



BIAS BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Brent Irish Advisory Service

76 Salusbury Road, Kilburn
London NW6 6NY
Telephone 01-624 9991 anytime

February 1985

Emigrant welfare group holds Kilburn talks

MEMBERS of the new committee recently appointed by the Republic's Minister for Labour to advise him on emigrant welfare services came on a fact-finding visit to BIAS.

Chaired by Mr William Jestin, Labour attache at the Irish Embassy in London, the other members of DION are Mr Seamus McGarry, chairman of the Federation of Irish Societies, Mr Gearoid O'Meachair, also of the Federation, Mr Sean Redmond, general secretary, Irish Municipal Employees' Trade Union and Orla O'Hanrahan, third secretary of the Irish Embassy in London.

The committee visited the offices of Brent Irish Advisory Service in Salusbury Road, Kilburn, where they sat down for a meeting with the organisation's management committee and staff.



Called DION, after the Irish word which denote protection and shelter, the new committee replaces the committee for welfare services abroad and is composed of five persons and has a large representation from Britain.

PICTURED after the meeting in Kilburn are (front row from left) Seamus McGarry, Gearoid O'Meachair, Marie Dalton, Margaret Gallagher, Tim Hartnett, Orla O'Hanrahan. Back row (from left): Jim Smith, Nora Keene, John Keene, Michael O'Crath, Colum Maloney (BIAS chairman), Bill Jestin (DION chairman), Sean Redmond. 21/1/85



Brent Irish Advisory Service

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SPECIAL BENEFIT DANCE

at the Galtymore Dance Club, Cricklewood Broadway NW2

with THE BLUE DIAMONDS - Dancers Band
Irish - C. & W. - Olde Tyme and Modern

on FRIDAY MARCH 1st 1985 9.30pm - 1.30am

Plus GUEST ARTISTS - IRISH DANCERS - SUPER RAFFLE

Organised by the Brent Irish Advisory Service

76 Salusbury Road, Kilburn NW6 Telephone 01-624 9991

To assist their work on behalf of local homeless and deprived people

Ticket in advance only £1.00 At the door £2.00



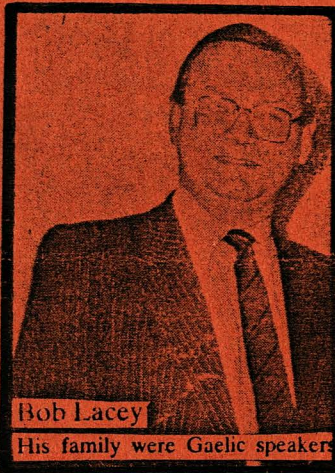
Council leader sees BIAS in action



BRENT Council leader Bob Lacey on 16/1/85 visited the information centre and office of Brent Irish Advisory Service (BIAS) in Kilburn to see for himself the work of the organisation, which was established seven years ago.

Members of BIAS committee and staff showed Mr Lacey around their premises and told him about the voluntary and professional help which they provided to those in need or at risk in the local Irish community.

Longford-born chairman Colum Moloney explained to Mr Lacey that BIAS was independent of any political party, and therefore it looked to all parties for support.



Bob Lacey

His family were Gaelic speakers

Since it was started on a voluntary self-help basis by concerned Irish people in 1978, and with limited

resources, BIAS had continued to serve the needs of the Irish community in Brent.

Mr Lacey told BIAS members that he grew up in Stornoway, on the Isle of Lewis in the Gaelic-speaking Western Isles off the coast of Scotland, which he likened to the Gaeltacht region of Conamara on Ireland's west coast.

His family were Gaelic speakers and he did not learn any English until he went to school.

He expressed interest in the work of Brent Irish Advisory Service and said that he would consider how Brent Council might be able to assist the organisation in the future.

Brent Irish advisory service

Brent Irish Advisory Service was established in 1978 and aims to promote the social and cultural welfare of Irish people and to improve their position in society through equality of opportunity.

We operate an Information Centre, which deals with telephone calls, letters, and drop-in callers, and also provides follow-up advice and welfare.

We offer information and advice on peoples' rights in Britain and Ireland, including housing, employment, education, legal and pensions, and on Irish cultural activities and classes, including an Ghaeilge, Irish dancing, traditional music, Gaelic games, and Irish Studies.

BIAS BRENT IRISH ADVISORY SERVICE

Community Development Agency
BIAS INFORMATION CENTRE
76 Salusbury Road, Kilburn
London NW6 6NY
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GREAT FOLK . . . Some of the talented young musicians and singers who took part in the benefit night for BIAS community care project

Benefit

LOCAL people of all ages and backgrounds attended the BIAS big benefit night at Kilburn Square Community Centre to raise funds for the new community care project of Brent Irish Advisory Service.

The show was opened in rousing style with the pipes and drums of the Willesden-based London Bantrey Pipers in a march medley of popular airs. Then fleadh champion Adrian Burns of Cricklewood on concert-flute, with Corkonian Donal Campbell of Queens Park on fiddle, delighted young and old with a selection of reels, jigs and slow airs.

Bantrey-born ex-Shegui member John Coakley on fiddle teamed up with Sharon Creasey (flute) and Richard Creasey (bouzouki) of Kensal Green to play a lively set which had the audience calling for more. Numerous surprise guests dropped in for the evening.

They included Glaswegian Jack Milligan who accompanied himself on guitar in a selection of folk favourites; Trevor who played the unusual Northumbrian smallpipes with which he has won many musical awards; and Belfast-born singer Kieran Bradley of Harlesden accompanying himself on the bodhran.

Former all-Ireland fiddler Brendan Mulkerre, from Crusheen, Co. Clare was also there, as was another from the same "banner" county, the legendary fiddler Bobby Casey. The whole show was efficiently compered by Listowel-born Tim Hartnett in fine style.

Longford-born BIAS chairman, Colum Moloney, thanked everyone who supported the great evening: "We express our appreciation to everyone who sold or bought tickets, the performers who generously gave their services free, and all those who helped in any way."

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The voluntary workers from Brent Irish Advisory Service in Kilburn helped to bring a little Christmas cheer to some of the less fortunate members of the Irish community with the proceeds of the organisation's recent benefit night.

For many of the older Irish people living alone, social isolation and loneliness can be a big problem, so it is often a great pleasure for them to be able to meet and talk to "one of their own". BIAS tries to make sure that anybody who is housebound or isolated, especially the elderly and mentally ill, is not forgotten.

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the IRISH worker



Willesden councillor John Ryan