LONDON WEXFORD ASSOCIATION

1954



2010

THE MODEL COUNTY

56th Annual Dinner Dance Saturday 20th February 2010

At
The McNamara Suite
London Irish Centre
50/52 Camden Square NW1 9XB

Welcome to the London Wexford Association 56th Annual Dinner Dance

Saturday, 20th February 2010

At

The McNamara Suite

London Irish Centre Murray Street, Camden, London, NW1

> Guest of Honour Mr Sean Connick T.D Dàil Eireann

Caterer Mr K.A.McGowan – H.C.I.T.B

Music
Pat & Mustang

MC - Tommy Harrell

The Chairman and Committee extend a warm welcome to all present and wish you all an enjoyable evening.

Message from Michael Sills, Chairman (London Wexford Association)

On behalf of the London Wexford Association it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all here tonight on the occasion of our 56th annual dinner dance and wish you an enjoyable evening.

We extend a very warm welcome to our special guest The Mayor of Wexford – Cllr Philomena Roche and Mr Sean Connick T.D.

The association are very proud of that special bond of friendship that has developed over the years with Wexford County council and Wexford Borough council, long may it continue and we welcome their representatives here tonight in the persons of Cllr Jim Moore – Vice Chairperson Wexford County Council, Mr Eddie Breen – County Manager and Mr Pat Collins – Town Clerk.

We welcome Mr Eddie Dunne – Secretary Birmingham Wexford Association and representatives of the Fr. Murphy's GAA Club – London.

We also welcome Mr Tommy Harrell – Chairman London County Board GAA, Mr Peter Hammond – Director of the London Irish Centre.

We extend a warm welcome to our fellow London county associations and thank them for their wonderful support.

Through the ethos of our association we are helping to preserve the rich culture and prestige of our native county and I thank my fellow officers and committee members for all their hard work and endeavour in ensuring the success of our functions during the year.

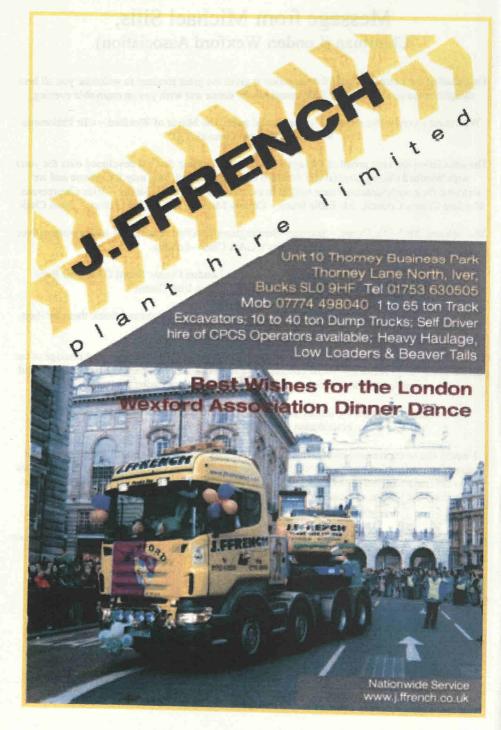
On this special occasion we should also remember our deceased members and reflect on the contribution they made to our association.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the generous advertisers and sponsors for their support for this function and thanks to The Irish World, The Irish Post and Sarah Finucane for the press coverage afforded to our association. Thanks to Terry McEnaney-banqueting manager at London Irish Centre, our caterer Kevin McGowan and to Pat & Mustang for providing this evenings entertainment.

Finally I would like to thank you all for your generous support this evening and hope to see you on many more occasions in 2010.

GO RHAIB MILE MHAIT GO LEIR

Michael



History of Wexford - Part 1

- Author Unknown

In a country steeped in myth and legend Wexford's history is no exception. A story tells of its origin in the mists of time, when Garman Garbh was drowned on the mudflats by waters released by an Enchantress. The vast expanse of harbour thus created was named "The lake of Garman" or Loch Garman, the Gaelic name for Wexford.

