

THE IRISH IN BIRMINGHAM...

Birmingham Irish Community Forum Ltd Newsletter

Issue No. 4 - March 1999

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE IRISH FORUM HAS AN EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROJECT?

Well if you didn't, you do now. My name is Caroline Carr and I am the Employment and Training Development Worker. So why have an employment project specifically for Irish people? Well, a recent study funded by Birmingham City Council found that the take up of education and training provision amongst the Irish in Birmingham was lower than for the population generally and that unemployment levels were higher. The study also found that 91% of respondents were more likely to approach an employment project if it had been set up specifically for Irish people.

Our aim is to act as a bridge between what is available in the city and the Irish community. We can offer advice and guidance on all aspects of training, education and employment, help with application forms and preparing for interviews.

Advice on letter writing and telephone techniques and information about self-employment. We also have access to the Internet for information about job vacancies in Ireland. We can also help you put together a C.V., one of the most important job search tools that you can ever have.

Most importantly we hope to provide culturally sensitive support to those members of the Irish community who want to find out more or get some advice or guidance about education, training or employment. You do not have to have been born in Ireland to use the project; you might be second generation and feel that your cultural identity is Irish.

WOMEN'S ROADSHOW

As part of the project there will be a women only employment, training and education roadshow taking place on Thursday 11 March at the Irish Centre. The hope is that women who would not ordinarily attend something of this nature will attend. If Irish people are generally under-represented in the economic life of the city, then Irish women are practically invisible. So the roadshow aims to attract Irish women particularly. There will be opportunities to find out what is available within the city, gain practical advice about what you can do, assistance with writing your C.V. and an opportunity to try your hand at some activities. There will be benefits advice available from the advice team from the Welfare Rights Unit. There will be a fully staffed crèche available so women are welcome to bring their children.

If you are interested in attending the roadshow there are two sessions:

Session One - 1 pm to 4 pm

Session Two - 5 pm to 7 pm

There will be refreshments available between the two sessions and the roadshow will be followed up by a night of spectacular performances - we're having a karaoke.

If you want further information about the project or the roadshow you can ring Caroline or Fiona on **(0121) 622 1168**.

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YOUTH GROUPS FIRST AGM

The First Annual General Meeting for the Youth Group took place on Monday 15th February at the Munster Suite in the Irish Centre, Digbeth.

It was a very successful evening with new officers being elected and speeches made by the Youth Officer of the Federation of Irish Societies, Phil McCarvill and Fr Eamon Corduff. There was also a brief look at what the Youth Group has done to date from Rory Murray.

At one point during the night everyone in the room was put into groups - questions were asked, opinions were gathered and suggestions made on what the Youth Group should do in the future. Some of the more common ideas were disco's for the 8 to 15 year olds, sporting events, quizzes and days out. All suggestions were noted and you should be hearing more from us in the very near future.

The new officers elected on the night were as follows:

Chairperson: Fr Eamon Corduff with
Orla Brennan as co-chairperson

Vice-Chair: Noreen Connolly

Secretary: Katriona Larkin with Leanne
Mitchell as co-secretary

Treasurer: Claire Holden.

Meetings are held monthly and everyone is invited to attend. Should you wish to attend a meeting or be entered onto our mailing list please contact Katriona at the Forum Offices on (0121) 622 4102.

We would also like to congratulate Claire Holden on her new job - unfortunately she will have to decline the post as Treasurer. Caroline Carr was runner up in the elections and has agreed to take up the post. We wish Claire

"All the Best in the Future!!!!!"

Watch this space!!

WATCH THIS SPACE!

The Business Group will soon have two members of staff to support their work - more details in the next newsletter.

Cara House will be open to the public on Sunday March 14th 1999 between 1pm and 3.30pm so come and say hello! A display of Forum activities and an information pack will also be available.

Leaflets on the Forum and in particular the **Youth Group** will be distributed to those attending the Parade on 14th March.

A **workshop** on small grants funding for the Lottery is planned soon. If you are interested please phone the Forum.

