

The Annual General Meeting of the Leitrim Association in London took place at the Irish Centre Camden Square, London NW1 9XB at 3:00 pm on Sunday 4th March 1979. Present were Adrain Fleming, Chairman, John McGarry Treasurer and Acting Secretary, Michael Mulvannerty, Jim Fox, John Bannon, Jim Murphy, <sup>P.M.</sup> John McCartin, Mrs McGreal, Tommy Maguire, Michael Winters and Fr Butler OMI (Pro). *Y. L. O. R. ANN. M. STIERSON*

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were read and adopted.

<sup>PRESIDENT</sup>  
Mr Fox in his address welcomed those present to the AGM and commented that it was the 24th AGM for him to attend. He was delighted with the success of the Association down through the years and always saw the Leitrim Association as being within the top three county Associations in London. Other Associations had come and gone - other representatives of counties had come on gone but the Leitrim Association remained strong down through the years. Sadly, though, even the Leitrim Association lost valuable workers through no fault of their own - The past two chairmen and the past secretary had left the area and the association was the poorer for their departure. Mr Fox thanked them for their wonderful work. But the Association should endeavour to keep up contact with them. Mr Fox also asked all representatives of the Association to share the work load throughout the year and not leave it to the faithful few. Committee meetings become poor through absenteeism. Some people take on officerships and then do not fulfil their obligations. Efforts should be made to increase membership at the monthly meeting and this should be easy if people were reminded that the Association was for Leitrim people. Perhaps too much time was spent of the dinner/dance and other functions when in fact emphasis should be put on the welfare side of the Association. There should be some open meetings in order to get the interest of more people and no one should be deprived of the benefits of the Association just because they have not been members. The Association needs more publicity. Meetings should be better publicised. The Association has a lot to offer. It can hold its head high and therefore publicise itself.



The Secretary (Acting) John McGarry commented on the more important functions during the past year - The Bacon & Cabbage, the Wild Rose competition in Manorhamilton which was cancelled, the inter county quiz, the London Irish Festival, the Boat Trip, and Annual Dinner Dance and the Leitrim County Development Project held in the Irish Club in London. All functions were well supported and there was a good encouraging response from the County Development project

In his Treasurer's report John McGarry issued copies of the accounts to all present. The accounts were very detailed, and showed a healthy balance. A new flag was purchased during the year, new costumes and shawls for the parade were made and County ties were also purchased. These items greatly contributed to the prestige of the Association. Commenting on the finances the Chairman mentioned that it was a hard year on finances but that with greater co-operation and an enlargement of membership there would be no need to worry.

Fr Butler commenting on the reports thanked all present for the wonderful work done during the past year and the appreciable achievement attained.. He said he was very proud to be associated with the County Association and could only wonder at the dedication of the present committee as witnessed by the very successful year and the thoroughness of the reports presented. He expressed his gratitude to the Leitrim Association for all the financial aid given to the Irish Centre by the Association particularly during the past year.

Michael Mulvannerty said he wanted to be associated with sentiments expressed by Fr Butler, he expressed his own thanks and felt he was very proud to be associated with such an efficient organisation.

Adrain Fleming Chairman wished to thank all who helped him during the year and far from being despondent he said there was a great future ahead and all would endeavour to improve the Association in the coming year.

Michael Mulvannerty read a letter from Senator McGarrin advising him of his work to obtain financial assistance from the Irish Government for the Irish Centre. The question had been brought up in the Dail by Deputy Austin Deasy, but the minister was not yet in a position



make a decision. Comments from the floor indicated that the feeling of the meeting was that the attitude of the Irish Government was a very negative one. Michael Mulvannerty then read a letter from Gregory Dunne. Mr Dunne had been to the Annual Dinner Dance with a family party. He was delighted to be present at the function and offered some suggestions for the future. He felt sure that a coach load of people could be organised <sup>for</sup> other Leitrim Functions in London particularly if they co-incided with important soccer, rugby or racing events. <sup>in the London area</sup> Mr Dunne offered to help out in every way he could. It was thought that the Irish Centre should now get on with providing the funds itself for the New Development. The Bishops in Ireland should be approached individually. It was felt that several of those were willing to help out. Approaching the Bishop's secretariate got a negative response.

The elections then followed :- In Ireland... President : Josie

~~Seamus Fox~~ Vice Presidents- Seamus Fox and Frank Murphy.

In London : - Hon President Michael Mulvannerty. Hon Life President Jim Fox and Tommy Maguire. Hon Vice President :- Mrs McGreal and Mrs Eames. \* Secretary - Michael Winters.

Treasurer :- John McGarry. Assistant Treasurer - John Bannon.

\* Chairman Adrian Fleming, Tom Vice Chairman J Murphy .

Assistant Secretary ~~John~~ McCartin. PRO Fr Butler OMI.

PATRONS :- Most Rev Dr F McKiernan, Bishop of Kilmore  
Most Rev Dr Cathal Daly, Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise,  
Gregory Dunne, Raymond Laird and Senator McCartin.

A vote of thanks was proposed to the team which worked so hard at the Irish Club to bring development to County Leitrim, Mr Patrick Doyle, ~~County~~ Manager Leitrim County Council, Mr Josie Martin, Chairman, Leitrim Development team, Senator Mc J J McCartin, Mrs C S Laird, A vote of thanks was proposed to Gregory Dunne for his interest and support of the Association in London. A vote of congratulations was proposed to Mr Laird on being chosen as Leitrim Man - of - the Year. A vote of thanks was proposed to the Leitrim Observer, to the Irish Post (and the Peter Kennedy column) for their continued support and for the publicity. A vote of thanks to Senator McCartin for his efforts to get financial support from the Irish Government for the Irish Centre in London and to Gregory Dunne for his offer of help and support. Forthcoming functions ; 25th May - Bacon & Cabbage at the Irish Centre. 4th July 1979 - London Irish Festival at Roundwood Park. 27th November 1979 - Annual Dinner Dance. 16th March 1979 - Ceili and Old Tyme dance at the Irish Centre for the Carolan Memorial in Mohill.

Martin

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The meeting expressed grave concern about certain matters in County Leitrim. It was concerned that County Leitrim as a unity now had no representative in Dail Eireann. It was concerned that there appeared to be still in the County a division (long existing) whereby one part of the County got preferenceto the other principally because local offices were situate in the prior half. It was also concerned that a fairer allocation of opportunities be made at County Council level. To treat on these and other matters the meeting proposed to hold a conference in Ireland in August of 1979 and that Leitrim Associations from the various centres in Britain, America and Ireland itself be invited to attend and that the Leitrim Association in County Leitrim itself be revitalised.

There was an appeal to Leitrim People in General in London to support the various Leitrim Functions butespecially to join the Association and become active in order to support the County and People of Leitrim.

Members were reminded that the St Patrick's Day parade would be held this year on Sunday 11th March 1979 starting at Horseguards Parade at 2:30 pm and ending in Southwark Cathedral for Mass in Irish at 3:45 pm., and that the County flag would be carried and all members to march behind the Leitrim flag.

A vote of thanks was proposed to Dr McKelrnan and Dr Cathal Daly for their very personal interest in the Leitrim Associaion in London and also the Parish and Deanery Associations.