

*The Irish  
Counties Journal*

ISSUE 11

VOLUME 11

DECEMBER, 1981





The Smyth Family coupled with  
Thomond Publishing Company  
Wish All Readers of  
The Irish Counties Journal  
Peace, Health, Happiness and  
Prosperity for Christmas  
and the coming year.



## Irish Society of Harrow

Chairman: Mr. P. McKeon, Tel. 01 427 9042

**Patron:**  
Rev. P. Tuite, S.D.S.

**Vice-Chairman:**  
M. O'Regan  
Tel. 01 427 3736.

**President:**  
Mrs. D. Burke  
Tel. 01 863 2877

**Treasurer:**  
Mrs. M. Whelan  
Tel. 01 427 4125  
**Assist. Treasurer:**  
Mrs. M. Brennan  
Tel. 01 864 6293.

**Secretary:**  
Mr. D. Connelly  
Tel. 01 863 6799

**Assist. Secretary:**  
Mrs. B. McKeon  
Tel. 01 427 9042.

**Committee:** Mrs. T. Breslin, Mrs. C. Whelan, Mr. P. Chambers, Mr. A. Burke,  
Mr. P. Moloney, Mr. T. Noonan, Mr. P. J. Ryan, Mr. A. O'Neill, Mr. S. Ryan.

### Grand Christmas Card Drive.

Our Christmas Card Drive will be held on Friday, 11th December at the Sidings Railway Tavern, Station Approach, Wealdstone commencing at 8.00 p.m. Seasonal prizes: Turkeys, Whiskey etc.

### Children's Christmas Party.

The Children's Christmas Party will take place at The Sidings, address above on 12th December, as we go to press I am not in possession of the exact details so please ring Mr. V. Whelan on 01-427-4125 or Mr. A. Burke 01-863-2877. Early reservation is advisable.

### Christmas Dance and Final of the Old Time Waltzing Competition.

The above will take place at the Leisure Centre, twenty couples will line up for the final of the Waltzing Competition Dancing from 9.00 p.m. to 1.00 a.m. to the music of the Four Aces. Tickets are £1.50 from the usual sources.

### Grand New Year's Eve Ball.

Arrangements are being finalised at the moment for a Grand New Year's Eve Ball and further details will appear in the local church bulletins.

### Annual General Meeting.

The A.G.M. will be held in January, as yet no date and venue, but full details will be published later, in the meantime please ring any of the telephone Nos. at the heading of this report for any information on our society. We will be very pleased to help in any way we can.

### Condolences.

Our sincere sympathy to Wally Smyth, Life Vice-President of the Waterford Association and one of our members also on the death of his mother recently. Mass offered, R.I.P.

The Officers and Committee of the Irish Society of Harrow would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Michael O'Regan, P.R.O.



## The Waterford Association, London



- Patron:** The Most Rev. Dr. Michael Russell, D.D.,  
Bishop of Waterford and Lismore.
- Life President:** Right Rev. Charles J. Henderson,  
Bishop Tricala and Auxiliary Bishop of Southwark.
- Chairman:** Mr. John O'Keefe, 15 Temple Road, London N.W.2  
Tel. 01 452 7940.
- Vice-Chairman:** Mr. K. Butler, 1 Ruyard Grove, N.W.7.  
Tel. 959 5887.
- Hon. Secretary:** Mrs. Mary Allen, 10 Ashmore, Agar Grove,  
London NW1 9SL. Tel. 267 8100.
- Asst. Hon. Sec.:** Mr. Bill Aulsberry, 50 George Lansbury House,  
Wood Green, London, N22. Tel. 01 889 6579.
- Hon. Treasurer:** Mrs. C. Dee, 14 The Crossways, Wembley Park  
Middlesex. Tel. 01 904 3463.
- Hon. Assist. Treasurer:** Mr. Paddy Stafford, 53 Caithness House,  
Bermerton Street, N.1. Tel. 837 8770.
- Membership Secretary:** Mrs. Kitty Groves, 33 Kings C'escent,  
Finsbury Park, N.4. Tel. 359 5994.

A Happy Christmas from all the members of the Waterford Association to all members of the other 31 counties, to our friends in the Federation of Irish Societies, The Irish Centre, The Irish Welfare Bureau, the Comhaltas, Irish Heritage and all our friends throughout the world of whom we have many. Happiness and Peace to the people in the Northern part of our dear country and may peace reign in the world. When you are partaking of your Christmas Fare don't forget a silent prayer for the starving millions throughout the third world and especially our near neighbours in Poland.