Mass in Irish - Second Sunday of each month at 5pm at St Mary's and St John's, Gravelly Hill, Erdington. All Welcome!!!

James and Tina's **Midlands Irish Music Festival 1999**. Takes place Friday April 9th to Sunday April 11th at the University of Nottingham. For further information contact (01827) 64696.

If you have any event that you would like to promote in our **next newsletter** please ring the Forum Office (0121) 622 4102 and let them know.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Thursday March 4th

6.30 - Board Meeting

Monday March 8th

5.30 - Health and Social Services

Wednesday March 10th

6.30 - Youth Group / 7.30 - Parade Meeting

Tuesday March 23rd

6.30 - Birmingham IBC

Thursday April 1st

6.30 - Board Meeting

Monday April 12th

6.15 - Finance Meeting

Thursday May 6th

6.30 - Board Meeting

Monday May 10th

5.30 - Health and Social Services

ALL OF THE ABOVE MEETINGS TAKE PLACE IN CARA HOUSE WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE BOARD MEETINGS

THE IRISH IN BIRMINGHAM

- SCOOP - Sassanach to Lead Parade

We are now on the final approach for this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade. Christmas now a dimming memory and good auld St. Pat, as always, beginning to shine on the horizon.

The Parade will take place on the Sunday before March 17th and already plans are at an advanced stage.

Last years total of 10 marching bands will be eclipsed. Early bookings include local bands, our own Accordion and Pipe bands. Bands from Ireland and for the 1st time a Welsh band. The number of floats, pedestrians, Parade goers and spectators also look set to rise.

Innovations for '99 include:-

- ☛ Our own web-site,
www.stpatricksdaysparade.co.uk,
making getting information about our Parade available to a global audience, with obvious benefits.
- ☛ Carl Chinn is broadcasting his radio show live from the Old Crown as the Parade passes by.
- ☛ An *Emerald Village* is to be created in Bradford Street, a fun fair, live music, dancing, singing and donkey rides will replace the usual hustle and bustle.
- ☛ An English St. Patrick (God help us!) takes to the streets for the first time.

All in all, the Parade goes from strength to strength just as Fr Taaffe predicted it would. Fun and celebration in abundance. For me, March 14th can't come quickly enough!!!

Anthony Duffy,
Chair, Birmingham St. Patrick's Day Parade.

For more information on the Parade, please contact the Irish Forum on (0121) 622 4102.

For a map of the route of the Parade turn to the back page.

Who is Who? Fáilte (Welcome)

Birmingham Irish Community Forum Ltd are delighted to introduce you to:-

Caroline Carr

Employment and Training Development Worker

Caroline's parents were born in Co. Louth but they have lived in England for more years that they care to remember! Caroline currently resides in Sheldon.

Katriona Larkin

Administrator

Katriona was born and reared in Passage East in Co. Waterford, where all her family still live. Katriona currently lives in Hall Green.

Fiona Quinney

Employment Project Administration Assistant

Fiona was born in Birmingham of Irish and English parents. Her father hails from Dublin and her mother from Worcester. Fiona currently lives in Halesowen.

