

Welcome to the second edition of the FIS Newsletter. We hope you enjoyed reading the last edition, thank you to all those of you who commented on it, and we hope you find this edition as useful and that you make use of the contact details inside.

We welcome contributions from affiliates and would like to see you use the newsletter to promote the work you are doing, raise issues of concern, feed into debates and generally communicate with others.

We often hear from you that you want more communication, well communication is a two way process so make sure you tell us what is going on and that you give us feedback on what we are doing. Make sure your organisation makes use of FIS.

### RESPECT FESTIVAL

The sun shone on east London's Victoria Park as an estimated 75,000 people attended the Mayor of London's Respect festival, Europe's largest anti-racist festival, on Saturday 20 July. The event was a free, outdoor, music and entertainment festival for all Londoners. The festival illustrated commitment to celebrating and developing London as a great multi-cultural city with an active commitment to the elimination of racism.

The Federation of Irish Societies had exhibition space in the main marquee, where they highlighted the work of their London affiliates and the role of FIS itself

This was the second respect festival to be organised by Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London, in conjunction with National Assembly Against Racism and the TUC.

The Mayor said it was a day to celebrate the diversity that makes London the world city that it is, and to stand collectively against racism

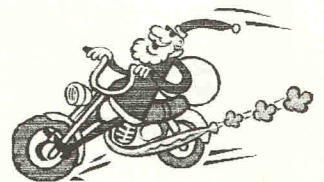
### In this Issue

- A message from the Chairperson
- FIS updates
- News from the Task Force
- Community Involvement
- Affiliates News
- Funding News
- Useful Contacts
- And much, much more



Seán Hutton, Alfredo Pellegrini FIS Staff members with London Mayor Ken Livingstone at the Respect Festival

The Federation of Irish Societies would like to wish all our affiliates a very merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.





The months since congress have gone quickly but I must first thank all of you for your confidence in electing me and the other members of the committee. We are a strong team and bring both continuity and change to FIS.

Although we have been successful in obtaining funding in the last few years, we need to have a more secure funding base if we are to progress. The organisation is at a critical point having grown and developed rapidly to a point where it needs to consider whether it can be effectively managed by a voluntary body. While board members are experienced and dedicated, their demanding full time jobs and other commitments limit the ability to do all that needs to be done.

We are exploring the possibility of appointing a director in the not too distant future and have asked the Reconciliation Fund in Dublin for permission to vary the use of some of the grant for this purpose. We have applied for the second tranche of

funding for Ann's and Ronan's posts and to release funds for a Cultural development worker. Members of the committee hope to meet with government ministers in Dublin sometime in the Autumn to show how effectively the funds have been used and to put the case for continuing to fund us. We hope too to discuss the report of the Task Force on Emigration

While our priority at present is to ascertain the funding from Ireland, we recognise that the British government has a statutory responsibility towards the Irish community in Britain. FIS is in a unique position to make representation at strategic level and to demand that different government departments meet this responsibility. Regional government structures, regeneration schemes, health improvement programmes and social inclusion agendas are just some of the initiatives we need to influence and to engage in actively. The 2001 census data will begin to be available soon and we must be ready to exploit this, working with affiliates at a local level.

Some of the affiliates have good local links, but others stretched by the demands of front line services, have a very limited capacity to network or develop the skills needed to impact on local decision making. We therefore need to provide information, plus a programme of training and support to enable them to do this. We have planned an away day to evaluate what FIS have achieved so far and to help us look to the future.

There is much to be done and the board need to decide what can be realistically achieved and how best to do it. We are conscious that our affiliates and would be affiliates have expectations of FIS and that we must meet these expectations. There is a lot of experience and good practice in the Irish voluntary sector but there are also problems in the sector in general and within individual organisations. We will undoubtedly have to prioritise and will consult with you on what you feel the priorities are. If we are to effect improvements for our community, FIS and affiliates must avoid competing with each other and must work collaboratively, demonstrating strength in numbers and in the weight of skill and expertise we bring to the bargaining table. We must make links with and work within the wider minority ethnic community and together strive to ensure that policy makers do not divide and rule.

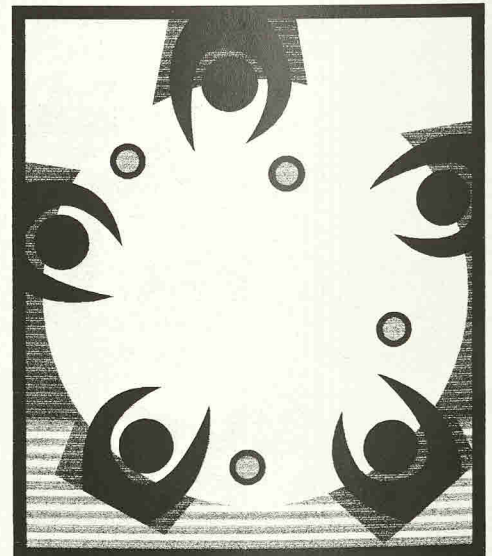
I look forward to working for and with you all.