As we trace our origins to the Celtic tribes who moved westward across Europe and were attracted to this natural harbour on Ireland's south east coast. Our Christian heritage almost certainly predates that of the national apostle Patrick, as we had our own missioner Ibar, whose presence is recorded under his many variants such as Iver, Iberius and Ivory.

The Norsemen are accredited with introducing towns to Ireland, and Wexford was among the first, dating back to the early 900's. Our Norse and Viking ancestry is frequently being proven by archaeological finds within the town. From marauding warriors, the Vikings became citizens and traders of early Wexford and their legacy includes the narrow winding streets and our town's name, Wexford, derived from the Norse, Weissfiord - inlet of the mudflats. In the Spring of 1169, the then prosperous town was taken by an invading force of Norman knights, who over the following centuries enclosed the town and regulated trade.

Among the many visitors to Wexford around this time was the English King, Henry II, reputed to have done penance at Selskar Abbey for the murder of Thomas a Beckett. Through many turbulent years, Wexford survived warring factions, plagues and the religious upheaval of the Reformation.

The 1600's also brought suffering. Wexford became a chief naval base for the Confederate Government in its war with the Parliament Forces and this led to a massacre in 1649, when Wexford fell to the army of Oliver Cromwell. Following this disaster, the town was relatively calm for over a century, but in the hot Summer of 1798, it exploded once more onto the stage of Irish history.

In that year of insurrection, many of the woes of previous decades came to the surface, with violent results on both sides. This created memories which still persist in story and song. From those dark days of 1798, Wexford entered an age of expansion.

The port was about to reach its zenith, with hundred of ships trading with lands in Africa, the Black Sea and the United States of America. Trade increases led to the growth of industries ranging from whiskey distilling to the manufacture of agricultural machinery.

The population grew steadily and many new streets were constructed, while in 1851, work began on the elegant twin Churches which were to dominate the skyline. It was also in 1800's that many of to-days important buildings were constructed, St. Peters College in 1819 to the Mechanics Institute in 1849 and the Tate School now the Municipal Buildings, in 1867. The railway reached Wexford in 1870 and was continued along the quay front by 1882. In the early years of this century, Wexford agricultural machinery companies operated branch offices in cities such as Paris and Buenos Aires.

Many are familiar with the industrial strife of the British General Strike of 1926 and the Dublin Lock-out of 1913 but prior to both of these, the people of Wexford had endured a lock-out for over six months 1911/1912, to secure the right of trade union representation. The great war of 1914-18 also left its mark on Wexford. Being still part of the British Empire at that time, thousands of her sons fought on land and sea, with many giving their lives in the struggle.

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For further information contact Mr Eddie Dunne (Secretary) 0121-258 0938



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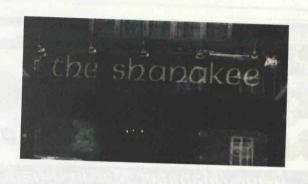
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Grace

Mr Tommy Harrell Chairman London County Board

Menu

Cream of Vegetable Soup Roll and Butter

Roast Sirloin of Beef garnished with Button
Onions, Mushrooms
And a Rich Red Wine Sauce
Roast and New Boiled Parsley Potatoes
Puree of Carrot and Swede
Brussel Sprouts with Lardons of Bacon and
Diced Onion

Decorated Sherry Trifle and Fresh Cream or

Apple Pie with Hot Custard Sauce

Selection of Cheeses, Radish, Butter, Fruit and Biscuits

Tea, Coffee

After Dinner Mints

Toast List

Ireland

Proposed by Noel Swaine Association P.R.O.

