsters and older musicians. In addition, the Project has developed a number of innovative working partnerships with other arts/music groups and voluntary agencies, both locally and nationally.

If you would like more details about the type of workshops we run for school and groups or would like general information about tuition, performances and availability for private functions etc., please contact: **Project Resource Team on 0113 217 0841.**



Children at The Holy Rosary get to grips with a bit of fiddle playing!

Photo by Corinne Nicholson



Picture opposite: Des shows children from the Chapel Allerton Ward that they do make instruments for little people!

Photo by Corinne Nicholson

"It is a privilege to be able to pass my knowledge of music onto all age groups young and old.

I enjoy it even more because I am continuously promoting Irish Music to a variety of different groups and showing what fun it is to be able to play an Irish tune."

Des Hurley

Returning to Ireland—Information Booklet

Following on from the Taskforce on Policy Regarding initiatives has been the launch of a booklet aptly called 'Returning to Ireland'. In the introduction Dermot Ahern, Minister for Social, Community & Family Affairs notes that the purpose of this booklet is 'to provide essential information which can help people make informed decisions and also to assist them in settling back into Ireland should they choose to return'.

If you would like a copy of the booklet please call Leeds Irish Health and Homes on 0113 240 1130.



'The ferry trip home'

**NAME:**

ANT HANLON, Director

ORGANISATION:

Leeds Irish Health and Homes

ESTABLISHED:

1996

WHY: A steering group was set up in 1992 in response to the high number of single Irish homeless people in Leeds and the disproportionate number of Irish people admitted to hospital under the Mental Health Act. We became constituted in 1996 and our initial funding was from Leeds Social Services

HIGHLIGHT: I was told by one of our tenants that the support we provided had 'saved his life'. Such open and honest feedback is the most important tool we have for shaping and delivering the development of our services.

FRUSTRATIONS: Despite the recommendations of the Commission for Racial Equality Report in June 1997, 5 years on very few of the recommendations have been put into practice by agencies that adequately address their responsibility to the Irish community in Leeds.

HOPES FOR THE FUTURE:

To see appropriate levels of culturally sensitive provision for the Irish in Leeds and to see the fruition of our tenants wishes for a comprehensive day-care and support centre.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Phone: 0113 240 1130

Email: irishheal@aol.com

Book Review by Shelagh Fallon

Thicker than Water is a book of Irish stories edited by **Gordon Snell**.

The book is a collection of short stories written by prominent modern Irish and Irish-American authors. The stories cover a wide range of themes, from looking back into one's childhood to present day events. Some of them are extremely funny and humorous while others are more serious and tragic. The common link is that they all convey the universal longing of the young to grow up fast, find love and begin a new life as an adult.

My favourite story was by Maeve Binchy entitled 'When Grania Grows Up'. I felt it represented modern day living and a

reflection of family values in today's complicated world. I would strongly recommend this book to anyone that enjoys short stories with that Irish twist to the tale.

If you would like to review a book you have recently read please send us your review and we can publish it.

**Leeds Irish Health and Homes Day Club**

The Irish Elders Day Club, held at Montague Burton Resource Centre, Harehills, has been running for approximately one and a half years now and has shown continued success in bringing people from the Irish Community together for a chat and a cup of tea.

The Day Club, which opens from 11am to 4pm every Friday currently attracts between fifteen and twenty Irish elders every week.

Aside from sandwiches and cakes the club provides regular music slots provided by musicians from Harehills Irish Music Project as well as bingo and a raffle. Most people who attend once continue to do so as the club has a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. The Day Club always benefits from new members. If you are interested in



Sit back and relax to read the Irish papers or join in for a game of Bingo!

attending or know anyone over 55 who would benefit from being part of an informal social gathering phone 0113 240 1130 and speak with Caroline Murphy or John O'Dwyer.



Leeds Irish Health and Homes—web development

Leeds Irish Health and Homes is currently developing their website in conjunction with Mary Kate Fallon who is studying media at Leeds University.

