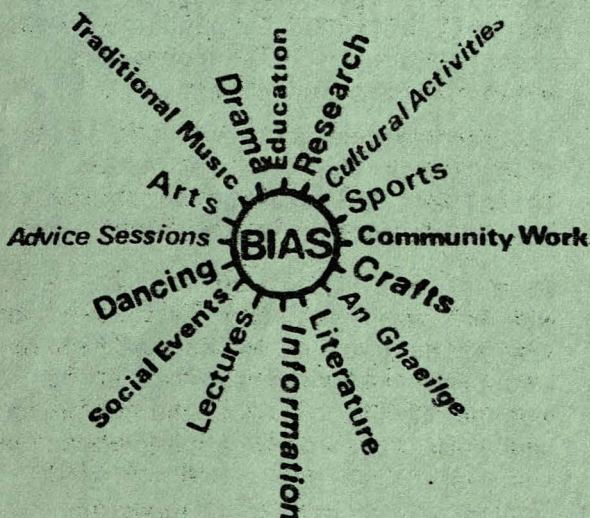


Brent Irish advisory service



non-political • non-racialist • non-sectarian

WHY?

The London Borough of Brent has 25,000 Irish born people forming almost 10% of the total population. There are approximately 10,000 children under 18 years born to Irish parents as well as many other people of Irish descent living in the Borough (source: 1971 Census and 1976 Birth Rates).

Having found a lack of provision for some aspects of social and cultural life in the Irish community, Brent Irish Advisory Service was formed to meet these unmet needs and to improve the existing facilities.

HOW B.I.A.S. BEGAN

In 1977 some Irish people in Brent felt that there was a need for a new organisation to promote their interests and subsequently called a public meeting to discuss and assess the situation. This meeting was well attended by people already associated with Irish community organisations and others.

A steering committee was set up to investigate the need for a new social and cultural organisation for Irish people in the Brent area.

As a direct result of this B.I.A.S. was set up in January 1978 based on the principles of mutual self-help and community development. It is non-party in politics and religion and aims to provide a comprehensive and effective service which will enable Irish people to develop their full roles in the community.

AIMS AND OBJECTS

**to promote the social and cultural welfare of Irish people and to improve their position in society through equality of opportunity.

**to co-ordinate existing resources and groups within the Irish community and to encourage and support the development of new resources and groups if necessary.

**to co-operate and liaise with statutory and voluntary bodies with a view to improving the services offered.

**to create an awareness of the socio-cultural background of Irish people and to promote a better understanding of their needs.

** to work for the elimination of racial discrimination and disadvantage within a multi-racial and multi-cultural society.

STRUCTURE

Brent Irish Advisory Service is operated and controlled as a self-help organisation by its voluntary members who elect a management committee annually. The management committee is responsible for the operation of the service and the appointment of staff and voluntary workers.

Membership is open to all who agree with the aims and objects of the organisation, are proposed and seconded by two existing members, and are approved by the management committee, who meet monthly and more often if necessary, as set out in the Constitution.

WHAT WE DO

Members of B.I.A.S. help and advise individuals, families and groups on such matters as citizens rights, education, Irish culture and social problems.

We undertake research into the problems of Irish people in housing employment, social life and other areas. We also offer placement facilities for social and community work students.

B.I.A.S. helps to promote cultural activities and educational provision for children and adults who are interested in Irish traditional culture, including music, dancing, language, arts, crafts, drama, literature and sports.

Social and cultural events are organised by B.I.A.S. members where local people come together and are entertained by traditional singers, dancers and musicians. In addition, B.I.A.S. helps groups such as Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, Kennedy School of Irish Dancing, and London Wexford Mummers Association to promote their activities.

B.I.A.S. members give lectures on "Irish People in British Society" and have helped to make Irish books and records available in local libraries.

Bias

BRENT IRISH ADVISORY SERVICE

Our members and volunteers are of all ages and various occupations and perform different tasks such as advice-giving, visiting people, setting up new groups, etc.

If you are interested or wish to make a donation, please complete the following and send it to:

BRENT IRISH ADVISORY SERVICE
c/o Carlton Community Centre
Granville Road
Kilburn
London NW6 7RA
or telephone 624 9991 anytime

Name _____

Address _____

Tel.No. _____

Interests _____

Information _____

Wish to help _____

Donation _____

Other _____

BIAS

BRENT IRISH ADVISORY SERVICE

is affiliated to

- * Brent Arts Council
- * Brent Community Relations Council
- * Brent Voluntary Service Council
- * Carlton Community Centre
- * Federation of Irish Societies

BRENT IRISH ADVISORY SERVICE

was given first priority by
Brent Council for grant-aid
under the Urban Programme
1979/80 for the employment
of a full-time Community
Organiser/Development Worker

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Brent Irish Advisory Service
Kilburn London NW6
July 1979