

IRISH STUDIES 10 week course

IRISH IN BRITAIN REPRESENTATION GROUP

in association with
Soar Valley College

LEICESTERSHIRE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

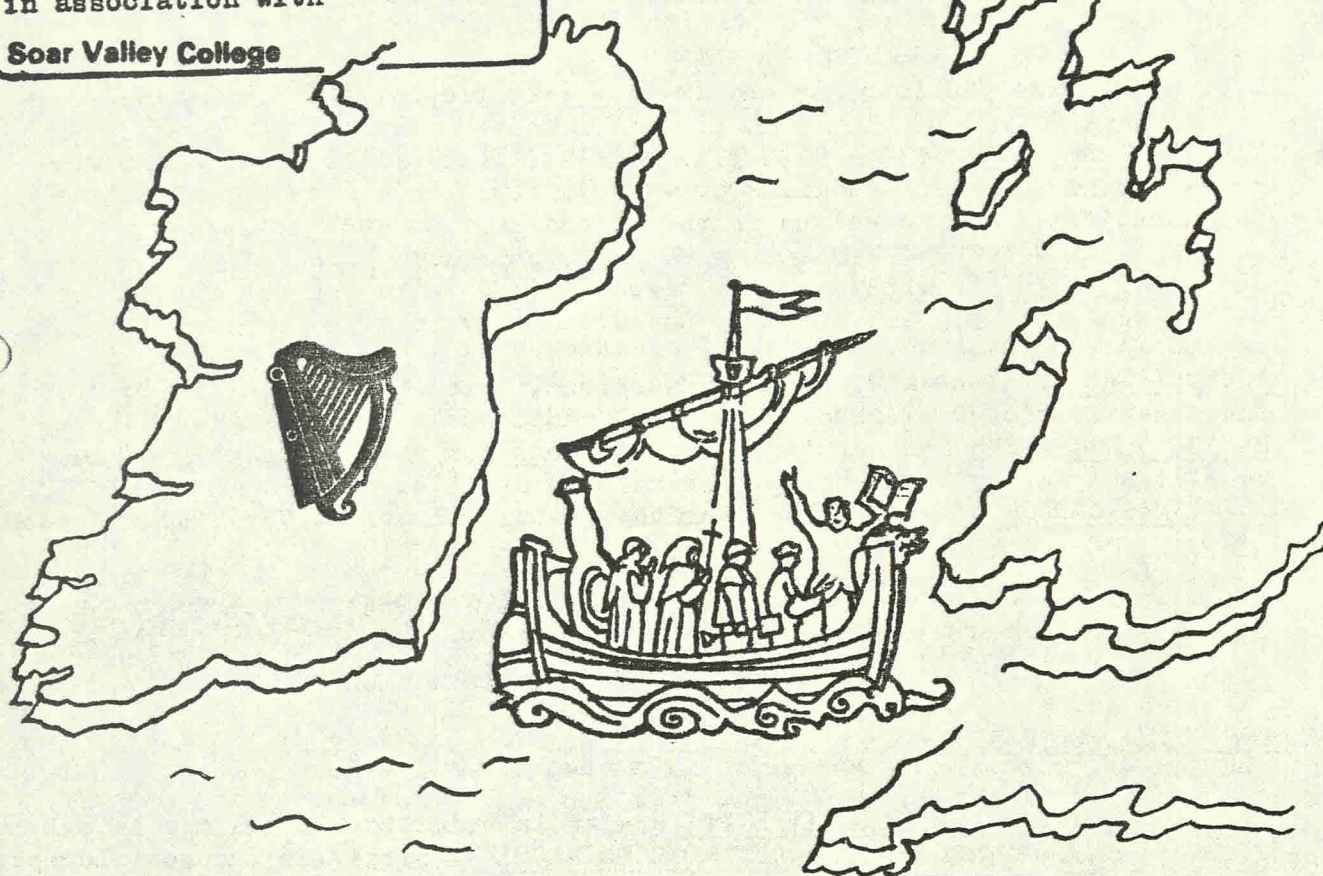
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The Soar Valley Association.
Soar Valley Community College,
Gleneagles Avenue, Leicester LE4 7GY.

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THE IRISH IN BRITAIN

PART II OF THE "SENSE OF IRELAND" COURSE

It's sometimes said that everyone has an Irish grandmother! Certainly many people living in Britain have Irish connections of one kind or another. If you are one of these or are just generally interested in this subject then come along to this course; about half the sessions will deal with the Irish in Britain, while the rest will look at various aspects of Irish Studies.

This course will trace the background to Irish immigration to Britain. It will look at the main reasons why people had to leave Ireland, and will raise such questions as: Where did they settle in Britain? What work and experiences did they find in this country over the last 200 years? How does Irish culture affect Irish identity in Britain?

