

IRISH FORUM ANNUAL REPORT | 2000





Birmingham
St. Patrick's Day
Parade



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(Inside Back Cover) Picture of the Birmingham 32 counties
Organisation Committee.



LEADER OF THE COUNCIL - FOREWORD

It is with great pleasure that I am able to contribute again to this report on the work of the Irish Forum for this year.

The Irish Community and the Forum can be justly proud of the contribution it has made to the building and heritage of Birmingham and in particular, the role it is playing in the on-going regeneration of the City.

Once again, we all enjoyed the Annual St Patrick's Day Parade, which was a fantastic success.

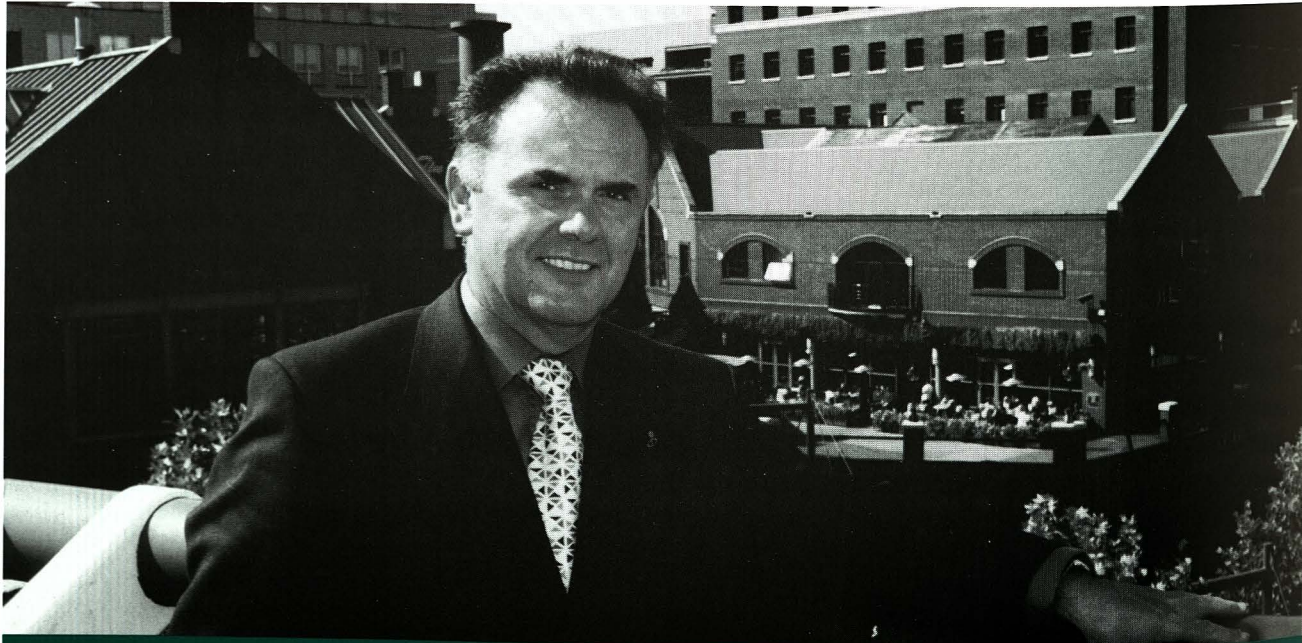
The contribution made by the Irish Business Group must also be remembered. It is well on the way to reaching its mission of forming a 'Celtic Tiger Cub' economy in Britain.

The relationship between the City Council and the Irish Forum will, I am sure, help to ensure the next stage of Birmingham's future, which is to become an international multi-cultural City attracting not only tourism to the area but also business opportunities.

