

*The Waterford Association, London*

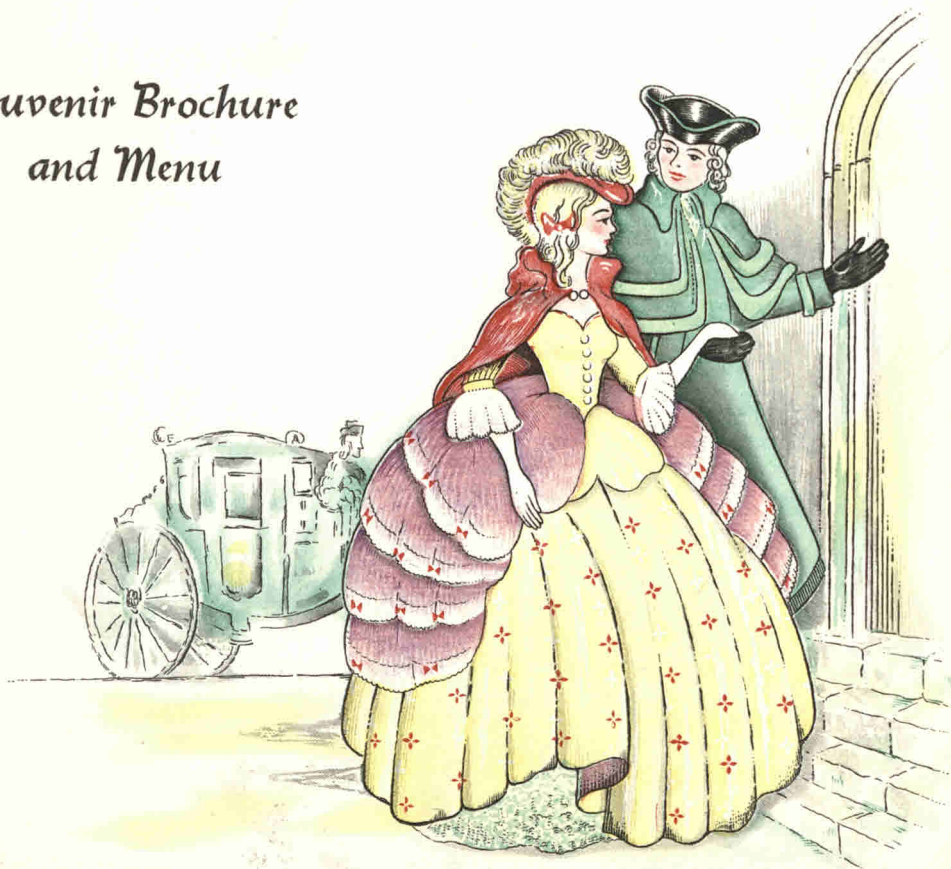
# *21st Anniversary*

1955



1976

*Souvenir Brochure  
and Menu*





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## The History of the Waterford Association, London



Founder Members at the Inaugural Meeting. Front Row (left to right): M. Morrissey, Hon. Secretary; M. Noonan, Hon. Treasurer; The late Larry Cunningham, Chairman. Back row: 2nd from left: Tom Hurley (deceased); and the late Tommy Corcoran is 5th from left.  
Photo by P. J. Fahey

The Waterford Association, London, originated under the heading of the Waterford Mens Association in a pub in Camden Town in September, 1955. Founder members were Larry Cunningham, P. J. Fahey, W. Corcoran, Mr. Sean Kenny and Mrs. P. Kenny, Mr. Michael Morrissey, Mr. N. Noonan, T. Hurley, and T. Corcoran.

At this first meeting Larry Cunningham was elected Chairman. The association got off to a wonderful start publicity wise, with the famous London photographer, Paddy Fahey.

Owing to lack of funds at this early stage, the committee were unable to hold an annual dinner.

The Chairman elected for 1956 was Mr. N. Noonan. Mr. S. Kenny was Treasurer; Mr. S. Morrissey, Hon. Secretary; and Mr. M. Brazil, Assistant Hon. Secretary.

Funds were now coming in and £25 was donated to the Irish Centre. A donation was also made to the Hungarian relief fund. Waterford Association in this year launched the Inter-County Quiz, the finals of which were recorded by Radio Eireann at the Irish Club, London, and transmitted during their Christmas programmes. Things started looking up and there were now 120 paid up members.