### Condolences.

To my dear husband Wally on the sudden death of his mother Mrs. Elizabeth Smyth who died peacefully at Westminster Hospital on Tuesday, 17th November last.

Mrs. Smyth was a great ambassador for Waterford and will be remembered for the civic reception she received from Mayor Fad Browne when she presented him with a scroll from Mayor Linsey of New York. Mrs. Smyth appeared on television with the Mayor of New York and when reporters came to interview her in New York she told them how proud she was that her son was Chairman of the Waterford Association London and the lovely lakes and mountains of New York State were almost as nice as Waterford.

All the above from an English woman who loved Waterford. Mrs. Smyth was born in Southport and on her mother's side was a Furness of Furness Abbey, on her father's side was of the Threlfal Ale Company. Elizabeth's father was the well known musician who travelled the world with his music and ended his days as Music Master of the Barrack Street Brass and Reed Band, many of his compositions are still played by the band. I remember old Granny Threlfal telling me she married in Boston as Grandad was on a tour there, she told me her Mother sent two solicitors with her from Southport to make sure the marriage took place properly.

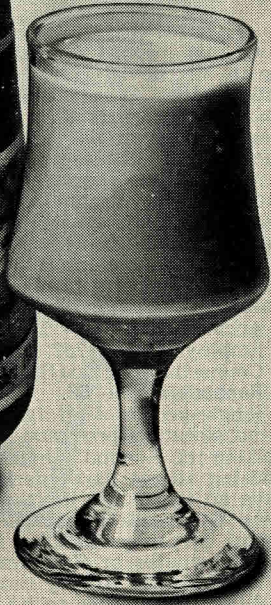
My mother-in-law was predeceased by her husband Charles William known as Bill a victuallar highly respected in Waterford by all sections of the community. He first went to Ireland to introduce the frozen meats and loved it so much he stayed until he died exactly 20 years ago. The Smyth history is that Grandfather Smyth was an old Finian boy and escaped to Liverpool with a price on his head. There are very many Smyth's in Liverpool some who have visited Ireland and others who know nothing about it.

Another relation who preceded Mrs. Smyth, was the famous Arthur Ellis, M.B.E. who designed the longest stretch of railroad in the world at the time, namely the Mullibar Plain in Australia. His wife was a Smyth so there are plenty of Smyths in Australia and still living in Sydney

(Continued on page 14.)



**ONLY THE  
IRISH  
COULD  
DREAM  
IT UP.**



A product of Irish Distillers International Limited.





# the irish centre

52 CAMDEN SQUARE, LONDON NW1 9XB

TELEPHONE: 01-485 0051/52

REG. CHARITY NO. 221172

Director: Fr. William Cagney.

Chairman: Mr. Martin Moroney

## 1980 Welfare Report (continued).

In the face of things, Career Guidance for young people must take on a new dimension—not just matching aptitude to work which will be intrinsically rewarding, but developing transferable skills and adaptability in a changing economy and learning to use leisure more constructively.

Adverts in some Irish provincial papers, offering great promotional prospects and quoting wages around £200 a week, enticed a considerable number of young people to London. Their door to door sale of dubious magazines left them with £30 or less per week. Some held on from week to week hoping they might become financially viable, six left and came to the Centre looking for help. Arrangements were made either to send them home or get them alternative employment. The papers responsible for publishing the adverts were notified.

### Table 3. Age Range of First Users.

	Male	Female
Under 18 years . . . . .	76	47
18-25 years . . . . .	701	356
26-40 years . . . . .	331	109
Over 40 years . . . . .	190	63

Of this group, 1066 were in London less than one week and 908 were on their first visit. Many of these got a good start and quickly became independent. Others who did not initially approach the Centre had enough money to book into bed and breakfast on arrival but being unable to secure employment or work the social benefit system, found themselves destitute on the London streets.

Meals or food parcels were provided for 374 people; 170 were given money in varying amounts according to their needs; 190 received pre-paid bus tickets or travel warrants.

### Some Problem Areas.

Much of our work is preventative or of a crisis intervention nature. The most frequent needs are accommodation and work.

### Table 4. Services Rendered.

Accommodation — 1,412.
Employment — 757.
Counselling/Advice/Information — 1,865.
Repatriation — 58.