Our Guests

Proposed by Mr Michael Sills Chairman

Response by

Cllr Philomena Roche Mayor of Wexford

Wexford Association

Cllr Jim Moore Vice-Chairman Wexford County Council

Special Guest Speakers

Mr Sean Connick T.D. Dàil Eireann

Presentations

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BEST WISHES TO LONDON WEXFORD ASSOCIATION ON YOUR ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

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History of Wexford - Part 2

- Author Unknown

An American Airbase was established at Wexford during this period. Its headquarters being where the present day Ely Hospital is at the east end of Wexford bridge. American airmen from the base patrolled St. Georges Channel to search out enemy U-boats. After World War I there was little respite in warfare as our country entered a period of struggle for independence followed by a civil war. Throughout all of this Wexfordians played a part and the town continued to grow.

The Second World War found Wexford part of a neutral country, but the war still managed to inflict suffering and death on our people. Although not part of that war, our merchant navy was to experience many attacks and some of our sailors paid the ultimate price in keeping Ireland fed.

After the war, Wexford had mixed fortunes. Our traditional industries began to decline, as mechanisation advanced. Nature, by the way of easterly storms and sediment built-up conspired to end our shipping tradition and emigration took its toll on our working populace. But our cosmopolitan outlook, springing from mixed origins and our seafaring traditions, made the town very attractive to

international companies and to a growing tourist industry.

To our narrow streets came a president and ex-presidents. The American people presented us with a statue of John Barry, a Wexfordman deemed as founder of their navy. John Fitzgerald Kennedy, President of the U.S.A visited the county town of his ancestors, just months before his tragic death. Dwight Eisenhower and Mayor Daly of Chicago were other distinguished visitors to Wexford.

Then in 1982, we re-affirmed our Celtic European origins, when Wexford became the 'twin town' of Coueron, France, a fitting ceremony for a major town at the Irish Gateway to Europe.

While looking ever forward, with urban renewal and the increase attraction of international companies to our highly trained youth, we never lose sight of our past. We believe in our history and its importance, not only to ourselves but to visitors. With this in mind we have developed a major National Heritage Park on the outskirts of our town. As well as preserving our ancient town walls we have established an impressive municipal interpretive centre at Westgate in a tower built around 1300 A.D.

This town of Wexford has a lot to offer.....



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London Wexford Association Planned Events 2010

St Patrick's Irish Night – DOB	Sat 13 th Mar 10
St Patrick's Day Parade	Sun 14 th Mar 10
AGM	Fri 18 th Jun 10
Southwark Irish Festival	Sun 4 th Jul 10
Summer BBQ	Sun 11 th Jul 10
Buffet Dance-Towns Reunion	Sat 16 th Oct 10
57 th Annual Dinner Dance	Sat 19 th Feb 11



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Hope you and your guests have a very enjoyable evening with many more to come.





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Wishing
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the very best in the future.







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- 1. Place £5.00 into the envelope provided.
- 2. Write your name onto the front of the envelope
- 3. Seal the envelope

Envelopes will then be collected from your table. Please note that Additional envelopes have been placed on each table.

Only entries, which contain the £5.00 entry fee, will be accepted in the prize draw.

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- A two night stay at the Riverside Park Hotel & Leisure Club, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. Prize includes 1 Dinner, Bed & Breakfast for two people – Sponsored by Mr Pat Neville – Proprietor.
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The London Wexford Association would like to express their gratitude to all sponsors who took out an advertisement in our menu booklet.

We thank Mr Trevor Diviney, Director Ground Construction for sponsorship of table wines for the dinner.

Mr Justin Ffrench of Ffrench Haulage for the sponsorship of the table decorations & to Mr Brian Wallace – Auctioneer, for sponsorship of the menu booklet covers.

We also thank Wexford county council and Wexford Borough council for their generous donations.

Sincere thanks to the newspapers, The Irish World, The Irish Post and The Cràic is Back magazine for the excellent coverage they have afforded to us throughout the year.

We would also like to thank Mr Adrian Phelan, Tara Support Services Ltd for very kindly providing the bus to transport The Murphy School of Dancers, Wexford and their party to and from their hotel for the London St. Patrick's day parade.

The committee wishes you all a very enjoyable evening, and thank-you for your support and hope you shall take with you fond memories of this evening



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