A.G.M. held October 19th, 1956, officers elected for 1957 were: Chairman, M. Brazil; Vice-Chairman, Jim Griffin, Treasurer, Mr. Doherty; Hon. Secretary, Mr. Nolan. This year our first Annual Dinner was held at the Irish Club in January and was very successful. This year also, the association managed to present another £23 to the Irish Centre. A monthly journal, called "Urbs Intacta" was conceived. The association had a good run in the quiz but were beaten by Armagh, who were the eventual winners that year. A debate between the Waterford Association and Dublin Society, which was instigated by Mr. Michael Brazil, Waterford, was held at the Irish Club, London.

There were three outings that year, one of which was in conjunction with the Dublin Society.



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Officers elected for 1958: Chairman, Councillor E. W. Flynn; Vice-Chairman, W. Corcoran; Secretary, P. J. Fahey; Assistant Secretary, W. Flynn; Treasurer, J. O'Leary.

A charity dance organised for the widow of David O'Connor (Dungarvan) had overwhelming support, with over 200 young couples on the dance floor. In this year Tom Duffy returned to Ireland; a presentation was made to him at the Irish Club to wish him Bon Voyage.

In 1958, as in 1957 there was a successful trip to Southend to see the lights and a coach outing to Watford, to join with Waterfordians in that area, there was a grand social at the Queen's Hotel.

We are now at 1959 and the Chairman is again Councillor Flynn; Secretary, Jim Griffin; Treasurer, J. Madigan; President, T. Hickey, B.A., B.Comm.



Group taken by Paddy Fahey at the Annual Dinner in 1959.

It seems that twice in '59 visits were made by coach to Watford for socials, we note that the coach from London and social cost only 5/-. The Annual Dinner was held on 13th October at Lyons Corner House.

1960: Chairman, Councillor Flynn; Secretary, Jim Griffin. The Annual Dinner was held at the Knights of St. Columbia Club. The same year the Waterford Hurling team were All Ireland Champions. They travelled to London under the Chairmanship of Pat Fanning to give an exciting exhibition at Wembley Stadium. The team were entertained by the Association at the New Emerald Social Club in Hammersmith and welcomed to Hammersmith by the Mayor, Councillor John Hayes, M.M., J.P. Thus we were introduced to the civic bodies of Hammersmith and where for many years to come we were received in civic dignity.

1961: Chairman, Councillor E. W. Flynn; Vice-Chairman, Willie Barron; Secretary, Jim Griffin; Treasurer, T. Walsh. Several charity functions were run in this year. Two of the highlights of the year were the bringing over of the Royal Showband for a gala night in London and our Annual Dinner at Hammersmith Town Hall.

At this point I would like to stress the influence of Councillor Flynn in pushing our association to the fore and to Jimmy Griffin for his very hard work as secretary.

1962: The Chairman was Mr. W. Barron; Secretary, Jim Griffin. Authentic documents for this year are missing but I believe Wally Smyth was Vice-Chairman; and Paddy Stafford, Treasurer.



1963: Chairman, W. Barron; Vice-Chairman, Willie Stafford; Secretary, Jim Griffin; and Treasurer, Mrs. Carmel O'Regan. I can remember Carmel as a first class treasurer. She knew before the bank did, how the books stood, to the penny, and was able to give the exact position at each meeting.

In this year our annual dinner was held at the Gresham Ballroom.

1964: Willie Barron was Chairman; and Wally Smyth, Vice-Chairman; Jim Griffin, Secretary.

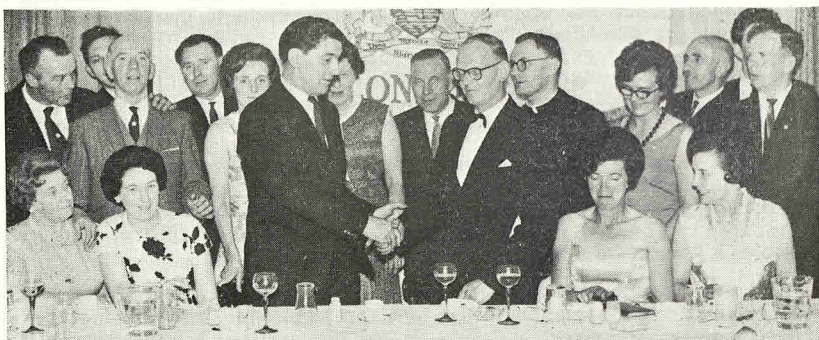


A.G.M., 1964. Photo taken by Gerry Harrington, included are: Jim Regan, Billy Corcoran, E. J. Conway, Paddy and Mrs. Power, Willie and Mrs. Stafford, Tim Walsh, Peter and Betty Heany, Jim French, John Dee, Paddy and Mrs. Maloney, Willie Flynn.