Because of the popularity of this course last year, we shall be including topics on archaeology, poetry and current affairs. If you are interested in this course, which lasts for 10 weeks, please telephone

Soar Valley College (669625 daytime) for the Course Co-ordinator, Mr. Nessian Danaher and leave message and telephone number.

PLEASE TURN OVER

2. Course Enrolment Information

"A SENSE OF IRELAND" - PART II - IRISH STUDIES COURSE - AUTUMN 1984

VENUE: Soar Valley College, Gleneagles Avenue, Leicester, LE4 7GY.
Tel: 669625.

DURATION: 10 weeks, starting on Wednesday 3rd. October and continuing on WEDNESDAYS until 12th. December. (No session in half-term week of 24th. Oct.)

*** EXTRA SESSION - A XMAS CONCERT OF IRISH FOLK MUSIC for all Course participants and friends (see programme for details).

TIMES OF SESSIONS: 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. Some sessions will include audio-visual presentations (slides and films or video). There should be opportunities for questions and discussions in the second half of each session.

REGISTRATION FOR COURSE: will take place at Soar Valley on the evening of 18 September 1984; it can also be arranged by post.

COURSE FEES: will be £12.00 for 10 sessions, this can be paid in two instalments which will involve a small additional administration charge.

PLEASE NOTE: there are substantial reductions for those receiving state benefit and Senior Citizens; please ask for details.

XMAS CONCERT TICKETS are separate: £1.50 full price, 75p. reduced rate.

PROGRAMME



THE ORDER OF SESSIONS

- (1) 3rd. Oct. THE IRISH IN BRITAIN - an introduction to all the latest research by Dr. MICHAEL MAGUIRE, historian and sociologist. Michael writes and reviews books for 'The Irish Post' and he is a senior officer on the Irish in Islington Project, which is sponsored by the Greater London Council.
- (2) 10th. Oct. IRELAND - THE PROPAGANDA WAR - the background story of the British media and the battle for hearts and minds. The title for this session is taken from LIZ CURTIS's book, and Liz is our guest speaker. Her book, published this year by Pluto Press, was enthusiastically reviewed by the Irish Post; in it she shows clearly how the British media serves the powers that be. This session will include video material.
- (3) 17th. Oct. "THE CRACK!" - TRADITIONAL MUSIC & DANCE AMONGST THE IRISH IN BRITAIN; this session will be based on 3 films not seen before in Leicester.
1st. FILM: 'OVER HERE' - uses archive film to explain why so many Irish-born people live in Britain and records examples of the Irish tradition at work here. It includes a CEILI (dance) at Newcastle where the musicians and dancers are mostly fourth generation Irish; an Irish music class in Luton where where English-born children learn the music of their parents' country; a marathon FEIS or step-dancing competition in Brent, London; an interview with Lucy Farr, a traditional fiddle player from Ballinakill, Co. Galway who, after 40 years, retains the distinctive style



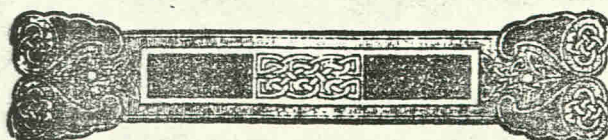


of her parish; the performance of a "set" by the WEXFORD MUMMERS in a London dance hall, and a recording session by two fine traditional players, Brian Rooney and John Cartey at a small suburban London Studio.

2nd. FILM: 'LET'S DANCE - BIMIS AG RINCE' - SIAMSA is a highly original theatrical presentation of Irish folk customs and traditions in music, mime and dance. It has achieved international acclaim since its start in the Co. Kerry and its success has led to the development of the NATIONAL FOLK THEATRE of Ireland. The film includes colourful scenes from Siamsa and traces the main events in the story of the exciting development.

3rd. FILM: INSTRUMENTS OF IRISH TRADITIONAL MUSIC - slide and tape sequence, showing the full range of traditional instruments with close-up shots illustrating the more important features.