I look forward to continuing our challenging and rewarding relationship

Cllr Albert Bore

LEADER OF BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL



Councillor Albert Bore - Leader Birmingham City Council



The Irish Community Forum has continued to go from strength to strength. This is entirely due to the commitment of the members of our Board and the subcommittees, and we are very fortunate to have dedicated hardworking staff on the team! Congratulations to Katriona Donnelly on being appointed Project Co-ordinator. Katriona has settled into her new role very quickly and is doing an excellent job on behalf of the Forum. Many thanks to Pauline Schofield for her contribution as Project Co-ordinator. I wish her well in her new role.

The Forum is proud to represent the views of and assist its seventy one member groups. This year we were proud to have President Mary McAleese with us at the Irish Centre. A great deal of work in preparation was carried out by our Public Relations subcommittee. The Presidential visit also included the official opening of Fr Taaffe House. The Forum Housing Subcommittee, and indeed Fr Joe Taaffe, worked long and hard to achieve this Irish elderly housing project. The opening was a very proud occasion indeed.

The St Patricks Day Parade was a renowned success and indeed a most enjoyable event. It was the result of much hard work and effort by a very dedicated Parade subcommittee.

The LEAP project, a follow-on from the Employment and Training project, is proving most successful and is meeting its outputs as is the Irish Business Group, which is doing wonderful work with the Irish Business Community. The success of these projects is due to the dedication and efforts of the staff and the partnership with South Birmingham College. The reports / progress of these projects and subcommittees appear in this report.

The Forum continues to work closely with the Irish Welfare and Information Centre, which is doing excellent work in the Irish Community.

The Forum has played a major role in the Digbeth Feasibility Concept study, funded by the City Council Economic Development Department. This study / report will be presented to the public in the very near future.

A special thank you to our retiring Board members and special thanks to the many members of our subcommittees. At the same time I welcome the new members. The Forum always welcomes volunteers to its various subcommittees. If anybody wishes to find out more please contact us on 0121 622 4102.

Eddie Falahee
CHAIR



Eddie Falahee - Chair



Although I am very new to the position of Project Co-ordinator, I am not new to the Forum. Many of you knew me as Katriona Larkin, the Forum's Administrator. To confuse people further, I not only have changed my job title, but also my surname when I married in June.

I took over the role as Project Co-ordinator in early July and hope to bring the Forum further forward as a community organisation. I would like to entice the interest of second and third generation Irish into the work of the Forum and to get them involved in what we do.

The Forum has been quite busy in the past year with various seminars and conferences, the work of the Business Group, the ending of the Employment and Training project and the commencement of the new LEAP project (see separate reports). We have also been involved in a feasibility study regarding the regeneration of Digbeth and have worked closely with our partners at IWIC, South Birmingham College, the Irish Centre and the Business Group regarding this. We have also been involved in the All Party Irish in Britain Parliamentary Group meeting held in September in Birmingham.

On closing I would like to thank my predecessor Pauline Schofield for all the hard work she did in her 18 months as Project Co-ordinator. I am also very grateful to members of the Board who have shown me tremendous support in my first few months on the job. And of course no organisation can function well without the work of its staff and I would very much like to thank Kelly Hobson - Administrator, Teresa Shriane/Caroline Dowling - Secretary, Caroline Carr - Community Outreach Worker, Catherine Bell - Administration Assistant to LEAP, Tracy

Cassidy-Adams - Business Development Manager and Angela O'Brien - Administration Assistant to the Business Group.

A special thanks to our Funders without whom we would not be able to do the work that we do, so thanks to the National Lotteries Charities Board, Birmingham City Council, Birmingham & Solihull TEC, SRB4, ERDF, South Birmingham College, and Birmingham Health Authority.

I hope to be addressing you all again this time next year and reporting once again on the good work and achievements of the Forum.

Katriona Donnelly
PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR



Katriona Donnelly



This has been a very busy and successful year for the Employment and Training Subcommittee. Learning, Employment and Active Participation (LEAP) and the Birmingham Irish Business Group are the major functions of this group.

