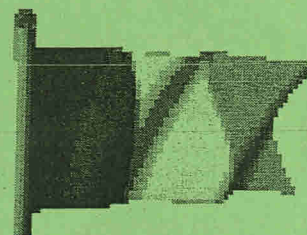
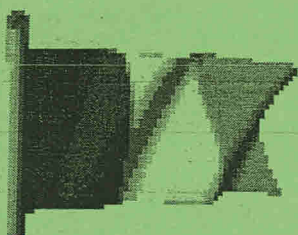


June 2006



Volume 2: Issue 1

The welcome back newsletter

A message from Karen McHugh, Director of BIAS

I am delighted to present to you this new edition of the BIAS newsletter. There has been a production delay since the last edition but what a better time to revive our newsletter than the summertime with long sunny days, blue skies (we hope!), school and summer holidays.

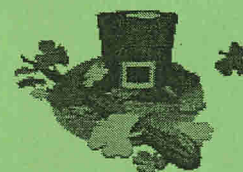
I anticipate the newsletter to be a quarterly publication, with our next edition scheduled for September. Initially, it will update BIAS clients, volunteers, funders, the Irish community and other interested parties on significant developments at BIAS and elsewhere.

The newsletter will report on individual BIAS Projects, events and activities; changes to staffing and service delivery; and include articles submitted by BIAS clients, volunteers, students, staff and partner agencies, as well as containing some light material and local entertainment information. This is very much a draft outline for the newsletter and I expect that future editions will not stick rigidly to this specification.

I would like to thank the Editor, Sabrina Fahy, BIAS Administrator, for collating the material and assembling the final publication and to all other contributors to this edition. I would also like to acknowledge and thank our staff, volunteers, students and trustees for the joint commitment and dedication in meeting the challenges and needs of the Irish community in Brent and beyond.

Sabrina will accept any articles or other material for future publications. She will also receive any comments you may have about the newsletter, as well as any ideas for future editions. Contributions to the publication are especially welcome from BIAS clients and volunteers. I do hope you enjoy reading the newsletter as much as we enjoyed producing it.

Karen



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Irish in Brent Conference

On Friday 27th January 2006, there was an Irish in Brent Conference held in the Crown Moran Hotel, Cricklewood.

The Conference was an opportunity to present the 2006 Irish in Brent Health Profile Report.

There were 6 speakers at the Conference, each giving a very informative talk. They were Peter O'Callaghan, Colum Maloney, Michael Lonergan, Judith Stanton, Patricia Walls and Jackie Collins. There were 10 workshops held that day. They varied from Housing

workshops to Cancer and Palliative Care Workshops. All workshops were well attended. Overall, the Conference was extremely successful, and had a good turnout. If you would like a copy of the Brent Health Report, please call BIAS, or download it from the internet.

BIAS Projects

- Volunteering Project
- Disability Advice Project
- Transition to Old Age Project
- General Advice Project
- Housing Advice Project
- Families and Children Social Work Project
- Elders Project
- Youth Development Project
- Irish Prison Support Project

Eimear in the Youth Development Project

Hi there, my name is Eimear and I'm the new Irish Traveller Youth Development Worker at BIAS.

The goal of the Traveller Youth Development Project is to encourage and support young Travellers to further participate in the community, for example to access community services, and to get involved in community activities. This includes encouraging young Travellers to get involved in decision making processes such as local and nationwide forums, so that young Travellers may have a say in the decisions that affect

lives. Their project also aims to raise awareness of Traveller culture and issues for Travellers among the wider community, in order to promote social inclusion and cohesion.

In order to achieve this, the Project looks to boost self esteem among young Travellers through various means, for example by using creative workshops like arts and crafts activities to encourage expression, and sports to build confidence.

I came into the post two months ago and I'm looking forward to getting some initiatives going with young Irish

Travellers in Brent. Thank you to the BIAS staff team who have been really friendly and welcoming since my arrival.

Eimear Nolan
Traveller Youth Development Worker



In the life of a Student Social Worker

My name is Jessica Dennis and I am currently in my final of my Master Degree in Social Work. I have been working at BIAS as a student Social Worker in the Children and Families team since last September and have been there for a total of 100 days. My experience working at the BIAS has been extremely positive as I have been able to work within a community which is largely marginalised in British society. It has been very interesting and eye opening learning about the discrimination faced by the Irish

community, Travellers in particular. This has given me a greater appreciation for the services, help and support offered by organisations such as BIAS who provide a culturally sensitive service which are inclusive and accessible. The team of people working at BIAS are extremely dedicated and committed to alleviating some of the inequalities and disadvantage faced by the Irish community. As a voluntary organisation they provide an invaluable service which contributes greatly to society.

"If you tell me, I will listen. If you show me, I will see. If you let me experience, I will learn"

Kilburn move to Willesden

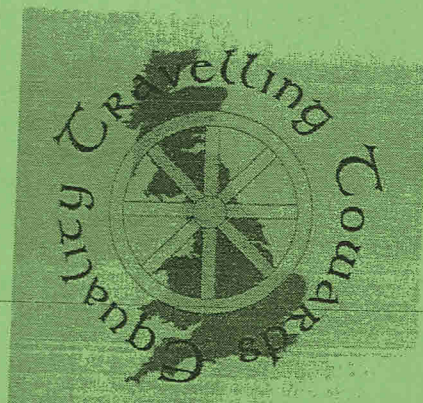
After many weeks preparation, Kilburn BIAS office moved on Friday 31st March 2006.

Yvonne McNamara, who works on the Irish Prison Support Project, and Eimear Nolan, the Youth Development Worker have now joined the rest of the BIAS team in Willesden High Road.

