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# LONDON WEXFORD ASSOCIATION



*Founded 1954*

## ***THE MODEL COUNTY***

**Cordially Welcome You to Their**

***49<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Dance***

**Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2003**

**At**

**The McNamara Suite**

**London Irish Centre**

**Murray Street, Camden, London, NW1**

**Music By**

***Caroline and the Country Blues***

# Message from Michael Sills, Chairman (London Wexford Association)

It is with pleasure that I welcome you all here tonight to our Associations Forty Ninth Annual Dinner Dance and I wish you a most pleasant and enjoyable evening.

Although this annual event has been missing for the past number of years it was always the centrepiece in our social calendar for Wexford people and their friends in London, The Home Counties, and even as far afield as the Midlands and Wexford itself, and I trust through its medium we are helping to preserve the rich culture and prestige of our native county.

Over the past forty-nine years the Association, like all others, has had good years and lean years, but one thing is for sure, we are still in existence, as is evident here tonight. But I must pay tribute to all the previous Chairpersons and Officials and Committees who worked so hard over all those years for the Association.

We The Association are proud of the special bond of friendship that has developed over the years with Wexford Borough Council, Urban District Councils, Wexford County Council and The Wexford Association, Birmingham. Long may it continue. We are also grateful to the Father Murphy's G.A.A. Ladies and Men's Clubs for their significant part played in their support of the Association over the years. Not forgetting our fellow County Associations for their support.

# Message from Michael,

(Chairman (London Wexford Association) –

cont....

Next year, 2004, the Association will reach a milestone in its history, for it is the year we celebrate the Golden Jubilee since its foundation in 1954. We are planning to write a booklet outlining a brief history of the Association since its foundation. Contributions to the booklet by way of old memorabilia, photos etc will be gratefully received. We will also be appealing for some co-operative sponsorship to ensure we have a wonderful occasion.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the carriers, the advertisers and other sponsors for their support for this function.

Finally, a special word of thanks to my fellow officer and committee members for their work to ensure the success of this evening.

Thank you all for your support, and I hope we can look forward to having you with us again next year.

*Michael*

# Message from Pat McCabe, Life President (London Wexford Association)

The Wexford Association has a long history of doing good work on behalf of its Home County, and are very proud of what they have achieved over the years. One can look back at the fantastic concerts in The State Cinema (as it was then on Kilburn High Road), and again when they filled The Royal Albert Hall with the Kennedy Memorial Concerts. Also the wonderful floats in the St. Patrick Day Parades in the early and mid Sixties. Also the part that the members took on in other charities, and in particular when they went out on the soup run with the good Sisters from Roehampton every Saturday night.

They also helped in other ways such as The Lourdes Fund, and at Nazareth House in Finchley in helping at fund raising fetes, and bringing entertainment for the residents.

We must not forget the members who gave time to help in the formation of that great G.A.A. Club Fr Murphys, who are a great credit to Wexford.

We also remember the great Wexford Dinners when we would have guests from public life in Wexford, and we were able to show them what we were able to achieve in our adopted country.

The Association also won the Irish Counties prize (sponsored by the late Tommy Gorman, Gresham Ballroom), which put us in the top group of Irish County Associations.

One will in due course for our Golden Jubilee Year put names to all our founder members who helped found the Association, and the people down the years to the present day who are holding up our proud tradition and a love of our Association.

Message from Paddy Rochford,  
(Chairman Birmingham Wexford Association)  
&

Eddie Dunne  
(Secretary Birmingham Wexford Association)

The 49<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Function of the London Wexford Association is a heartening welcome, for it dispels our fear regarding the future of this longstanding organisation.

From its early days, the association played a pivotal role in the lives of many emigrants who sought advice in seeking work and accommodation. In keeping the links with home, we had the opportunity to meet many distinguished guests, GAA stars and old acquaintances. The association's contributions to local charities and people in dire need were all part of this excellent organisation.

We congratulate Michael Sills and his hard working committee for their initiative in staging its revival. It is now our sincere wish that the good people of Wexford and their friends will come forward with renewed enthusiasm to give them their vital support.

On behalf of all the Birmingham Wexford Association, we wish Michael and his committee every success on the night and for the future.



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Wishing the London Wexford Association  
Every Success

# First Committee

First Picture of the London Wexford Association

Taken at the Red Lion- Kilburn High Road, N.W.6 on 6<sup>th</sup> December 1954.



FRONT ROW: Jack Carley, Kilurin (Committee), Tommy Murphy (Committee), New Ross, Sean Murphy, Castlebridge, Founder, (Hon Sec), Tommy Quirke, Barntown, Founder, (Chairman), Peter Browne, Crossabeg, Founder, (V/Chairman), Jack McCarthy, Ballymitty, (Committee), Jim Murphy, Castlebridge, Founder (Hon Treas).

MIDDLE ROW: Dick Rochford, New Ross, Tom & Mrs Frankyn, Enniscorthy, Mrs Margaret Breen, Castlebridge, (Registrar), Mylie Furlong, Wexford, Tom Ryan, Donard, Jackiw Walsh, Wexford.

BACK ROW: Jimmy Burnes, Cushingtown, Mauroce Breen, Frank Kehow, Isac Furlong, John Furlong



# Grace

Recited by Rev Fr Jerry Kivlehan OMI, Director –  
London Irish Centre.

## 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 Mrs Kitty Watson  
President

## **Our Guests**

Proposed by Mr Michael Sills  
Chairman

Response by Mr John Browne T.D.  
Minister of State

## **Wexford Association**

Proposed by  
Cllr Philomena Roche. Mayor of Wexford

## **Guest Speakers**

Cllr Lorcan Allen, Chairman Wexford County  
Council

## Current Committee



Front (left to right):

Siobhan Roche, Margaret Roche (Hon Secretary), Carmel Ryan

Middle:

Sean Devereux & Don Mahon

Back:

Michael Sill's (Chairman), Jim Howlin, Sean McGrath, Martin Kirwan (Treasurer) & Phil Roche

Missing From Photo:

Kitty Watson (President) & Nancy O'Hara.

# **Fr. Murphy's Hurling & Football Club**

Proud to be connected with the success of the London Wexford Association.

## ***Many Congratulations***

Wishing you an enjoyable evening and every success for the future.

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***Wishing the London Wexford Association Every  
Success for the evening & the future.***

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Wishes every success to the London Wexford Association. May you enjoy many more years to come.

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**Send**

**Congratulations and best wishes to the London  
Wexford Association. We wish them further success  
for their Golden Jubilee in 2004.**

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**Congratulations to the Wexford  
Association and best of luck in the future.**

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# Sponsors

The London Wexford Association wishes to thank the following for sponsorship and donation of raffle prizes for tonight's function.

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

A sincere thanks to our raffle sponsors.

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- Mr Joe Lynch
- Birmingham Wexford Association
- Tom McAsey Wicklow Bridie Shaw Clare
- Peter Hynes Offaly
- Sean McGrath
- Nancy O'Hara
- Kitty Watson
- Martin Kirwan
- Michael Sills

Menu cards by courtesy of Bank of Ireland.

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.

# APPLICATION FORM:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to become a member of the London Wexford Association

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Add: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Tel Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish In Wexford: \_\_\_\_\_

## **MEMBERSHIP FEE £2.00**

Please make cheques payable to London Wexford Association  
c/o Mr Phil Roche (Registrar)

80 Bishop Way, Church End Estate, Willesden, London, NW10 9EY 020 8830 4158





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