Ní neart go chur le chéile. – There is strength in numbers

Mary Tilki

#### THE NEW FIS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Mary Tilki        | Chairperson            |
| Pat Prendergast   | Vice Chairperson       |
| Anthony Hanlon    | Treasurer              |
| Sally Mulready    | Secretary              |
| Eithne Rynne      | Community Care Officer |
| Dervilla Keegan   | Equalities Officer     |
| Maire Gaffney     | Cultural Officer       |
| Fr Gerry Kivlehan | PRO Officer            |
| Stella Houlihan   | Education Officer      |
| Phil McCarville   | Youth Officer          |
| Maurice Wren      | Committee Member       |
| Paul O'Donovan    | Committee Member       |



## BENEFITS PAYMENT CHANGES

Plans to change the way in which benefit payments are made could have dramatic consequences for many people, especially for the most vulnerable.

Currently about 14 million people collect their payments in cash over the counter at post offices, however, as from April 2003 payments will be made directly into accounts. From autumn of 2002 – 2005 the Department of Work & Pensions DWP and the Inland Revenue will be phasing out payment by order book and giro.

The reasoning behind the changes is

- It will cost less to administer
- Reduce levels of fraud
- Help to tackle social exclusion

But what will the effects be for those who currently collect their money in cash from the post office? How will they be affected by the changes, especially those in the 21% of the poorest households who do not have a bank account.

The options are

- A new Card Account at the post office, this will be ready to open at a post office by January 2003 and be operational by April 2003!!! This account will be for benefits only; withdrawals can be made at post offices using the Personal Identification Number (PIN) card supplied. There will be no eligibility criteria for one of these
- Basic Bank Account operated by most high street banks. Withdrawals can be made at cash machines and through banks by using PIN card although charges may be made. Any money can be paid in, direct debits and standing orders can be set up. There will be no access to credit. If direct debits cannot be paid due to insufficient funds charges of up to £32 can be made by the bank. Evidence of identity will be required
- Ordinary Bank or Building Society Account. Offers a wide variety of financial services, including credit.

Whilst many people who claim benefits do have existing bank accounts they may not wish to use them for benefit payments for a number of reasons. For those in debt they may be overdrawn leading to the bank annexing some of the money to reduce this debt. It is also a fact that many branches particularly those in poorer and rural areas are closing creating problems for those wishing to access their money. Another problem is that

often bank accounts are joint ones which could leave some claimants in difficulties if their partner accesses the money.

Further complications arise where the claimant needs someone else to collect the money for them due to infirmity. This will be easier to deal with for those who have a long term need but will badly affect those who have one off needs for someone to collect benefit for them.

Obviously some people will be happy for their payments to be made via their bank accounts, others may wish to set one up and find this an ideal moment to do so. But what of those who have no wish to have an account and those who are unable to open one? These will be the people who will have most need of the support of front line staff in advice agencies and trying to assist these people may be a time consuming and stressful undertaking.

This issue was brought to the attention of FIS at a community care meeting, our response was to set up a working party to look into the issues and to see what recommendations we may be able to make.

It is important that the most vulnerable in our society are not driven deeper into deprivation and that they are given a choice as to how they organise their finances

## TRAINING

The Health & Safety Training day was well attended and provided a good grounding in basic Health & Safety for participants.

Angie Birtall who was formally with the London Irish Women's Centre facilitated the training which FIS was fortunate to get free due to funding received by the London Hazards Centre (where Angie now works) from the Community Fund to provide training in Health and Safety to Black and Minority Ethnic community groups.

As well as receiving input on health and safety which included an awareness of how to undertake risk assessments and how to put together health and safety policies for their organisation the groups were able to share together common difficulties and to find solutions to some of their needs through experience. This is one of the added bonuses of coming together at events such as the training

days. So often groups find the problems they face have been dealt with already by others and they are able to share their experience. During the afternoon we were joined by Angus Sangster of London Fire Brigade who spoke about fire safety.

As usual the event was made more enjoyable by the wonderful hospitality we received from the London Irish Centre, Terry and his team once again excelled themselves with the food which was greatly appreciated by all.

If any London Groups would like further information on the Free courses being offered by London Hazards Centre in their locality they should contact

Angie Birtall or Mumtaz Mahmood  
London Hazards Centre  
Hampstead Old Town Hall  
213 Haverstock Hill  
London NW3 4QP  
Tel 020 7794 5999  
Fax 020 7794 4702  
Email mail@lhc.org.uk  
www.lhc.org.uk



## TASK FORCE REPORT

With the presentation of the Task Force report to Irish Foreign Minister Brian Cowan on 28 August 2002, the work of that body was completed. The full report is now available on the internet at [www.gov.ie/iveagh/policy/emigrant\\_taskforce.htm](http://www.gov.ie/iveagh/policy/emigrant_taskforce.htm)

Available also is the special study commissioned by the Task Force from Dr Bronwen Walter and her colleagues, which contains interesting data and commentary pulling together what is known on the Irish Abroad.

The report also consists of a series of proposals, costed over a three-year period in a manner which would link increases in funding to the capacity of funded agencies to make optimum use of that funding.