Single people of all ages from sixteen upwards, and for whom there is no statutory provision, form a substantial and ever increasing proportion of London's homeless. The acute and growing shortage of housing affects particularly the over thirty age groups. Most hostels have an upper age limit of twenty-five, lettings in the private sector have decreased dramatically and many of those who continue to rent rooms prefer a students intake. The only alternatives are the large lodging houses or Government reception centres which are estimated as having forty to fifty thousand users annually. Anbody coming from Ireland, who wishes to be established in a flat and launched in work, will need at least two hundred pounds.

(Continued on page 14.)

# THE NEW BOOK OF BARGAINS BY AER.

## LONDON/DUBLIN FROM £55 RETURN £17 'SUPERDRIVE' WEEKEND AND LOTS MORE!

The new brochure gives details of all our bargain fares; 'Superdrive' — (a car for a weekend £17); plus inclusive Weekends from £66.

Fares from provincial airports start from as little as £49.



London 01-734 1212  
Leeds 0532-34466

Liverpool 051-236 6135  
Bristol 0272-290046

Glasgow 041-248 4121  
Edinburgh 031-225 7392  
Manchester 061-832 8611  
Birmingham 021-236 6211

For full details of prices and conditions pick up your copy of the Bargain Fares book from your nearest Aer Lingus office or Travel Agent.



## Federation of Irish Societies

- President:** Mr. Brendan Duffy, "Mile Failte", 12 Firs Ave., Windsor, Berks.  
Tel.: (B) Slough 31122 and (H) Windsor 66934
- Vice-President:** Mr. Bill Jefferies, Irish Centre, Portsmouth. Tel. (0705) 25152.
- Chairman:** Mr. Michael Hogan. 56 Hazlebury Avenue, Abbots Langley, Herts.  
Tel.: (B) 01-965 4071 and (H) Kings Langley 65360
- Vice-Chairman:** Mr. Seamus McGarry, "Thomond," 150 Mildmay Road, Stevenage,  
Herts. Tel. (H) 9438 52336.
- Secretary:** Mr. Bill Halley, 12 Heyward Road, Southsea, Hants. Tel. (H) 0705 829447
- P.R.O.:** Mr. Tommy Walsh, "Failte", 69 Milton Avenue, Liverpool L14 6TE  
Tel.: (H) 051-489 5346
- Treasurer:** M/s. Sadie Redmond. 33 Score Lane, Liverpool L16 6AN  
Tel.: (H) 051-722 6312
- Youth Affairs:** Mr. Jim McGrath. 25 Rookes Close, Letchworth, Herts.  
Tel.: (B) St. Albans 34221 and (H) Letchworth 74406

I am extremely grateful to the Journal for providing me with an opportunity of sending Good Wishes to our many friends throughout Britain and indeed in Ireland too where the Journal is read.

Most of us will look back on 1981 as a difficult year for us Irish in Britain, those of us organising functions have found the recession taking it's toll of attendances, but generally speaking we have managed to survive. Those of us from whom leadership is expected have found it difficult also—there are so many who can find solutions to all our problems—they are generally 'on the sidelines'—and those of us out there on the pitch are very often subjected to undeserved criticism for our inability to 'cure all ills'. I am satisfied that the line we have taken within the Federation has been the right one—we have tried to guide and to lead as well.

As we enter 1982—we are aware that things will be difficult too but sure we shall overcome — the spirit of the Irish people has never been found wanting. I heartily thank all who helped me in the difficult task I have to do—I appreciate the loyal support of Jane Smyth and the Journal.

Let's forget the cares and the worries of the year now fast diminishing—let us enjoy the Christmas and hope that the year ahead will bring us renewed hope for peace above all other things.

Michael Hogan, Chairman.

### Conclusion of Youth Report.

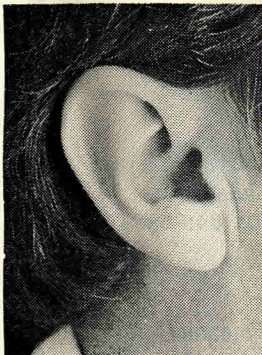
#### 7. Recommendations.

It is recommended to the Federation that the following action be taken.

