
British Association for Irish Studies

7 October 1988

Dear Member,

You will receive with this post a ballot paper for the election of eight members of the Executive Committee of BAIS. There will be no contest for the five Officers' positions, as only one nomination has been received in each case. Full instructions for the completion of the ballot are printed on ballot papers. Please follow the procedure, as set out, carefully.

The publishers of Books Ireland have provided us with free copies of the special issue edited by BAIS member Jonathan Moore for distribution to members in England, Scotland and Wales. Members resident in those areas of the United Kingdom will receive their copy in this post.

Questionnaires have been circulated to institutes of higher education requesting details of Irish Studies courses already being provided, as well as projected courses, with costings for these latter. This information will be used in our fundraising campaign; and, as a follow-up to this exercise, we also hope to arrange meetings with representatives of the UGC and the DES to brief them on current developments and needs in the area of Irish Studies.

BAIS and the Institute of Irish Studies, Liverpool University, have arranged a series of public lectures entitled "Images of Ireland". Prominent people in the arts, broadcasting and education are given an opportunity to discuss how they represent Ireland in their work, and how they react to the representation of Ireland by others in their fields. The lectures, therefore, will be quite personal statements by the speakers. Lectures take place on each Wednesday in November at 7.30 p.m. in the Eleanor Rathbone Theatre, Bedford Street, University of Liverpool. Lecturers will be Henry Kelly (2 November), Medhb McGuckian (9 November), Bill Morrison (16 November), Anne Crookshank (23 November), George Watson (30 November). Admission is free.

The Irish Studies half-degree course at the Polytechnic of North London, which can be taken as part of a Combined Honours Degree,

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Ruth Dudley Edwards

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has received CNA A validation. Dr Owen Dudley Edwards, Professor Ronan Fanning, Dr Margaret Mac Curtain and Dr Bronwen Walters made up the external team involved in the validation procedures. BAIS member Mary Hickman, of the Irish Studies Centre, PNL, described the day-long meeting with the external validators as extremely stimulating and productive.

The one year course in Irish Studies organised by the Manchester Irish Education Group, in conjunction with Manchester City Council Education Department, has been oversubscribed. The course, which takes place at the City College of Community Education, is accredited by the Manchester Open College Federation and covers literary and cultural, as well as historical topics. The first course lecture was given by BAIS Executive member, Emrys Evans. BAIS member Janet Wallwork is secretary of the Manchester Irish Education Group.

"IRISH NIGHT", a play with music by Garry Lyons in collaboration with Patrick O'Sullivan, begins its second national tour in October 1988.

"Irish Night" is based on the research of BAIS member Patrick O'Sullivan. The play looks at the experiences of the Irish in England over the past forty years. Press comments: "Vivid, vibrant... fascinating and very funny" Guardian; "played with great insight... by a superb cast" Birmingham Daily News.

Playing at BRADFORD 19-26 October (Theatre-in-the-Mill); NORTHAMPTON 28-29 October (Arts Centre); WAKEFIELD 2-5 November (Theatre Royal); STOCKTON-ON-TEES 15-16 November (Dovecot Arts Centre); ST HELENS 18-19 November (The Citadel); GLOUCESTER 21-22 November (Guildhall Arts Centre); BASILDON 24-26 November (New Towngate Centre); LONDON 30 November-18 December (Battersea Arts Centre).

BAIS member Bernard Canavan informs me that Waltham Forest Irish Project will present a programme by the London Irish Youth Theatre and the Irish Drama & Folk Dance Company at the Waltham Forest Theatre, Lloyd Park, Winn's Terrace, Forest Road, London E17 at 8.15 p.m. on 28 October. The two items on the programme are a ballet based on "Eoinín na nEán", a short story by P H Pearse, and a production of "The Tinker's Wedding" by J M Synge. Further information from 01-558-4577 or 01-361-0678.

A copy of Education and the Conflict in Northern Ireland: a guide to the Literature, by Seamus Dunne of the Faculty of Education, University of Ulster, has reached the office. This is an indexed and annotated guide to 378 items bearing on this subject. It costs £4 and is published by the Centre for the Study of Conflict at the University of Ulster.

Tom Lucey
Seamus Hutton