The proposals in the report focus largely – but not exclusively – on

- ◇ Vulnerable sections of the existing emigrant populations
- ◇ Those about to emigrate returners or potential returners to Ireland (in this case with a particular focus on vulnerable older Irish people)

Key objectives are to ensure that those who leave Ireland, or who are considering returning, have the information necessary to ensure that their move will be successful; and that those emigrants who require advice, support or advocacy in accessing services in their country of settlement will receive the support they need in accessing their entitlements.

However, there are also proposals around support for cultural services which enable the Irish Abroad to maintain links with Irish culture and with their country of ancestry or origin; as well as a related proposal for a Communications Hub for the Irish Abroad.

The main overall proposals are listed below

- ◇ Funding to increase from present estimated €2.7 million to €18 million in 2003, and to reach €34 million in 2005
- ◇ The largest single tranche of this proposed expenditure is to expand capacity in the Irish voluntary sector in Brit-

ain, USA and the rest of the world: an initial €11 million in 2003, rising to €21 million in 2005 (divided as follows Britain €8>€12; USA €2>€6; rest of the world €1>€3)

- ◇ Initial sum of €2 million to fund Irish cultural activities in emigrant communities
- ◇ Initial sum of €2 million to provide radio and TV programmes to the Irish Abroad
- ◇ A new agency for the Irish Abroad under the aegis of the Department of Foreign Affairs
- ◇ Comprehensive and co-ordinated information and advice for intending emigrants and for intending returners
- ◇ Capacity building for services to vulnerable or marginalized Irish emigrants
- ◇ Care and support services for elderly returned emigrants
- ◇ "Holiday in Ireland" scheme for vulnerable elderly who cannot return permanently
- ◇ The Government should seek a way of extending 'free travel' concessions to Irish pensioners Abroad
- ◇ An awards system to recognize distinguished service to the Irish Abroad

Because of the high proportion of vulnerable and disadvantaged Irish emigrants in Britain, and because of concerns around issues of access, 'invisibility' and possible exclusion, the Task Force gave extended consideration to the situation of the Irish in Britain. It sets out concerns on the basis of the existing evidence, and in addition to recommendations around capacity building and research, made the valuable proposal that issues concerning Irish in Britain to be reflected in contacts between British and Irish representative (e.g. in meetings between Prime Minister and Taoiseach, and between representatives of Departments of Health in both countries).

To put muscle behind all of its proposals the report recommended an Agency for the Irish Abroad, situated within the De-

partment of Foreign Affairs, to develop, administer and supervise policy and to make the case for the resources to give effect to policy.

Significantly, the Task Force also recommended that the expertise of the Dion Committee be retained and that such committees be set up in the USA and Australia. It recommended also that the disbursement of cultural funding should come from the relevant Embassies

The report is generally recognised as a forward looking and innovative document ("wildly innovative" was the comment of an unnamed spokesperson in the Department of Foreign Affairs). There has been no wide criticism of the proposals themselves. Where there have been reservations or doubts expressed, these have referred to the level of increased expenditure proposed, at a time when the Irish government has clearly embarked on widespread cut-backs in expenditure.

It is therefore important that attention be given to the merits of the proposals themselves, and particularly to those strategic and capacity building proposals which are so vital if the Irish voluntary sector is to fulfill its very necessary role in Britain.

It is important that the Irish government be lobbied on this issue, but it is equally important that some of the voices in favour of the Task Force recommendations should be those of Irish TDs and Senators. In addition, therefore, to direct representations to the government, Irish organisations, communities and individuals need to use their networks and contacts to make the case for the extra expenditure proposed in the Task Force reports to TDs and Senators to whom they have direct or indirect access.

Seán Hutton  
Community Development Co-ordinator



## WHAT IS NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL?

Where we live can greatly influence our opportunities in life. For people living in the most disadvantaged parts of the country, those opportunities can be extremely limited. They face 'post code poverty' – schools are under-achieving and unpopular, businesses have shut up shop, transport to other areas is often limited, housing in disrepair or empty and the streets are scarred with graffiti and abandoned cars. Those who can, move on. Others become trapped in a cycle of poverty, unable to make choices over where and how they live.

Neighbourhood renewal is about reversing this spiral of decline. It is about working from the grassroots to deliver economic prosperity and jobs, safer communities good education, decent housing and better health, as well as fostering a new sense of community among residents.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Unit works across Government and with a range of partners at national, regional and local levels to ensure that, in 10 to 20 years time, no one is seriously disadvantaged by where they live.

### Key Issues

1. The Government's National Strategy Action Plan, **A new Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal**, launched in January 2001, is the most determined and far reaching attempt yet to tackle these issues. Its guiding principle is that within 10 to 20 years, no one should be seriously disadvantaged by where they live.

2. Neighbourhood renewal is important for several reasons. Firstly, it improves quality of life and attracts people back into these areas. There are also wider consequences if we neglect deprived areas. They stifle opportunity and drain resources in terms of benefit, additional spending on crime prevention, social services, health care and so on. And social inequalities can lead to tensions between communities.

3. The neighbourhood renewal strategy attacks the root problems of deprived areas, such as, weak economies and poor schools, using the power of partnership between sectors to fuel change. Too often, public services in deprived areas

are performing worst. Hospital waiting lists are longer in places where people are least healthy. Public transport is worse in places where people can barely afford a car. All the key Government spending departments are trying to tackle these problems. They are 'bending their spending' towards deprived areas to raise the standard of public services closer to the national average. This drive is backed up by a huge increase in spending, an extra £43 billion a year on major public services by 2004.