This now means that all the BIAS team reside under the one roof.



Noelette Hanley, who works with the Irish Travellers Movement has also moved premises. The new address is: The Irish Travellers Movement, The Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Road, London, N7 6PA.



St Patrick's Day with BIAS

On Friday 17th March 2006, BIAS celebrated St Patrick's Day at BIAS Day Care Project. The atmosphere was fantastic, and BIAS brought the celebrations to the Elders that unfortunately were not able to make it out to celebrate that evening.

It was not a full house at the Day Centre, but needless to say, everybody enjoyed their day.

The Day Centre was decorated with green, white and gold hand drawn cut outs of Leprechauns and dotted around. There was also banners, and flags flying high.

As the members came into the Day

Care, the staff and Volunteers gave them all a very warm welcome with tea and Irish biscuits. The Irish music was on in the background for all to enjoy. Everybody was sharing in laughter, sing songs and chats, and enjoying their usual card games and exercises.

Dinner was then delivered. Boiled bacon and cabbage, with potatoes. Very tasty indeed!! But what would a good dinner be without a pudding. In came the fruit.

After the dinner, the Service Users had a surprise visit from Cllr Colom Moloney, the Mayor of Brent. Cllr

Moloney kindly joined the group and spoke to many of the members at great lengths.

BIAS staff member, Cecilia Greene then performed some Irish dancing for the group, displaying some very creative manoeuvres.

Finally, the day ended with tea, Irish biscuits and cakes and a slice of Barn Brack.

Our thanks goes out to all those involved in arranging such a nice day for everybody!



Volunteering at Brent Irish Advisory Service

BIAS would like to take this opportunity to thank all past and present Volunteers who make such a vital contribution to BIAS services.

BIAS was established in 1978 by a committed group of local people who gave their time and effort to support vulnerable Irish people in Brent. 28 years on and with a team of paid workers BIAS would be unable to provide the range and quality of services it does without the core of volunteers.

Volunteer week is the 1st – 7th June 2006. There will be an open day for all to go and find out more about volunteering in Brent on Monday 5th June. All are welcome to attend.

At present we have 10 Volunteers, all of which are very valuable to the organisation. If you would like to find out more about Volunteering, or maybe you know someone who would benefit from having a Volunteer, please contact Sabrina M Fahy, Volunteer Co-ordinator on 020 8459 6655

BIAS would like to thank the following volunteers for their on-going work and commitment in our Volunteers Project: Christina Connolly, John Keyes, Maria O'Connor, Michael O'Keefe, Geerie Coogan, Ena Bradish, Anne O'Sullivan, Ellen Sheehan, Thomas Traynor and Bridget Timlin

"The golden opportunity you are seeking is in yourself. It is not in your environment; it is not in luck or chance, or the help of others; it is in yourself alone."

Local Entertainment

Going out this weekend?? Let us try helping you find a good venue for a good night out over the next few weekends.

From 24th May at the Tricycle Theatre a production called 'The Field' will be showing. The story is about one piece of land, two bidders and a fight to the death.

On Friday 23rd June at the Galtymore, Cricklewood, there will be a fundraising event in aid of ICAP with special guest Daniel O'Donnell making an appearance. Following Daniel, will be music and dancing to Mick Flavin.

The very well advertised the Da Vinci Code will be showing at

Willesden Belle Vue Cinema from 19th May 2006. The showings are at 2.30pm, 5.30pm and 8.30pm



Brent Irish Advisory Service

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Willesden
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Fax: 020 8459 6699
Email: bias.brent@btconnect.com
Web: www.biasbrent.co.uk

**We're on the
web. Visit [www.
biasbrent.co.uk](http://www.biasbrent.co.uk)**

TEAM:
Together Everyone Achieves More



Brent Irish Advisory Service

poeti K-Creations

It can be whatever you want it to be – make of it what you will,

Bring lots of action in, or make it statue still.

Play the cards given at Birth, straight aces all the way,
Or learn from your mistakes, and let the joker have his say.
Cry the tears you need to cry, don't always wipe them dry,
Question things you don't understand, who?where?what?

And why?

Laugh at all the jokes you hear, they all issue a smile,
To make life what you want, it's a lesson for a while.

Walk beyond the area, step beyond the line,
24 hours a day, make it 'just your time'.

Capture moments close to you, clutch every chance,
Sing every song, dance every dance.

Jump with a parachute, and fly with the birds,
Write down your dreams, and draw out your words.

Take the plane and fly through the clouds,
Jump on a train and fight with the crowds.

Read your palms, and roll the dice,
Remember lightening doesn't strike twice.

Frame the picture, write the card,
Don't make life unnecessarily hard.
Don't do anything to live with regret,
Make life a gamble, and you are the bet!

Staff and Management Committee

Staff

Tracey-Anne Thomas: Housing Officer

Sabrina M Fahy: Administrator/
Volunteer Co-ordinator

Cecilia Greene: Elders Day Care
Worker

Georgina O'Donoghue: General
Advisor

Karen McHugh: Director

Karl Faherty: Finance Worker

Geraldine Burke: Disability Advice
Worker

Anne Nagle: Transition to old age
worker

Theresa Ryan: Children and
Families Social Worker

Eimear Nolan: Youth
Development Worker

Yvonne McNamara: Projects
Manager

Maggie Conway: Day Care Worker

Marie Dalton

Christine Chapman

Deirdre Boukhari

Fionn Lynch

Management Committee

Colum Moloney

Margaret Gallagher

Jim Smith

Mary MacNamara



Some of the Staff and Volunteers joining together for St Patrick's Day