
British Association for Irish Studies

19 July 1988

Dear Member,

It was decided at the meeting of the Executive Committee on 18 June that the procedures for election of a new Executive Committee and for an AGM should be set in motion by the Executive Secretary as quickly as possible.

Nominations are therefore requested for the following positions: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, [Honorary] Secretary, Conference Secretary, Treasurer, and eight elected Members.

Those standing and nominating must be in current membership; members nominated must signify at the time of nomination that they are willing to take office if elected, and they must supply a brief curriculum vitae in writing to the designated Returning Officer, for circulation with the ballot papers.

A form for nominations is included. The closing date for nominations is Thursday, 15 September. Ballots will be circulated early the following week and the closing date for receipt of ballot papers will be Friday, 28 October. Counting of ballots will take place on Saturday, 29 October. The AGM will take place on Saturday, 12 November, at the Irish Club, 82 Eaton Square, London SW1.

Subscriptions are now due for renewal: see the enclosed renewal form.

You should, by now, have received your copy of the Second Survey of Irish Studies in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, edited by David Cairns. It is hoped that the next issue of the Newsletter will be available in August.

The Executive decided at its last meeting also that an Irish Studies Conference will take place in 1989.

A successful day-course took place at the University of Liverpool on 12 July: "Irish Studies 8-13: its place in the National Curriculum". This was part of the Joint Education Programme being developed by BAIS and the Institute of Irish Studies. A series of evening lectures, "Images of Ireland", will take place

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at the Institute during November and December; and you will find enclosed a leaflet concerning a commemorative conference on the poet Louis MacNeice, which takes place at the at the same venue on 3 September and which is worthy of the support of members.

Jonathan Moore reports that he has visited Luton College of Higher Education at the request of staff there who wish to develop Irish Studies courses there. Tom Paulin reported recently that an Irish Studies course which he has set up at Nottingham University as an option for 3rd year undergraduates was fully subscribed virtually overnight.

Our fundraising advisor, in speaking to our higher education representatives and to the Executive Committee recently, emphasised the collective nature of the enterprise in which we are now engaged. Our targeted group consists of Irish businesspeople or firms with British interests and British businesspeople or firms with Irish interests. Approaches are made through personal introductions rather than in a "cold" or haphazard way. We need information about connections with universities or institutions, or about personal networks which would allow us to make an approach in this way.

Initial efforts have concentrated on building up the influential, voluntary leadership necessary to this strategy. This is a task which takes time and careful preparation. One major approach is under way at the moment and a number of others are in the opening stages.

Yours sincerely,

Seán Hutton.

Extract from BAIS Constitution:

6.1 Elections for Officers and members of the Executive Committee shall be held every two years, not more than four months before the relevant Annual General meeting and not less than six weeks preceding it by postal ballot of paid-up Members. The Executive Committee shall, by means of a circular letter to all Members, request nominations for the posts detailed in 4.2 and 4.3 above not less than six weeks before the date on which it is proposed to distribute ballot papers. Members wishing to stand for office must be nominated and seconded by current Members of the Association and at the time of nomination and seconding, shall signify willingness to take office if elected and supply a brief curriculum vitae in writing to the Secretary or other designated Returning Officer for circulation with ballot papers....