The Employment and Training project ended in March 2000. The project was funded by Birmingham & Solihull TEC, for which we are extremely grateful. The project was most successful, meeting its targets and organising various activities, including the OBAIR conference; detailed reports of these are available in the LEAP office (Cara House). A successful SRB4 bid enabled the LEAP project to start in April 2000. So far this has been most successful. Training in partnership with South Birmingham College is being delivered in various subjects. Congratulations to Caroline Carr, Community Outreach Worker and Catherine Bell for preparing the successful bid and ensuring the continuing success of the project. Catherine Bell has recently moved on from the Forum; we wish her every success in the future.

The Birmingham Irish Business Group, with Tracy Cassidy-Adams - Business Development Manager and Angela O'Brien - Administration Assistant, is very much to the fore at present with membership rapidly increasing. The Irish Business Group offers members access to a wide range of services. Training is available, especially in I.T and Website Development and update, which is carried out in partnership with South Birmingham College. Detailed progress reports of these projects are included in this report. The subcommittee very much appreciate the contribution of the staff members.

We thank all the subcommittee members for their valued contributions and additionally, Birmingham City Council, E.D.D, Birmingham and Solihull TEC, BVSC, Rathbone Society, South Birmingham College, Business Link and SRB.

Our grateful thanks to the Line Manager Katriona Donnelly and Administrator Kelly Hobson.

Eddie Falahee

CHAIR - EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING



Learning, Employment & Active Participation

Birmingham **IBG**



The Health and Social Services subcommittee continued to play a key role in advancing the health and social care needs of the community. Our work over the past twelve months has included: a major contribution to the Irish Elder's Working Group; close partnership work with the Irish Welfare and Information Centre; and a number of initiatives aimed at increasing awareness of our community's needs

The Irish Elders Working Group, which was established by Health Authority Chair Mr. Bryan Stoten in June 1999, bore fruit this year.

There were several other areas where close co-operation between the Forum and Irish Welfare was a key ingredient of success. In December, the Forum supported Irish Welfare's Housing conference, to address the accommodation needs of our elders. Both agencies continued to co-operate on the Alcohol Research Group, which secured funding for its first phase in April.

The Irish Seminar Series was a partnership that went from strength to strength. Lunchtime seminars on children in care, alcohol and drugs, women and domestic violence and the travelling community were very well attended. The Irish Mental Health Group also held a seminar, in April. Attendances of between 40 and 80 at these events attest to the widespread interest in Irish equality, and participants also appreciated the sense of solidarity and mutual support that the seminars generate.

Another partnership: at Irish Welfare's request, we joined the Irish Volunteer Development Programme, along with the Fireside Centre and CHAS. The Programme is developing volunteering opportunities in the community, and this autumn has started a befriending service for vulnerable older people.

The subcommittee has been concerned to engage directly with the commissioners and providers of services, on issues relating to specific Irish needs. This work has addressed four areas:

i. Primary Care Groups: We produced a community guide for the city's 12 PCGs - the key planners of health service provision in the new NHS - detailing the community's profile, including specific health needs.

ii. NHS Trusts: We surveyed every hospital, community and Mental Health Trust serving the city, to identify how they address (or fail to address) the culturally specific needs of Irish people.

iii. Children and families: Against the backdrop of a recent critical Social Services review of children and families provision, we conducted a small-scale survey of practitioners, to identify cases of good and bad practice, in work with Irish children and families.

iv. Drugs and HIV: The Irish Community (HIV) Project made a successful case for funding towards a self-help support service for Irish people living with HIV. Irish Welfare will provide the service, which is due to start this autumn.

We would like to thank everyone who supported our work during the year, including: those members who contributed to the various working groups; Pauline Schofield, Katriona Donnelly and all the Forum staff; Fr. Martin Moran, Ronan Segrave, Iestyn Williams and the staff of Irish Welfare. We continue to bring together an impressive range of skills and talents, in order to fulfil our monitoring and advocacy brief.