As far as my memory serves me we had several successful functions, plus our get-together with the villagers of Waterford in Hertfordshire, and our Annual Dinner at Hammersmith Town Hall.

1965 was a very good year when a great deal was achieved. Chairman, Wally Smyth; Vice-Chairman, Willie Barron; Secretary, Jim Griffin; Treasurer, Carmel O'Regan.

The name of the Association was changed to read "The Waterford Association, London."



Photograph taken by Mr. P. J. Fahey in 1965 on the occasion of the Official Handing Over of the New Banner made by Hearne & Co., Waterford, and presented by Past Chairman and Embassy Official, Mr. Michael Brazil.

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## Toasts

### Ireland

Proposed by:

Mr. Michael Brazil,  
Irish Embassy.

### Our Guests

Proposed by:

Mr. John O'Keeffe,  
Chairman.

Response by:

Most Rev. Dr. M. Russell, D.D.,  
Bishop of Waterford and Lismore.

### The Waterford Association

Proposed by:

Alderman William Kenneally, T.D.,  
Mayor of Waterford.

Response by:

Rt. Rev. Charles J. Henderson,  
Bishop of Tricala and Auxiliary in  
Southwark.

Hon. Toastmaster: Mr. John Dee.

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A new flag with the new name was made for us by Hearne & Co., The Quay, Waterford, and was officially presented to the Chairman at a Dinner at the Irish Centre by a past Chairman, Michael Brazil, an embassy official. We produced our own ties and still do to the present day. This year we presented a Waterford Glass Cruet Set to Fr. Tom McNamara, kindly presented by Waterford Glass. This was the centenary year of William Vincent Wallace. Research on Wallace was uncovered by Mrs. Carmel O'Regan and Mr. Michael Brophy. We cleaned the grave, laid wreaths and presented a beautiful silver trophy in the shape of a music book with manuscript engraved and suitably inscribed to the Waterford Light Opera Company. The Irish Club arranged a musical evening on Wallace's music in the presence of a descendant of Wallace.

Dick Buckley and Joe Heffernan were 2nd and 3rd in the Inter-County Individual Quiz Contest.

This year also saw the sad loss in the death of our Patron, Dr. Coholan, R.I.P., Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, and Life Member. Also auditor and long standing member, Mr. Tom Cahill, R.I.P.

1965 saw Mrs. Elizabeth Smyth, Chairman's mother meeting Mayor Lindsey of New York and appearing with him on American television. Mrs. Smyth was introduced to the Mayor by Tramore man, Mr. O'Brien, President of the Waterford Association, New York, and Commissioner of Police, New York City. Mrs. Smyth was entrusted with a scroll by Mayor Lindsey to present to the Mayor of Waterford on her return. The Mayor was then Fad Brown, T.D.

1966: Chairman, W. Barron; Vice-Chairman, Wally Smyth; Secretary, Jim Griffin; Recording Secretary, Billy Kieley; Treasurer, Mrs. C. O'Regan; Assistant Treasurer, Mrs. P. Power.

Besides the usual run of socials and dinners we visited the sick and mended some matrimonial problems.

His Lordship Bishop Russell was consecrated this year and three of our committee were invited to attend the ceremony.

We collected a small sum for the St. Vincent de Paul Society. A children's fancy dress party was held in February and each committee member donated a prize.

1967: Chairman, Mr. W. Barron; Vice-Chairman, Mr. E. J. Conway; Secretary, Mrs. Cathy Dee; Treasurer, Mrs. B. Power.

A dance at the Gresham showed a profit of £84 17s. 6d. which was a lot of money in '67.