4. Previous attempts to revive failing communities have been piecemeal and short term. What sets the new strategy apart is its cross-cutting approach, recognising, for example, that unemployment can be linked to poor schools, lack of transport and having the 'wrong' address, as well as a failing economy, and that these issues cannot be tackled in isolation or through a quick fix. The strategy also puts the needs of local communities first and foremost, taking a bottom-up approach rather than imposing solutions from the top.

5. There are deprived neighbourhoods in all parts of the country, but the highest concentrations are in these four regions; North East – 19% (of the most deprived wards)  
North West – 25.7%  
London – 18%  
Yorkshire and Humberside – 9.4%

Forty per cent of the population lives in the 88 most deprived local authority areas, which are the focus of much of the renewal strategy. Very often, areas of intense deprivation are located only a short distance from prosperous districts, making the gulf between the 'haves' and the 'have nots' all the more obvious.

### Taking a Partnership Approach

The strategy's delivery is led by the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit (NRU), which was set up in April 2001. Although based in the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions (DTLR), the unit's work cuts across all Government departments involved in neighbourhood renewal. It aims to take a 365 degree view of the issues, and to target resources and expertise on neighbourhoods identified for renewal. Neighbourhood renewal teams working in Government Offices for the Regions support the NRU's work

At a neighbourhood level, local strategic partnerships (LSPs) set priorities for their areas and develop renewal strategies that fit local needs. LSPs include representatives from statutory, voluntary, business and community organisations. Residents in renewal areas are crucial to this process, particularly in identifying their neighbourhood's main problems and deciding how to tackle them.

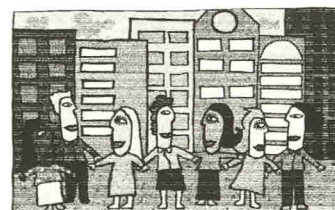
### New Initiatives

As well as improving existing services in deprived areas, the Government has introduced a number of initiatives to stimulate and support change.

- The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund - £900 million over three years, which LSPs allocate to boost Government departments' spending programmes and get local renewal strategies underway.
- New Deal for Communities partnerships – investing around £2 billion over 10 years in 39 of the poorest neighbourhoods.
- Support for community groups through the Community Empowerment Fund and Community Chest, totalling £96 million, to help neighbourhood groups increase their activities and get more people involved in LSPs
- Neighbourhood and street warden's programmes, to provide greater security and a visible reassuring presence at neighbourhood level.
- Neighbourhood management schemes, helping communities and local service providers to work together
- A Business Brokers pilot programme, which aims to link the private and public sectors and encourage more investment and enterprise in deprived areas.
- A skills and knowledge programme aimed at professionals, practitioners, civil servants and community residents, to provide training, advice and networking opportunities and to promote good practice.

### Find Out More

[www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/seu](http://www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/seu)



Alfredo Pellegrini  
London Development Worker

## PRIVATE ACTION, PUBLIC BENEFIT

On 3 July 2001 the Prime Minister Tony Blair announced this project. Its remit was to

- ◆ Comprehensively map the wider not for profit sector
- ◆ Clarify Government strategy towards the sector
- ◆ Set out the principles which should underpin a reformed legal and regulatory framework
- ◆ Review the legal and regulatory framework in order to assess how it can better enable existing organisations to thrive and grow, encourage the development of new types of organisations and ensure public confidence
- ◆ Review which types of organisations should have special status
- ◆ Make recommendations for the removal of any unnecessary legal restrictions on investment, entrepreneurial activities, mergers and acquisitions
- ◆ Make recommendations on modernizing the regulatory framework for charity

and the not for profit sector  
Part of the consultation document's executive summary states "The sectors' independence is vital to its success. But Government has an important role to play in setting the framework within which the sector operates. The Government wants to support a not for profit sector which is modern, dynamic, innovative, accountable, and engages with diverse communities.

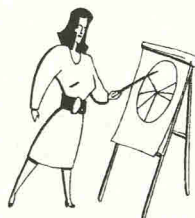
The Government's strategy towards charities and the not for profit sector aims to:

- ◆ Help organisations play a bigger role in revitalizing communities and empowering citizens
- ◆ Encourage public support
- ◆ Help the sector become more effective and efficient
- ◆ Enable the sector to become a more active partner with Government in shaping policy and delivery

This will of course have an impact on the not for profit sector and it is important that organisations working in the sector give

their views on the recommendations put forward as any decisions taken will have a significant impact on the ways in which they work and on their funding.

Copies of the consultation document are available from the strategy unit; the consultation period lasts until December. The document is available to download from their website but it is a long document if you would like a hard copy contact  
Strategy Unit  
Cabinet Office  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Admiralty Arch  
The Mall  
London SW1A 2WH  
Tel 020 7276 1416  
Fax 020 7276 1407  
Email [strategy@cabinet-office.x.gov.uk](mailto:strategy@cabinet-office.x.gov.uk)  
[www.strategy-unit.gov.uk](http://www.strategy-unit.gov.uk)



## CENSUS NEWS

The first results from the 2001 Census will be published on Monday 30 September 2002, this will be followed on 13 February 2003 by Key statistics for local authorities.