Rory Murray

CHAIR - HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES



On 24th June this year Mary McAleese, the President of Ireland, officially opened Father Joe Taaffe House in Alcester Street, which consists of 27 one bedroom self-contained flats for the elder Irish Community. The scheme was the initial project of the Housing Committee of the Irish Forum (which was originally chaired by Father Taaffe) who identified the need for this type of culturally sensitive accommodation and lobbied long and hard to realise Father Taaffe and the committee's vision.

It was a special privilege to welcome back to Birmingham from Cork for the occasion Gobnait Ni Chruialaoi and Cath Beniston who worked diligently over several years with all the dedicated members of the Housing Committee. May I here record my personal thanks to my colleagues on the Housing Committee - Mary Connolly, Martin Earlis, Monsignor Tom Fallon, Brenda Fleming, Malcolm Horgan, Maura Ketland, Councillor Mike Nangle, Frank Ryan, Ronan Seagrave and Sister Sabina; Gerry McNamee and the staff of Cara Irish Housing, who now manage the scheme ; Katriona Donnelly and the staff of the Irish Forum, particularly Bernadette Harding who worked with us so efficiently.

The Housing Committee last year identified Erdington and Sparkbrook as areas with particular housing needs for members of the elder Irish Community and we are delighted that Cara Irish Housing has received capital allocation from Birmingham Housing Corporation for 21 flats in Erdington. The Housing Committee would also like to congratulate Cara on their latest project in Birmingham of fifteen family houses in Eastwood Road, Balsall Heath, which opened in July. However, Sparkbrook continues to be an area of concern and the Housing Group will continue to work with Irish Welfare, Cara and other

Housing Agencies to address the housing needs of the Irish Community in this area.

There is so much work still to be done to improve the housing conditions of many members of the Birmingham Irish Community, particularly the Irish Elders, who helped to make Birmingham the great city it has become. To enable us to continue this work we need to recruit new members to the Housing Committee, either with specific housing experience or simply the desire to work with our dedicated team of volunteers.

If you would like more information, please contact the Irish Forum at Cara House.

Sylvia Murphy-Brennan
CHAIR - IRISH FORUM HOUSING COMMITTEE



Sylvia Murphy-Brennan



More Than Just a March!

This years Parade has been roundly hailed a success, by those who took part, by the media and by independent research!

75,000 happy smiling people took to Digbeth's streets last March to celebrate the occasion of St. Patrick's Day. A mini heat wave coincided with the Parade and I am starting to get more than a hunch that maybe Fr. Taaffe and St. Patrick really are sorting it out from above. On the back of the weather the atmosphere developed nicely and was distinctly more Rio than Rathmines.

By the time the Parade was due to start, the entire A41 into Birmingham from Camp Hill to Meridan Street was literally bristling with anticipation. The Parade itself lived up to its billing. All of our trademarks for colour, excitement, music, dance and craic were once again embossed on the day. All faces wore smiles and when the parade was finished, the Emerald Village street party took over to keep the crowds entertained until evening time.

The Parade always gets good media. This year there has been more positive and increased attention than ever before. The Evening Mail leader column on the day following the Parade, under the heading 'The Pride of the Irish', commented

"Birmingham City Centre turned green yesterday as more than 75,000 revellers packed the streets to enjoy the City's St Patrick's Day Parade.

The sunshine and unseasonably warm temperature combined with the good humour of the party-goers, spectacular floats and marching pipe bands to make it a memorable occasion.

It was 50 per cent bigger than last year, but despite the huge crowds, police reported that everyone was on their best behaviour and there were no arrests.

Recognised now as one of the top five St Patrick's Day Parades in the world, it was a street party to do the City proud and the success of the event was a tribute to its hard-working organisers.

As other St Patrick's Festival events continue through the week we should all raise a glass to them".



Patsie flies the flag for Carlow



To be applauded by your fellow citizens is surely a benchmark of achievement and respect and I for one take great pride in the fact that the Evening Mail recognised the Irish communities efforts.