Larry Cunningham bid for letters of Thomas Francis Magher at Sotheby's on behalf of the Association. He was outbid for same.

Billy Corcoran's son was acclaimed as an outstanding comedian and musician. Congratulations were flowing in.

Mrs. Power resigned as treasurer owing to pressure of new business. E. J. Conway acted as treasurer until the end of the year. However, E.J. resigned before the end of the year and Mrs. Cathy Dee took on the burden of treasurer as well as secretary and plodded on until the A.G.M. when she gave a good account of both offices. The books were in such a splendid state that we sent £50.00 to the poor of Waterford, something we are doing to this day.

1968: Chairman, Willie Barron; Vice-Chairman, Wally Smyth; Secretary, Jim Griffin; Recording Secretary, Jim Regan; Treasurer, P. Stafford.



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Donations were made to the mentally handicapped as they still are.

This year the death occurred of Mrs. Glavin, R.I.P. The Glavin family are all members of our association to the present time. I note that Tom Glavin donated all cakes for the children's party this year. Mr. Byrne donated the film show for the same party. Tom Gorman donated £21.00. Uncle Tom has been a generous benefactor throughout the years, as has Mr. Jim Conway.

In 1969 we received a cheque for £200, being 3rd in the 1968 Tommy Gorman £1,000 competition.

Mr. Dick Jones, Deputy Mayor came to London to lead us in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in his full mayoral regalia.

Monsignor Henderson, as his then title was, became our President.

This year one of our members Mr. Frank Coffey was appointed Irish Ambassador to Australia.

This year also we reached the final of the quiz against Cavan. The following were the finalists who each received a medal: Captain P. O'Brien, Mrs. P. Kelly, Mr. T. Keaney, Dick Buckley and Tim Walsh.

Again we visited Waterford in Hertfordshire as a diplomatic liaison with the villagers.

We presented a Coronet to the Barrack Street Band. It was appropriate that Wally Smyth should make the presentation as his grandfather had been its music master for many years and his music was still played by the band.

Several thousand pounds were donated to various charities from our successful functions.

1970: Chairman, Wally Smyth; Vice-Chairman, Jim French; Secretary, Jim Griffin; Treasurer, Paddy Stafford; Recording Secretary, Jim Regan.

This year we received a cheque for £400 being first prize in the 1969 Tommy Gorman Inter-County £1,000 Competition.

We made donations to many causes as usual. In June all tickets for the Annual Dinner were sold out. A presentation was made to Carmel and Tommy O'Regan who were returning to live in Tramore. A presentation was also made to Wally and Jane Smyth on the occasion of their Silver Wedding Anniversary. The celebration was attended by all the committee.

This year, as usual, we sponsored a pilgrim to Lourdes. We also had our usual run of Dinners, Dances and Raffles. These were successful and a large sum of money was made available to most who asked for our help.

1971 saw Wally Smyth as Chairman and Jim French as Vice-Chairman; M. Donovan as Secretary; and Jim Regan as Recording Secretary; Treasurer, Paddy Stafford.

We visited Waterford in Hertfordshire once again, whereby now we had many long standing friends.

Jim French and Paddy Stafford carried our banner in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Dublin and Mrs. Jessie Stafford represented us in New York.

Billy Corcoran left us for his heavenly home on 1st April, R.I.P. The association turned out in force for a requiem mass by three concelebrants, the principal being Monsignor Henderson.

Two of our members, Mr. and Mrs. Kelly went back home to live permanently and a suitable presentation was made.

This year Spes Travel kindly offered through the good offices of the Chairman, two tickets for Lourdes or Rome. We presented same to Fr. Sheridan to be raffled for the Irish Centre Welfare Fund.



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We also raised £75 in the marathon walk for the Irish Centre.

Our Chairman's youngest son, Billy, left to take up a farming career in Australia. Amongst the new members this year was Mr. John O'Keeffe. This year for the first time we ventured to Wood Green for charity functions.

We entered Mr. Paddy O'Brien for the Galway Singing Competition for the Michael Molloy Trophy, we were overjoyed when he took second place.

Our President was appointed Bishop of Tricala and Auxiliary in Southwark. Jubilant celebrations took place in London and Waterford. The association presented the New Bishop, Right Rev. Charles J. Henderson with an unusual set of Vestments to mark the occasion.