## CRE

The Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) have moved. They can now be contacted at:  
Commission for Racial Equality  
St Dunstons House  
201 -211 Borough High Street  
London SE1 1GZ  
Tel: 020 7939 0000  
Fax 020 7939 0001  
Minicom 020 7939 0100  
Email [info@cre.gov.uk](mailto:info@cre.gov.uk)

## PASSPORTS

Another issue raised at the Community Care and National meetings on 21 September the issue of Irish citizens signing British passport applications was raised. It was believed that professionals holding Irish passports were no longer eligible to countersign applications on behalf of people seeking British passports.

This information has been checked out by Anne Byrne at the Irish Embassy, who has looked at the passport agency website, according to this they have recently replaced application form SE03 with the updated SE04, the website says "The latest version of the application form asks the counter signatory to enter their current British passport number (Irish passport numbers are also acceptable)".

The Irish passport office has confirmed that the passport office works with the passport agency to confirm the identity of Irish passport holders who have signed British passports.



### SCHOOL GOVERNORS

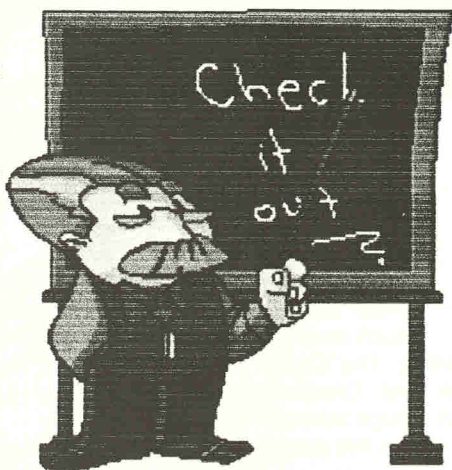
At the Becoming Known in Your Community workshop at this years AGM participants discussed the ways of becoming involved in their local community. As well as organisational involvement at we discussed individual involvement and how it can have a positive impact on the local community as well as raising the needs of the Irish within those communities.

Were you aware that school governors are the largest volunteer workforce in the UK with around 370,000 places nationally? At any one time about 10% of these places go unfilled and this rises to over 30% in some inner city areas. As the Irish are often over represented in these deprived areas becoming a school governor may just be the way to ensure that the needs of the younger generations are not dismissed like that of previous generations.

I recently became a School Governor for the second time around. The first time I had been a parent Governor, my motivation was an interest in my daughters education and the feeling of wanting to be involved at a level where I could have some influence. This time I am a Local Education Authority (LEA) appointed Governor at a local catholic primary school. Most of the other Governors are foundation appointed i.e. appointed by the church there is also a teacher Governor and a parent Governor, several of them are Irish.

Becoming a school Governor does give you an opportunity to make a contribution to education in the local area in a very tangible way. Making schools aware of the needs of the Irish community is very important if we are to ensure that future generations do not suffer the discrimination and deprivation experienced by their forebears.

It is not hard to become a School Governor, if your church is linked to a school that is one way of getting involved, speak to your parish priest about this or



you may wish to get involved at a non church supported school in your area. If this is the case and you would like to know more it has never been easier. The School Governors One Stop Shop is a charity that

aims to recruit School Governors with management skills to fill vacancies in inner city schools, they also provide advice on what becoming a School Governor entails.

The School Governors One Stop Shop currently recruits Governors in the following areas.

- London Boroughs  
Barking & Dagenham, Brent, Camden, Croydon, Ealing, Enfield, Greenwich, Hackney, Hammersmith & Fulham, Haringey, Hounslow, Islington, Kensington & Chelsea, Lambeth, Lewisham, Newham, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest, Wandsworth, Westminster
- Outside London  
Barnsley, Birmingham, Blackburn, Blackpool, Bradford, Bristol, Burnley, Coventry, Dewsbury, Doncaster, Folkestone, Gateshead, Halton, Hartlepool, Huddersfield, Kingston upon Hull, Knowsley, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Luton, Manchester, Middlesborough, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Nottingham, Oldham, Portsmouth, Redcar & Cleveland, Rochdale, Rotherham, St Helens, Salford, Sandwell, Sefton, Sheffield, Skemersdale, Solihull, South Tyneside, Stockton on Tees, Stoke on Trent, Sunderland, Tameside, Walsall, West Cumbria, Wirral, Wolverhampton.

If you would like to know more about becoming a school Governor contact: School Governors One Stop Shop 64 Essex Road London N1 8LR Tel: 0870 241 3883 Fax: 020 7288 1720 Email [info@schoolgovernors-oss.co.uk](mailto:info@schoolgovernors-oss.co.uk) [www.schoolgovernors-oss.org.uk](http://www.schoolgovernors-oss.org.uk) Sue King Development (Training Information) Worker

### OVER TO YOU

There are lots of ways you can be involved in your community, not just within the Irish sector. If we are to ensure that the needs of the Irish are understood and dealt with we need to be making the case in ALL areas of daily life.