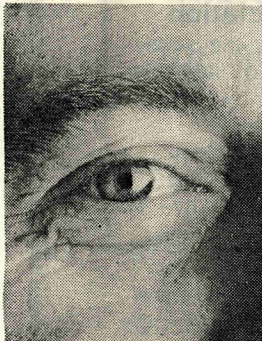
- 7:1 The appointment by the Federation Officers of a Youth Organiser who should be an ex-officio Federation Officer.
- 7:2 The appointment of a permanent Sub-Committee on Youth comprising of people who have an interest in Youth and/or experience in Youth work, some young members, and the Youth Organiser. The size of this Sub-Committee shall not exceed ten persons who should be appointed if possible on a regional basis. The function of the Sub-Committee will be as follows:—
- 7:2:1 To promote and encourage the formation of Youth groups in affiliated Societies.
- 7:2:2 To act in an advisory capacity to affiliated Societies in respect on Youth.
- 7:2:3 To liaise with and encourage contact between Youth Groups.
- 7:2:4 To investigate the possibility of an organised affiliation of Youth Groups under the auspices of the Federation.
- 7:2:5 To organise national and regional seminars, conferences and Training opportunities for young people and adults involved with youth to meet, discuss problems, swap ideas, and have fun.
- 7:2:6 To investigate further the question of identity referred to in paragraph 4:2 of this report.
- 7:3 Arrange finance for the Sub-Committee's activities.
- 7:4 Encourage young members to attend Federation meetings.



*An ear for problems*



*An eye  
for opportunities*



*A head for business*



## Get it all together at Allied Irish Banks

It's hard work running your own business.

So it's only fair that your bank should work hard too.

Helping you to grow and develop. Backing your ideas. Listening to your problems.

And offering ways to solve them.

It's all part of a day's work at

Allied Irish Banks.

We have 33 branches throughout the UK at your service. Plus the specialised services of a merchant bank, a

leasing company and a finance company.

Call into your local Allied Irish Banks branch soon. And get it all together.



**Allied Irish Banks**  
*Ireland's biggest bank in Britain*

HEAD OFFICE BRITAIN: 64/66 Coleman Street, London EC2R 5AL. Tel: 01-588 0691

The following would like to wish you all a  
**Very Happy Christmas**

-----

**Hillingdon Borough Irish Society**

Chairman: Mr. Joe Driscoll. Tel. 01 845 6864  
Hon. Secretary: Mr. Finbar Myers. Tel. 01 845 5358

-----

**Cavan Association**

Chairman: Mr. Tom O'Reilly. Tel. 77 53884  
Secretary: Miss B. Reilly

-----

**The London Wexford Association**

Chairman: Mr. Michael Sills. Tel. 01 452 3443  
Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Kitty Cullen. Tel. 01 965 6045

-----

**The Carlow Association, London**

Chairman: Mr. Ned Dunbar. Tel. 01 653 5923  
Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Clare Monaghan. Tel. 01 679 6374

-----

**Laois Association**

Chairman: Mr. Monty Barron. Tel. 01 205 5072  
Hon. Secretary: Mr. Peter Dunne. Tel. 01 205 1335

-----

**The Galway Association, London**

Chairman: Mr. Gerry O'Flynn. Tel. 01 440 7138  
Hon. Secretary: Mr. John Fahy. Tel. 01 427 4597

-----

**The Dublin Association, London**

President: Mr. Bill Cooper. Tel. 01 435 3035  
Hon. Secretary: Mr. Vincent Corley. Tel. 01 422 2906

-----

**West London Irish Society**

Chairman: Mr. Val Maloney. Tel. 01 567 4463  
P.R.O.: Mrs. Bridie Neeves. Tel. 71 32487



# IRISH SUGAR COMPANY AND ERIN FOODS LTD.

INVOLVED WITH  
THE BUILDERS  
OF RURAL IRELAND

Their products spell  
the message of our  
farmer's worth in  
40 countries

## **De Robin Hood**

**Eating House**

**218 KING STREET - HAMMERSMITH - LONDON W6**

Telephone: 01 748 9560

Open 6.00 p.m. - 1.00 a.m.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

PRIVATE PARTIES

**Business Luncheons by Appointment**

Fully Licensed Till 1 a.m.