Primarily our aim is to provide a respected source of information for the Irish Community in Leeds about our services. Eventually with development we hope to have on-line notice boards and discussion forums for the Irish Community to use.

So:

- Do you have a website and would you like a link on Leeds Irish Health and Homes website?
- Would you like some advertising space on our website?

- Would you like to volunteer your website development skills to help us keep our website up-to-date?

If so, please call Anna Dunne on 0113 240 1130.



LEEDS WOMEN'S GAELIC FOOTBALL

The women's Gaelic Football team are based at the Irish Centre on York Road and they are presently looking for new members to join their team.

Claire who coaches the team says " Don't worry if you do not have much experience, come along and give it a go. We all get on really well as a team and have a good craic."

The team plays on a Sunday afternoon and train one evening a week and play against other teams throughout Britain. If you are interested in getting fit and meeting other women socially please leave a contact name and number at Leeds Irish Health and Homes 0113 240 1130 and your details will be passed onto Claire.



Your knees don't have to be this hairy to join our team but a bit of commitment and a sense of humour helps!

Advertising/Sponsorship

Do you have an organisation , business or service that might be of interest or use to the Irish Community?

We are currently looking for people to advertise in this magazine. It is a quarterly magazine and looks at a variety of issues and appeals to a wide audience. We are currently circulating approximately 500 -1000 copies

throughout Leeds , depending on demand.

Once we have our website up and running we will be posting this newsletter on-line so the circulation will increase.

For more information about circulation and rates for advertising please call Anna Dunne on 0113 240 1130.

Quiz—Win 'A Long Way From Home' video about The Irish In Leeds

1. Who won the All-Ireland football final in 2001?
2. What famous Irish writer wrote St Joan of Arc?
3. What year did the Easter Rising occur?
4. Who is the current Irish Ambassador to England?
5. Which province in Ireland has the most counties?
6. Finish this famous song title "The wearing of the"
7. Which famous male dancer was the original lead in Riverdance?
8. What is the new currency in Ireland called?
9. Which county would you find the Blarney Stone in?
10. Bono is lead singer for which Irish Group?

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

PHONE.....

ANSWERS:

1.....

2.....

3.....

4.....

5.....

6.....

7.....

8.....

9.....

10.....

ANSWERS TO BE SENT TO:

ANNA DUNNE
LEEDS IRISH HEALTH AND HOMES
335 ROUNDHAY ROAD
LEEDS
LS8 4HT

STAMP

CLOSING DATE March 31st.

Winners will be notified by post/phone.
 All correct entries will be entered into a draw
 and the winner will be drawn at random.



Please tick this box if you do not want your details to be added to our mailing list.

Final Words

Well we hope you have all enjoyed this issue.

As mentioned before this newsletter is for the Irish Community. We do depend upon articles and ideas from you, the readers, so why not put your thinking caps on and let us know what sort of information you would like to see. Maybe you have a housing query or general advice query that you would be happy to have answered in a letters column. Maybe you know of other people who would be worthy of a Spotlight review about their work in the community. Perhaps you play for a team and would like to see a review of their season.

The next edition is anticipated for June/July so you have plenty of time to think about what to contribute.

In the meantime if you have any queries or wonder whether we can help you, your family or a friend please just call us for an informal chat on 0113 240 1130.

Where to find us

LEEDS IRISH HEALTH AND HOME
335 ROUNDHAY ROAD
LEEDS
LS8 4HT

DIRECTIONS:

On Roundhay Road we are very close to the Fforde Green Pub. It is a small office located above Binson Bearings Company so don't miss the bright red door to the left of the shop.

Please do remember that if you have any mobility problems we can organise a home visit as there are some stairs leading up to the office. For more detailed directions please call: **0113 240 1130**

All contents of this newsletter are solely the responsibility of the individuals contributing them and the management committee and staff of Leeds Irish Health & Homes disclaim responsibility for all statements not made directly by themselves and for any resulting consequences.