Perhaps the single most important statistic to come out of this years parade, was the result of a piece of independent research which we had commissioned. The research showed that the parade generated a spend worth £1.58 million into Birmingham's economy. Further findings showed that visitors are coming from all over Britain, Ireland and even Sweden and it was great to see that 90.7% of those questioned reported that they were, "having a very good time!".

So all in all a job well done. The people who took part as marchers, on floats or as spectators enjoyed themselves. The city's economy got a cash boost and the positive media coverage has further enhanced the reputation of the parade, the city and of the Irish community in Birmingham.

The Irish community, through the parade, has shown that working hand in hand with each other, with businesses and the authorities can work to everybody's satisfaction. The parade is now firmly tied to Birmingham's events calendar and the future looks brighter than ever.

Anthony Duffy.

CHAIR, PARADE SUB-COMMITTEE



The Lord Mayor, (Cllr. Ian McArdle), his wife and St. Patrick (Len Cale).



The Personnel Sub-committee has been very busy during the past year. At present the committee comprises of Mary Connolly, Mary Carway, Sylvia Murphy-Brennan, Eddie Falahee, John Gordon, Katriona Donnelly and myself. There have been a few changes in staff as well as some existing staff moving internally.

The departure in May of Pauline Schofield meant that we had to recruit a new Project Co-ordinator. There were many enquiries for this post after which we interviewed four people. Katriona Donnelly was appointed to the post and took up her new position on the 6th July. This was followed by the appointment of Kelly Hobson as our Administrator. We wish them well in their new posts.

We were also successful in securing new funding for the Employment and Training project which is now known as LEAP (Learning, Employment and Active Participation). Caroline Carr is heading up this project and is meeting all the set targets. Caroline was assisted by Catherine Bell, who has recently left. We wish her all the best. The Irish Business Group has a new Animateur in the person of Tracy Cassidy-Adams and is assisted by Angela O'Brien. Over recent months the IBG has almost doubled its membership.

I would like to thank my predecessor, Mary Connolly for all her hard work in laying the foundations for a workable personnel. Many thanks also to Pauline Schofield for her contribution to the Forum during her term as Project Co-ordinator. Finally, thanks to my fellow sub-committee members for their support and guidance.

Fr Martin Moran O.M.I.
CHAIR - PERSONNEL



Kelly Hobson



The year started off on a very positive note, with the VIP Reception prior to the AGM. This reception, sponsored by the Birmingham Irish Business Group, had many prominent people attending, including the leader of the City Council Albert Bore, Deputy Lord Mayor Sue Anderson, Emer Deane (Irish Embassy), Church Leaders, and Councillors from the City and Northern Ireland.

Tony Downey, Chair of the Business Group, welcomed everyone, especially the representatives from Northern Ireland, and Michael Feeney of Enterprise Ireland. This was once again a great success and everything went smoothly. There were very encouraging speeches from Cllr. Sue Anderson, Cllr. Albert Bore, Pauline Schofield (Project Co-ordinator), Tony Downey, Emer Deane and Michael Feeney. The evening concluded with the traditional Irish stew. Thanks once again to the cooks and servers.

Our next event was the Civic reception on St Patrick's Day at the Council House. This event is becoming more and more popular every year and is a very important P.R exercise. I would like to thank Vince Jordan and his musicians, the McCarron dancers, Joe Owens and his staff for the wonderful buffet and the 'Tir na nOg' Accordion band who played for us.

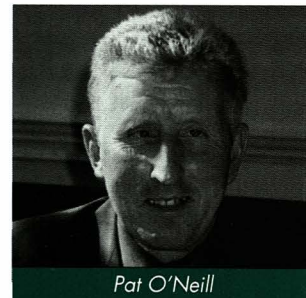
The main event for this year was the visit of the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, to the City. Her attendance sparked off a lot of activity within the group, not least the decorating of the Irish Centre, which saw the establishment of a new group - the 32 Counties and Voluntary Organisations, since renamed the Birmingham 32 Counties Organisation Committee. I would at this point like to thank all the Companies and individuals who

helped to decorate the Centre - so much was done in such a short space of time. Cara Housing were preparing for the President to open Fr Taaffe House, FIS were preparing for their annual convention and Comhaltas were preparing for the all Britain Fleadh. All this happened in the same weekend!