Proprietor: Tommy Lanigan (Roscommon)

Every Happiness and Good Cheer for Christmas

from:

## **J. LYNCH**

**WATNEY OFF-LICENCE**



**1 RANELAGH ROAD, EALING, LONDON, W5**

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL

from

John and Sheila Lyons

## *The Old Parrs Head*

**120 BLYTHE ROAD, W.14**

HOT AND COLD SNACKS

'Phone 603 - 2281

A Very Happy Christmas to all

## **THE MCGEE GROUP LIMITED**

Civil Engineering - Demolition Experts

Plant Hire and Haulage

**ALPERTON LANE, ALPERTON, WEMBLEY, MIDDLESEX**

Telephone 01 998 1101



## The Irish Welfare Bureau

55 Fulham Palace Road, Hammersmith, London, W6 8AU

**Director:** Rev. Fr. Brian Lawlor.

**Social Workers:** Sister Jane Francis and Sister Rosario.

Telephone: 01-741-0466

### Austin House (continued from last month).

We continue to offer temporary accommodation to lads up to the age of twenty-five years, as we still maintain that this is the age-group most in need of our care and concern. The period varies from one to the next, each getting sufficient time to get accustomed to living away from home for the first time, to make an honest effort at sorting out his problems, familiarise himself with the value of money and set his goals for the future. Of course, some lads are, Thank God, sure-footed and know what they are about. They only need a short stay while they go in search of a more permanent type of accommodation in an area convenient to their work. During the four years of existence we have dealt with 228 whose ages are as follows:—

16 years and under	—	14
17	—	31
18	—	37
19	—	43
20	—	43
21	—	18
22	—	15
23	—	4
24	—	16
25 and over	—	7

Whilst our main concern is Irish, we refuse no one if a vacancy is available at the time of application. In the four years we accommodated 24 English and 21 from other countries. Our own continue to come, mainly, from the big cities:

Dublin	—	58
Cork	—	23
Galway	—	17
Limerick	—	13

and approximately two from each of the other counties.

"Whatever's the matter with you. Not one of you is trying".  
"Whoever said you are failures". My dad says that I'll have to be a  
dustman, I'm no good at school". "My mum says it's no use trying as I

(Continued on page 20.)

## WHITEGATES INN HOTEL

Treat yourself to Christmas in Killarney

or any other time during the year

Full Christmas Programme - A Few Vacancies Left

Tel. Republic of Ireland (064) 31164

Proprietor: JOHN MORIARTY

## The Clare Association, London

Patron: Most Rev. Dr. Michael Harty, Bishop of Killaloe.  
Life President: Mr. Martin Moroney. Tel. 954 3400.

Chairman:  
Mr. Clive Fogarty,  
45 Laurel Way,  
Totteridge,  
London, N20.  
Tel. 01 446 3481.

Secretary:  
Mrs. Mary Dempsey,  
55 Norman Ave.,  
Woodgreen,  
London, N22.  
Tel. 01 888 6164.  
Press Officer:

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Teresa Doyle,  
27 Jocelin House,  
Copenhagen St.,  
London, N1.  
Tel. 01 837 6098.

Mr. Pat O'Gorman, 148 Princes Avenue, Gunnersbury Park, London W3 8LU.



Our Annual Dinner Dance held on 28th November at the Tara Hotel Kensington was once again a great success. All tickets were sold out weeks beforehand and we had a capacity attendance, many of whom were enjoying themselves until 2 am. The band 'Billy and the North Winds' had the dance floor filled with dancers all evening.

It was reassuring to see so many of our regular supporters come and join us at the new venue for our Annual Dinner. It's a pity it's so small as we had to turn away about another 120 people.

As it is now becoming a tradition, the after dinner speeches were very brief; the toast to "Ireland" was proposed by our Life President, Mr. Martin Moroney, our Guests by our Chairman, Mr. Clive Fogarty and the Clare Association by His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Harty. In his address Dr. Harty expressed his pleasure at being among so many friends here in London, who having emigrated from their native Clare came to settle here and become an example for good in their community and a tribute to their native land. His Lordship said he was heartened to see that the Irish community in Britain were doing something positive in getting the youth involved in Irish cultural activities: a golden heritage to pass on.

For the raffle we had prizes to the value of nearly £300, a special thank you to the kind people who donated such fine gifts.

On Thursday night the 26th November we had the re-union for the North Clare parishes 150 people attended this function which was most enjoyable. Unfortunately Bishop Harty could not attend this function but Father Ford brought his good wishes and the good wishes from the parishes and our relations and friends back home as well as taking some of our relations over with him.

(Continued on page 15.)



# Whelan

Specialists in

Formwork

Steel Fixing and Groundwork

---

## J. P. Whelan & Sons (Construction) Ltd.

Clare House, Pampisford Road

Purley, Surrey CR2 2NE

---

Telephone 668-5264

### **Waterford Association** (continued from page 2).

is brother-in-law Mr. Fred Smyth who travelled the world as a ship's purser and decided Australia was the best place to settle. Uncle Fred's daughter and grand-daughter have just returned home from visiting Ireland and England.