Funding Information

Díon

Irish Government's Advisory
Committee on Emigrant Welfare

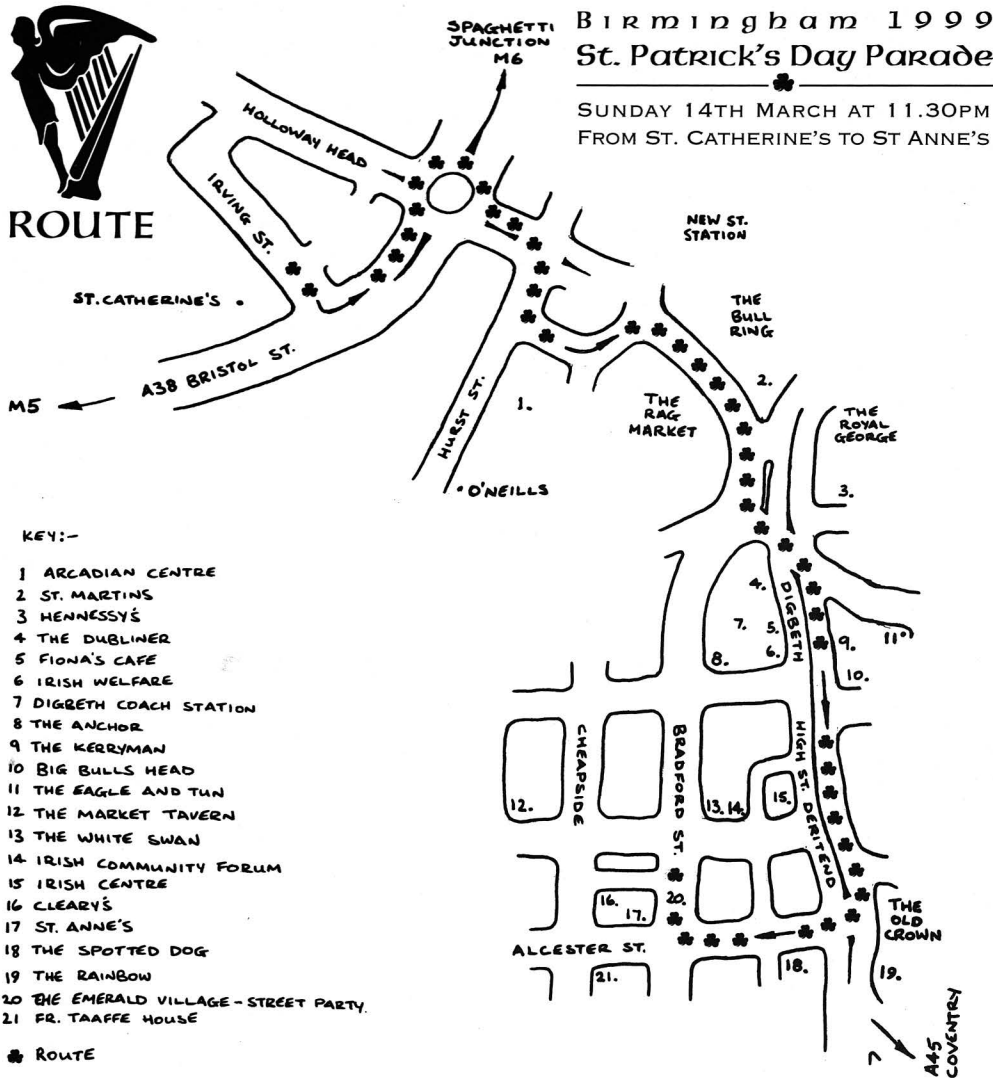
Díon funding for 1999 is being increased and is set provisionally at IR£750,000, subject to confirmation by the Irish Government. The increase in the level of funding (IR£130,000) is intended to improve services for older Irish emigrants and the Irish travelling community in UK.

This Edition Sponsored by Birmingham & Solihull Tech Ltd.

ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE ROUTE



ROUTE



Birmingham 1999
St. Patrick's Day Parade

SUNDAY 14TH MARCH AT 11.30PM
FROM ST. CATHERINE'S TO ST ANNE'S

HOW TO CONTACT.....

THE FORUM OFFICE:
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**THE EMPLOYMENT
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**THE BIRMINGHAM
IRISH BUSINESS
GROUP:**

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business-group.com

All of the above
organisations are at:
Cara House, Birchall
Street, Deritend,
Birmingham B12 ORP.

WATERFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION

Calling anyone from the **Deise County!!**
If there is anyone out there from County
Waterford who is willing to help set up a
County Association to beat them all, then
please contact Katriona at the Forum on
(0121) 622 4102.

*If anyone else is interested in setting up
an association for their county or just
wanting to get involved, please contact the
Forum on (0121) 622 4102.*