The morning of the visit was very exciting as we had a final check to make sure everything would go according to plan and sure enough, it went very well! As soon as the President and her husband arrived, I showed them around and the president remarked at how amazing everything looked. (Well done to everyone involved). The Birmingham Irish Pipes and Drums and the Tir na nOg bands provided the music for the day, and thank you to the teachers and dancers from the various local dancing schools who provided entertainment on the day. The buffet after the event was once again excellent, thanks to Bridie and her team.

A letter of congratulations has since been received from Mary McAleese. However, these events were only possible because of the dedicated team I have had the pleasure of working with. Without all your efforts, it would not be possible to hold such fantastic events. Congratulations to a wonderful team!

Pat O'Neill
CHAIR - PUBLIC RELATIONS



Pat O'Neill



Delores Simmons (Fr. Taaffe's niece) and members of the Taaffe family with President McAleese, on her visit to Birmingham on June 24th 2000.



The Birmingham Irish Youth Group held their AGM on 24th January 2000 and officially changed the title of the group to The Birmingham Irish Youth Committee. It was felt that, as we were taking more of a committee role when looking at issues facing young Irish people and at the time not organising group events for young people, our original title could be misleading. However, this is not to say that we have not, or will not, be organising events for young people.

One major success so far this year has been the launch of the Youth theatre project. A steering group was set-up to work with the Catholic Schools Partnership to organise and run a 6 week course of drama sessions with the aim of producing a performance of their work upon completion of the course. It ran from 5th June to 10th July with an average of 15 students attending on a weekly basis from across the City. They carried out group activities and discussions looking at what they felt were issues for themselves as young Irish people in Birmingham. This work was carried out by a trained Co-ordinator who guided and supervised the sessions. The six weeks of work culminated in a performance on 11th

July in the Irish Centre. Remarkably, a fast hitting piece was put together over a very short period and was presented to an audience of over forty people with a cross section of background and age.

As a group we are also looking to continue and develop the success of the student guide handbook. We feel that with some work it can be made relevant to young Irish people in Birmingham generally and not just students. Contact has been made with the Irish Times in the hope that we can place an advert during the exam results period, offering the guide to any students hoping to come to Birmingham to study.

With the achievements of the group so far, we can only hope to go from strength to strength. We are always looking for new members to bring fresh ideas to the Committee as we are continually trying to develop as a group. For more information, please contact Cara House.

Noreen Connolly

CHAIR - BIRMINGHAM IRISH YOUTH COMMITTEE



Members of the Irish Youth Theatre Project



The Irish Business Group were re-established in April 2000 and two employees appointed; Tracy Cassidy-Adams as Business Development Manager (full time) and Angela O'Brien as Administration Assistant (part time).

The Irish Business Group's primary aim is to provide a forum for member businesses, offering network and trading opportunities and benefits, as well as training seminars and events to support members businesses' and those associated with them.

At the Irish Business Group we understand that in order to maintain a competitive position within business, companies need to access a wide variety of supply sources and training. To make a path easier, we have prepared a fully structured business plan.

The Irish Business Group offers a range of services to help companies of any size, identify and evaluate the most appropriate solution to their training.

Membership of the Irish Business Group is expanding rapidly. When Tracy and Angela joined there were 60 members. However, membership now stands at over 200.

The Irish Business Group are compiling a directory of Irish businesses who are registered, free of charge, on our web-site and all members are listed by category.

The first issue of the Irish Business Group Newsletter has been issued and has been extremely well received. The second edition should be ready for publication shortly.