As has been our normal practice for several years, we donated a cheque, through our Patron, for the the old people of Waterford.

1972: Chairman, Jim French; Vice-Chairman, J. Roche; Secretary, M. Donovan; Treasurer, Paddy Stafford; Recording Secretary, H. Davis; Assistant Treasurer, P. Maloney.

We had quite a few tragic deaths this year and funds were found to help the dependants.

This year we also produced our own pocket diary and still do to date. A buffet dance was held on a boat on the river Thames. Each year our purse strings have to be stretched a little further as new charities emerge, to add to the already long list.

In 1973: Chairman was Jim French, Vice-Chairman, Paddy Maloney; Secretary, M. Donovan; and Treasurer, Paddy Stafford. This year Mrs. Kitty Jones was created Vice-President in view of her trojan work on behalf of the Association in Waterford.

Jim and Elis Griffin celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary with a lavish party attended by members of the association.

This year Paddy Stafford and Joe Stone carried our banner in Dublin and Jessie Stafford again represented us in New York at the St. Patrick's Day parade.

Besides our usual run of charity functions we made a trip on the "Jenny Wren" at a leisurely 5 m.p.h. through the London Canals.

1974 saw M. Donovan as Chairman; P. Maloney as Vice-Chairman; Secretary, John O'Keeffe; and Treasurer, Mrs. Cathy Dee.

This year we promised to raise £1,000 for the Suirsiders sheltered workshop. This was to help provide work for handicapped people above the age of 16 who were not hitherto provided for, and our first instalment of £300 was handed to Mr. Wadding at our Reunion Dinner at the Ardree Hotel, Waterford.

1974 saw Mr. and Mrs. Jim French and Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Butler celebrating their Silver Wedding Anniversaries. We also said goodbye and good luck to Jim French, Junior, who left to start a new life in Australia.

1975: Chairman, John O'Keeffe; Vice-Chairman, Paddy Maloney; Secretary, John Franklin; and Treasurer, Mrs. Cathy Dee.

Our extra charity this year was the Sinnott family. Our association inaugurated a fund in conjunction with the Roscommon Association for this very tragic family.

April this year saw the start of our student exchange between Paris and London.

We made our usual donations to charity, one of which was our second instalment to the Suirsiders workshop.

Our Life Vice-President returned to live in Waterford. Jimmy Griffin, was a member for 19 years and a brilliant secretary. A suitable presentation was made to Jim and Elis.



1975 saw the death of two of our founder members, Mr. Larry Cunningham and Mr. John Power, R.I.P.  
This year we spread our wings to Wimbledon to cater for our members in that area.

1976: Chairman, John O'Keeffe; Vice-Chairman, Kevin Butler; Secretary, John Franklin; and Treasurer, Mrs. Cathy Dee.

A member of our association was responsible for the inauguration of the Irish Life Golf Tournament.

One of our longest standing members Jim Regan received his silver pioneer pin from the Most Rev. Dr. Michael Russell, D.D., Bishop of Waterford and Lismore.

This year saw the sad loss of Canon Tom McNamara. Jim Griffin represented us in Cork at the funeral.

1976 saw us preparing for a junior field day at Willesden Stadium. After many months of very hard work, this was not to be, due to circumstances beyond our control. However we hope to stage the field day in 1977.

To mark the very special occasion of our 21st Anniversary we are presenting a beautiful, hand-embroidered Altar Tapestry to our Patron, The Most Rev. Dr. Michael Russell, Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, for use in the Cathedral in Waterford on special occasions.

We would like to thank Jim Griffin for his help in the compilation of this brochure, his newspaper clippings over the past 19 years and a scrapbook he had bequeathed to him by a Mr. Brendan Drea.

Jane Smyth (Mrs.),

Publisher and Press Officer, Waterford Association.

### Message from our Present Chairman



The photograph shows Officers and Committee for 1976

Photo by Jim Regan.

As Chairman of the Waterford Association, London, I would like to welcome all of you to our two very special Dinners in this our 21st Anniversary year.

I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the past officers and members, who have worked so diligently over the past 21 years to make the Waterford Association what it is today.

Not forgetting my present committee, the members who support us, the Press in Waterford and London, and the many business people who have supported us down the years. A big thank you to all.

John O'Keeffe, Chairman.

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