We want to know what you are involved in. Are you a J.P, what local committees are you on?

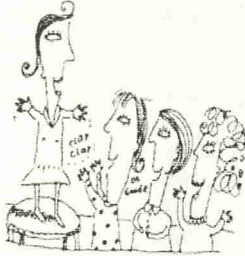
We would like to be able to highlight just what you are doing. To do this we need articles from you. It may just inspire someone else to become involved.

## on the grapevine

### LONDON IRISH WOMEN'S CENTRE

The London Irish Women's Centre in Stoke Newington held their re-launch in September with the emphasis on new initiatives 'to increase the confidence of Irish Women and their ability to take part in the life of their community and in public life'.

Amongst those speaking at the re-launch were Mrs A O'Ceallaigh, wife of the Irish Ambassador, Mrs M Tilki, Chairperson of Federation of Irish Societies, Ms A Marjoram, Association of London Government, Ms K Foley Chairperson of London Irish Women's Centre.



The Centre has been in existence since 1983 and it's main aim is to provide advice, information and support to Irish women and women of Irish descent. LIWC has responded over the years to the changing needs of Irish women living in London, however the core work of the agency continues and that is to provide

advice and information to ensure women have access to the services, benefits and support to which they are entitled.

The LIWC also supports disadvantaged and isolated women by offering medium and long term counselling services in a women only space. We also hope to develop more social support and therapeutic groups, with the aim to empower women and to increase their ability to take part in public life and society.

We are also hoping to develop a new range of services and groups for women such as art, drama, and computer training. The Centre has just completed its first Creative Writing course which was a huge success. It is hoped that we can build on this success in the future.

The LIWC has also been successful this year in obtaining the Full Quality Mark in Housing & Welfare Benefits awarded by

the Community Legal Services Commission and we hope to expand on these categories over the coming year or two.

Since the re-launch the Centre is more vibrant than ever and hopefully more accessible to women from across all of London.

Our opening hours are 9.30 – 5pm Monday – Friday.  
Tel. 020 7249 7318  
Fax 020 7923 9599  
Email [info@liwc.co.uk](mailto:info@liwc.co.uk)

Eithne Rynne  
London Irish Women's Centre

### INNISFREE

We had our "Race & Cultural Diversity Review" with our lead regulator from the housing corporation recently. As you will be aware, all Housing Associations are expected to follow the guidance in the new regulatory code in respect of race equality targets (section 2.7). Proper targets have to be in place by next year. We discussed how Housing Associations such as our own should implement this. I said that in the past that we at Innisfree had been very cautious and rather pussy footed around this issue for fear of being taken to task. Our mission statement, our key policies such as equal opportunities, allocations and lettings, recruitment and selection etc. have all talked about being "primarily" for the Irish community. Well, we can now start being much bolder and more explicit. As far as the Housing corporation is concerned, all the research we have done, e.g. Still beyond the Pale, has demonstrated beyond any doubt in their minds that Irish needs are not so we can set 100% lettings if we want. back us with recalci- authorities and work CRE to ensure that needs are met.



Wow

Clare Winstanley  
Innisfree

### IRISH TRAVELLER CULTURE & HERITAGE DAY

This event is being held at the London Irish Centre 50-52 Camden Square on 21st February 2002 from 1.30pm-8.00pm.

If you would like further details contact Noelle Keane at  
Irish Traveller Project  
The Willesden Green Library Centre  
95 High Road  
London NW10 2ST  
Tel 0208 459 7638  
Fax 0208 459 1028





**VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES**

BIAS are setting up a Mentoring project, funded by the Youth Justice Board the aim is to divert young people at risk of offending away from crime. They offer training and support to those wishing to be involved in the project. Mentors work with young people on a one to one basis, offering support and empowering them to make positive choices in their lives. Mentoring is about motivating and encouragement.

If you feel you could become a Mentor and make a positive contribution to reducing crime are interested in finding out more about the project please contact Gabriel Macintosh or Michelle Cawley at

BIAS  
Irish Travellers Project  
The Old Library Building  
Willesden Green Library Centre  
95 High Road  
Willesden  
London NW10 2ST

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTED**

Solas Anois Irish Women's domestic violence project urgently need management committee members, currently meetings take place every 6 weeks on Tuesday evenings in Camden. Child-care expenses are paid. If you would like to know more contact Rita Duffy  
Solas Anois Women's Domestic Violence Project  
PO Box 4662  
London SW16 2ZF

If you would like anything put on the notice board this space is reserved for you,

Cost nil  
Profit Publicity

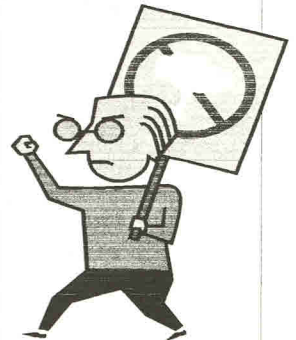


**REMEMBER PENSIONERS**

November 11<sup>th</sup> has long been known as Remembrance Day, this year it will have another significance for Britain's Pensioners. It is the day that has been chosen for a mass lobby of parliament to draw attention the ongoing campaign to improve the level of the basic state pension, restore the link with earnings, put an end to means-testing and defend SERPS.