Irish Business Group members rang to comment on the contents of the Newsletter, together with feedback from the questionnaire, relating to services, training and advice they required from us.

Many thanks to those who have helped us throughout the year and I look forward to working closely with you all in the next year.

Tracy Cassidy-Adams
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER



Angela and Tracy at the President of Ireland's visit to the Irish Centre



What an eventful year it has been!

The Irish Employment and Training Project drew to an end as TEC funding ceased in March 2000. The project staff, Caroline Carr, Community Outreach Worker and Catherine Bell, Administrative Assistant prepared and submitted a successful bid for SRB4 funding to enable the positive work with the Irish community living in Birmingham to continue. LEAP was established and has entered new territory in becoming a much more community focused initiative. Links have been developed with community organisations and capacity building support has been offered. Although LEAP has broadened its enterprise to include community groups, it has still maintained its integral role in providing advice and guidance on all aspects of employment, training and education to individual clients.

The Irish Employment and Training Project achieved status as a New Deal Gateway Provider in 1999 and LEAP is now working towards the Information, Advice and Guidance Quality Standards which will form a fundamental element in the project's success.

The OBAIR (Opportunities, Barriers, Aspirations in Irish Recruitment) Conference was organised by the Irish Employment and Training Project in November 1999. The objective of the conference was to raise the awareness of the employment, training and educational needs of the Irish community living in Birmingham. The conference was well attended by representatives of relevant agencies and the feedback from the conference was particularly encouraging. The OBAIR Conference Report, Guinness, Harps and Shamrocks, was published and has been extremely well received. Copies are still available for anyone who may be interested.

LEAP was fully staffed from 1st April 2000 and much has already been achieved. Within the first four months of existence, the project has a total of 65 individuals who have received accredited training through LEAP's partnership with South Birmingham College. A total of 14 Board members and staff at the Birmingham Irish Community Forum Ltd have been trained in Finance and Employment.

The project staff will endeavour to raise the profile of LEAP in the forthcoming year through different initiatives. Caroline Carr was fortunate enough to be interviewed on the Ed Doolan Show and the project has been featured in various publications. The project staff are attempting to familiarise themselves with community groups and will continue to have a presence at community events.

The forthcoming year will be a very exciting year for LEAP as it encompasses new ideas and continues to develop. The project staff invite suggestions, comments or possible referrals from the Irish community.

The staff of the Irish Employment and Training Project and LEAP would like to take this opportunity to thank all the individuals and organisations who have supported both projects in the past year.

Caroline Carr
COMMUNITY
OUTREACH WORKER



Caroline Carr



Tionol na n-Eireannach Birmingham Teo
Birmingham Irish Community Forum Ltd.

Income and Expenditure Account

Year Ended 30th June 2000

	<u>2000</u> £	<u>1999</u> £
Incoming Resources		
Grants receivable	122,086	96,201
Donations and sponsorship	2,203	2,515
Services and related income	26,494	29,046
	<u>150,783</u>	<u>127,762</u>
Support and Administration Costs		
Direct expenditure	17,943	16,751
Management and administration	143,889	99,861
	<u>161,832</u>	<u>116,612</u>
(Deficit)/Surplus from operations	(11,049)	11,150
Interest receivable and similar income	-	11
(Deficit)/surplus before taxation	<u>(11,049)</u>	<u>11,161</u>
Taxation	1,281	-
(Deficit)/retained surplus for the year	<u>(12,330)</u>	<u>11,161</u>
Accumulated reserves brought forward	24,853	13,692
Accumulated reserves carried forward	<u>12,523</u>	<u>24,853</u>

There are no recognised gains or losses in 1999 and 2000 other than the result for the period



Tionol na n-Eireannach Birmingham Teo

Birmingham Irish Community Forum Ltd.