- (4) 31st. Oct. IRISH WOMEN IN BRITISH SOCIETY - a neglected topic which will be discussed from a feminist viewpoint by MARY LENNON who has written articles for the women's magazine 'Spare Rib' on this subject. Mary works at the Kingsway-Princeton F.E. College in London and is a researcher for a G.L.C. sponsored Irish project. This session should certainly arouse debate in the Irish community.
- (5) 7th. Nov. THE POETRY OF SEAMUS HEANEY - Seamus Heaney is one of Ireland's greatest contemporary poets. Harold Bloom in the Times Literary Supplement recently described Heaney as "keyed and pitched unlike any other significant poet at work in the language elsewhere." We are pleased to welcome Dr. BERNARD HARRISON of Sheffield University to talk to us about Heaney's work.
- (6) 14th. Nov. THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF AN IRISH NAVVY - DONAL MAC AMHLAIGH - the Irish Studies Course is delighted to extend a welcome to Donal, who is perhaps the most well-known of "Erin's exiles" over here. His classic work, 'Diary of an Irish Navvy', an autobiographical account of a construction worker's life in England in the 1930's, will be covered in the course of his talk. Donal is a regular columnist in 'Ireland's Own', a novelist and a writer in Irish to boot.
- (7) 21st. Nov. THE VIKINGS IN IRELAND - an archaeology session by MAGGIE GARVEN, Head of Archaeology at Soar Valley College. Maggie will look at archaeology in cities, and will be concentrating on the WOOD QUAY excavations in Dublin. (Remember Brian Boru and the battle of Clontarf?) We are especially fortunate in our contacts with Rev. Prof. F.X. Martin of University College Dublin, who has sent us the latest information on the site; some people will remember that Prof. Martin led the fight against Dublin Corporation to preserve the site from a building scheme.
- (8) 28th. Nov. THE POETRY OF TOM PAULIN - Tom is one of the "new wave" of Irish poets. In 1983 his latest anthology, 'Liberty Tree', was published to critical acclaim. Tom has just returned from the States and is based at Nottingham University; he is from Northern Ireland and his central theme is the state of mind of Protestant Ulster. He will take us through some of his own work.



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(9) 5th. Dec.

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MICHAEL COLLINS - a topic that has long figured prominently in Irish historical debate, and has been recently revived with renewed speculation about the manner of Collin's death. The guest speaker will be Fr. ROGER CLARKE of the Dominicans at Holy Cross Priory, Leicester. We shall try to obtain the film made in 1973 by Kenneth Griffith for A.T.V. This documentary features the life of Michael Collins, IRA leader in the war against Britain in 1920 and a signatory of the Treaty which led to the Irish Civil War. According to Liz Curtis's book, it is "a deeply committed film ... it examines a crucial period of Irish history and condemns Britain's role. Sir Lew Grade, ATV's managing director, banned the film. It has never been shown." If we cannot obtain this film, an alternative will be shown.

(10) 12th. Dec.

IRELAND, 1880 - 1916: THE NATIONAL REVIVAL - This was a period of cultural rebirth in terms of music, language, sports, literature and politics. The session will include numerous slides to be shown in conjunction with the L.P. Record called 'The Easter Rising 1916' produced by the BBC in 1966 to commemorate the 50th. anniversary of the Rising. This recording features the voices of some of the participants, such as Bulmer Hobson and Piaras Beaslai. The speaker will be NESSAN DANAHER, Head of History at Soar Valley College. A film is included.

COURSE FINALE - A CONCERT OF TRADITIONAL IRISH FOLK MUSIC !

19th. Dec.
8.00 p.m.

A great way to round off the course and to prepare for Christmas, with one of the best folk groups of the '80's

Dab Hand

'DAB HAND' are 3 musicians who together play a mixture of Irish, Scots and Northumbrian music and song. TOM McCONVILLE from Newcastle on Tyne plays fiddle and has done so at almost every major festival in Europe; he is an ex-member of Magna Carta. TOM NAPPER lives in Leeds, plays tenor banjo and cithern, and has an extensive repertoire of Irish and Scottish dance music and song; he has performed in Britain, Ireland and Europe. The latest member of the group, GORDON TYRELL, plays guitar and flute and completes an excellent line-up.

*** TICKETS are reasonably priced at £1.50 for adults, reduced rate of 75p. for children, OAPs, and unemployed.

A GREAT "CRACK" FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS ! DON'T MISS IT !

Soar Valley College has just opened its new luxury licensed lounge which is open each evening of the course; tea & coffee also available.

BACK-UP RESOURCES We have about 40 different document packs from the National Museum and National Library in Dublin, and similar packs from the Public Record Offices in Belfast and Dublin. Leicestershire Libraries has kindly lent us about 100 books (fiction & non-fiction); the College is gradually building up its selection, and we are privileged to have access to over 100 new books kindly donated by the Irish Government to the Leicester Irish Community Centre Project; the Project has agreed to house the collection at Soar Valley temporarily so that Course participants can benefit.

We hope that you will join the Course and we look forward to meeting you in October.

HOW TO GET THERE: No. 41 Bus to Rushey Mead from stop outside C & A's shop. By car, head for Thorn Lighting on Melton Road & the College is only a few minutes away. Last year course participants with cars helped those without.