If these measures are implemented it will help to reduce the level of poverty experienced and alleviate the suffering that it causes.

If you want further details contact LIEF  
The Irish Centre  
50-52 Camden Square  
London NW1 9XB  
Tel 020 7813 1478  
Email  
Dervilla@lief.freemove.co.uk



**LLOYDS TSB FOUNDATION**

This trust gives grants to registered charities mainly to improve the quality of life in local communities. Most grants are given regionally although there are some awards made nationally. They will fund projects and running costs although building costs are not generally supported unless for a specific need i.e. accessible facilities. Most grants are one off payments although in some instances funding will be spread over two or more years for longer term projects.

The trust aims to support underfunded charities which enable disadvantaged or disabled people to play a fuller role in the community.

The priorities of the trust are:

- ◇ Social and Community Needs
- ◇ Advice services
- ◇ Community relations
- ◇ Community services
- ◇ Cultural enrichment
- ◇ Disabled people
- ◇ Promotion of health Education and Training
- ◇ Lifelong learning
- ◇ Reading and writing skills
- ◇ Pre-school education
- ◇ Promoting skills that people need to live independently
- ◇ Training for disabled people including training them for the workplace
- ◇ Training for disadvantaged people to improve their chances of getting a job

The areas of special interest for 2002-3 are

- ◇ Family Support
- ◇ Help men play a more active role in parenting and caring
- ◇ Develop and improve relationships between people of different generations
- ◇ Help young people, especially those who are in or leaving care to develop skills
- ◇ Support families who have to cope with challenging behavior
- ◇ Challenging disadvantage and discrimination
- ◇ Help disadvantaged people to take a part in decision making processes
- ◇ Promote understanding and encouraging solutions which deal with

disadvantage and discrimination

- ◇ Challenge disadvantage and discrimination within the field of mental health
- ◇ Helping make the voluntary sector more effective
- ◇ Support the development of regional voluntary sector networks
- ◇ Encourage people to communicate and work together
- ◇ Support the training of trustees, management, staff and volunteers
- ◇ Encourage organisations to review and assess how effective they are

Grants outside the area of special interest do not usually exceed £5,000, those within the area of special interest can be for up to £10,000. National projects may receive more.

The trust will only accept applications made on the trusts application form. Copies of the form and further details are available on the trusts website [www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk](http://www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk)  
 Lloyds TSB Foundation  
 PO Box 140  
 St Mary's Court  
 20 St Mary at Hill  
 London EC3R 8NA  
 Tel 020 7204 5276  
 Fax 020 7204 5275  
 Minicom 020 7204 5442  
 Email [guidelines@lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk](mailto:guidelines@lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk)

**THE SCARMAN TRUST  
COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS  
AWARD**

The trust provides small grants with practical support to individuals who want to make a difference to their community. The project must be viable and have the support of the community. The next closing date for applications is 3 December 2002.

FIS have been sent details by the London regional office The trust has other regional offices who offer grants in their areas. For details of these offices check the website for details of these grants.

Details from  
 Scarman Trust  
 London Region  
 12-20 Baron Street  
 London N1 9LL  
 Tel 020 7713 9306  
 Fax 020 7713 9308  
[www.thescarmantrust.org](http://www.thescarmantrust.org)

**DRUG SCOPE MILLENIUM AWARDS**

These awards Grants of between £1,000- £3,500 for individuals and up to £15,000 for small groups of who want to tackle local drugs issues are available across England .

Deadlines for applications are 8th January 2003 and 11th April 2003

Details from  
 DrugScope Millennium Awards  
 Waterbridge House  
 32-36 Loman Street  
 London SE1 0EE  
 Tel 020 7928 121  
 Fax 020 7922 8780  
 Email [ma@drugscope.org.uk](mailto:ma@drugscope.org.uk)

**BIDDING FOR FUNDS & RESOURCES**

This is a very useful publication from BT for community organisations, called bidding for funds and resources it is available to download FREE as a PDF document from their website

[www.btcommunityconnections](http://www.btcommunityconnections)

If you would like a copy of the publication but have difficulties downloading it call Sue on 020 7916 2728 and she will copy it for you.



### GREEN-WORKS

This not for profit company seeks to provide a bridge between organisations that have redundant equipment and voluntary organisations that need it.

All products are refurbished and offered at minimal cost to voluntary organisations.

Green-Works  
Mezzanine Floor  
Elizabeth House  
39 York Road  
London SE1 7NQ  
Tel 020 7401 5409  
Fax 020 7401 5469  
Email [info@green-work.co.uk](mailto:info@green-work.co.uk)  
[www.green-work.co.uk](http://www.green-work.co.uk)

### COMPUTERS FOR CHARITY

This voluntary non profit making organisation set up in 1993 offers charities the opportunity to keep up with developments in computer technology by providing a low cost service. If your organisation needs to update its computer technology or you need advice they offer

Guaranteed equipment  
Free unbiased advice  
Free lifetime support  
Low prices  
Environment friendly

### GIFT AID SYSTEM FREE TO CHARITIES

A new software package has been developed to help charities make the most of Gift Aid. Developed by a Scottish IT specialist Web Trust UK the system Gift Aid 2002 helps you keep track of donations, identifies where Gift Aid declarations are required and prints out Inland Revenue approved forms.