Balance Sheet

30th June 2000

	£	<u>2000</u>	£	£	<u>1999</u>	£
Fixed Assets						
Tangible Assets			4,506			4,026
Current Assets						
Debtors	10,180			15,554		
Cash at bank and in hand	53,744			30,132		
		<u>63,924</u>		<u>45,686</u>		
Creditors -						
Amounts falling due within one year	55,907			24,859		
Net Current Assets			8,017			20,827
Net Assets			<u>12,523</u>			<u>24,853</u>
Accumulated Reserves			<u>12,523</u>			<u>24,853</u>

The above information has been extracted from the Company's Financial Statutory accounts. The Financial Statements have been audited by the Company's Auditors and will be submitted to the Registrar of Companies following approval at the Annual General Meeting.



LIST OF MEMBER ORGANISATIONS | 2000

An Suil
Armagh Association
Ashford School of Irish Dancing
Birmingham Irish Development Association
Birmingham Irish Golfing Association
Birmingham Irish Pipes and Drums
Birmingham Irish Women's Group
Birmingham Irish Youth Committee
Birmingham Women and Ireland
Cairde Le Cheile
Cara Irish Housing Association
Cavan Association
Clare Association
Coimisiun Rinci
Colmcille Dancing School
Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann
Connolly Association
Conradh na Gaeilge
Doherty Irish Dance Academy
Donegal Association
Fireside Day Centre
GAA - Clann na Gael
GAA - Erin go Bragh
GAA - John Mitchells
GAA - Kingdom
GAA - Sean McDermotts
GAA - St Brendans
GAA - St Chads
GAA - The Emerald
Galway Association
Glenarragh Dancing School
Irish Amateur Boxing Club
Irish Commission for Overseas Prisoners
Irish Legion
Irish Mental Health Forum
Irish Music Made Easy
Irish Welfare and Information Centre
Kenny Irish Dance Academy
Kerry Association
Kidd Irish Dancing School
Kilkenny Association
Kilrush School of Dancing
Laois Association
Leitrim Association
Limerick Association
Longford Association
Louth Association
MacCarrghamhna Irish Dancing School
Madden School of Irish Dancing
Mayo Association
McDaid Set Dancing School
Meath Association
Midlands Rep of Ireland Soccer Supporters Club
Midlands Rose of Tralee Committee
Monaghan Association
Murphy-Brennan Irish Dance Academy
Offaly Association
Redditch Irish Society
Roscommon Association
Scanlon School of Irish Dancing
Sean Eireann McMahon Academy
Sligo Association
Tir na nOg Accordion Band
Troops Out Movement
Tyrone Association
Waterford Association
Westmeath Association
Wexford Association
Wicklow Association



1999

21st September	Heritage Group set up	June	Completion of concept study for the Regeneration of Digbeth
14th October	Annual General Meeting of Irish Forum	24th June	Visit to Birmingham by President of Ireland, Mary McAleese
19th October	Seminar on Drugs and Alcohol Dependency	July	Irish Youth Theatre Project held their first course
18th November	OBAIR Conference		

2000

1st February	Seminar on Domestic Violence	8th September	Presentation to Albert Bore on Irish Quarter involvement in the Regeneration of Digbeth
1st February	LEAP project commences	12th September	Seminar on Second Generation Irish
12th March	Fifth St Patrick's Day Parade	14th September	B'ham St Patrick's Day becomes an independent organisation
17th March	Civic Reception at the Council House	21st September	All Party Irish In Britain Parliamentary Group meeting in Birmingham
11th April	Seminar on Irish Travellers	12th October	Annual General Meeting of Irish Forum
14th April	Irish Mental Health Seminar	9th November	Public launch of Concept Study for the Regeneration of Digbeth
16th April	First meeting of 32 County and Voluntary organisations		
1st June	Press Launch of IBG/SBC computer suite		



NOTES



Birmingham 32 Counties Organisation Committee

IRISH FORUM ANNUAL REPORT | 2000



BIRMINGHAM IRISH COMMUNITY FORUM LTD

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