The system is available FREE to charities contact [www.webtrustorg.uk](http://www.webtrustorg.uk)

### BAILII

A website has been set up to assist those providing legal services on limited resources. The British and Irish Legal Information Institute (BAILII) offers free access to case law and statutes and other useful legal texts.

[www.bailii.org](http://www.bailii.org)

### DOWN THE ROAD

A conference on traveller law reform is to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2002 at Friends Meeting House in London from 10am -4pm.

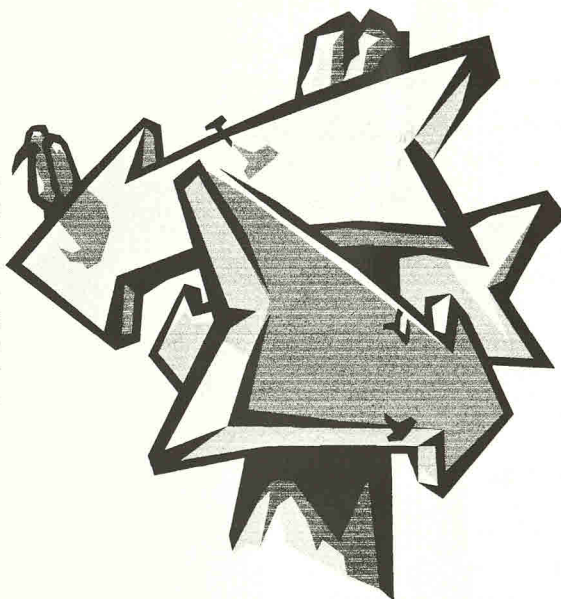
Conference fee is £40 and there are limited places so early booking is essential. Booking forms are available at,

[www.cardiff.ac.uk/claws/tlru/news.html](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/claws/tlru/news.html).  
Traveller Law Research Unit  
Cardiff Law School  
Museum Avenue  
PO Box 427  
Cardiff CF10 3XJ

### CONNEXIONS WITH VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Do you involve young people in your project or do you want to? Working together Connexions with Voluntary and Community Organisations is a useful publication produced jointly by a range of organisations working in the youth field it is available FREE from:

DfES Publications  
PO Box 5050  
Sherwood Park  
Annesley  
Notts NG15 0DJ  
Tel 0845 60 222 60  
Fax 0845 60 333 60  
Text phone 0845 60 555 60  
Email [dfes@prolog.uk.com](mailto:dfes@prolog.uk.com)  
[www.connexions.gov.uk](http://www.connexions.gov.uk)



### CRIMINAL RECORDS BUREAU

Do you have any views on the Criminal Records Bureau?

NCVO is currently conducting a survey of the effectiveness of the service offered by CRB. The results of the survey will form part of their recommendation to the Home Office and CRB on the changes that need to be made to make the CRB more effective for voluntary

and community organisations using it. If you would like to add your comments you can do so online at [www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/main/news](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/main/news)  
Or email [richard.hebditch@ncvo-vol.org.uk](mailto:richard.hebditch@ncvo-vol.org.uk)

### BORN IN THE UK

The Maternity Alliance is preparing a research project to study the maternity and postnatal needs of UK born women from ethnic minority groups. The study will explore the perceived barriers to access and uptake of maternity care and examine the health care provider's perceptions of the needs. The findings will be used to influence service providers and policy makers.

FIS will endeavor to keep you informed of the progress of the project.

### QUOTES TO REMEMBER

"They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself".  
*Andy Warhol*

"People forget how fast you did a job—but they remember how well you did it".  
*Howard Newton*



The Federation of Irish Societies is the umbrella organisation representing Irish organisations within Britain.

Membership of the Federation is open to Irish led organisations working in throughout Britain details of membership are available from the Administrator via the office.

The Newsletter is sent to all FIS affiliates free of charge. Copies of the newsletter are available to non affiliates by subscription.

I would like to know more about FIS. Please sends me:

Please tick

Details of affiliation   
Irish organisations only

I am not an affiliate of FIS but would like to subscribe to the FIS newsletter.

Newsletter subscription cost £7.00 per annum

I would like to make a donation to the work of FIS

I enclose a cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### THINGS TO COME

The Federation are planning a series of meetings in January to discuss the new Mental Health Strategy which is due to be published soon. We will send out dates as soon as we can but thought we would pre warn you of this important consultation.

FIS will be consulting the Irish community so that we can feed into the national policies. We need you to be aware of this and to assist us by  
Making sure any Mental Health Service users you know are informed  
Publicising the consultation meetings in your area  
Giving us any contacts you think we should be inviting

The consultation meetings will be held in

- ◆ Birmingham
- ◆ Manchester
- ◆ London
- ◆ There will also be a women specific meeting.



Congratulations to the Cricklewood Homeless concern Football team who have won their Street Football League cup..

This newsletter is produced by the Federation of Irish Societies. The views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of FIS. Fis takes no responsibility for arrangements with third parties made via information in this publication. FIS welcomes articles for inclusion in the newsletter but reserves the right to edit any copy.