Left behind her mourn a great womans loss are sons George, Alfred and Wally, daughter Dorothy Orlando of New Jersey, U.S.A. and adopted son Willie Lyons of Slieverue. Sister Nellie Mrs. White of Tramore. Sister-in-law Mrs. Bessie Threfal of Poleberry Waterford, brother-in-law Mr. Robert Smyth, Liverpool, sister-in-law Mrs. Murial Threfal, Norfolk. Son-in-law Ralph Orlando, daughter-in-law Jane Smyth. Four grandchildren, one in London her name sake Elizabeth, Wally's daughter and London great-grandchild, Shirelle. Three grandchildren in America, Laura, Maxine and Melanie Jane, grandson Tom Holland, T. Charles William (Bill), Australia and five great-grandchildren in America the nearest nieces were Doreen Threfal, Eltham, London, Mrs. Pat Taylor, Norfolk. Mrs. Muffet Coulter of New Town, Waterford. Mr. Tommy Threfal, Clare.

Mrs. Smyth was cremated at West London Crematorium on Friday, 20th November and her ashes will be taken to Waterford in the Spring which was her wish, R.I.P.

We are grateful to the Waterford Association for the beautiful wreath, for the presence of Mrs. Mary Allen and Mrs. Kitty Groves for the beautiful flowers from Johnny and Theresa Franklin and all their help in a time of need. To Mrs. Cathy Dee for the lovely flowers and her presence at the service. Likewise Mr. and Mrs. George Sauvage, Mr. and Mrs. John Walsh, Jim and Paddy Curran and the house-keeper Mary and all the wonderful friends and neighbours in Westminster a special word of thanks to Jim Curran who visited Mum twice a day and made sure she had the Irish papers. So many people who are still writing and sending mass cards. To the many people who would have liked to have known and wished to be present at the service we apologise most sincerely, we were all devastated and still are to lose such a grand old lady.

### **Christmas Dinner.**

Our Christmas Dinner takes place in the McNamara Hall, The Irish Centre, Murray Street, Camden Square, London NW1 9XB on the 19th December at the small cost of £5 per head, with music for dancing by the Southlanders, we are assured of a very good evenings entertainment.

On 22nd December our golf outing to Trent Park.

### **A.G.M.**

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will take place at The Irish Centre London, address above in January. Please come along to elect your officers and committee for the coming year.

More golf, Special Gala Day on 30th March in aid of the Irish Centre Building.

Golf Outing to Trent Park on 30th December, please be at the club house at 10.30 a.m.

Annual General Meeting on 31st January, 1982.

Again a Very Happy Christmas to all.

Jane T. Smyth, Press Officer, Tel. 427-9721.

- - - - -

### **The Irish Centre** (continued from page 4).

Finding accommodation for families arriving from Ireland, who have made themselves 'voluntarily homeless' is an almost impossible task. Of thirty eight families dealt with last year only a very small number were actually found a place to live—the majority had to return home.

When requests for accommodation are complicated by severe drink or psychiatric problems, appropriate placement is also very difficult if not impossible.



## The Joys We Missed

By MICHAEL HANNON

To and fro across the seas  
The greetings come and go  
Expressing faith and friendship  
That was fashioned long ago;  
No matter how many be the miles  
Or how bitter be the tears  
The wish that's wished is just as true  
As it was in the yesteryears.

The friends we knew grow lesser now  
For us; the years grow more and more  
And our thoughts take more to journeying  
To our native emerald shore.  
For it's there at Christmas time long passed  
We knelt in dawns first ray  
To greet Mary and the Christ-Child  
Who came on Christmas Day.

May Mary and the Christ-Child  
Guide all our wandering feet  
May Erins exiled sons and daughters  
At the Heavenly Banquet meet.  
All the pain of parting will be passed  
Grief and pain will be no more—  
And the joys we missed in Ireland  
Will be ours on Heavens shore.

- - - - -

**Clare Association** (continued from page 12).

His Lordship was able to attend the reunion at the McNamara Hall, The Irish Centre, of the Parishes of Mullagh, Miltown Malbay, Inagh, Kilmaley and several other parishes on the following Monday night, 30th November. The rafters of the McNamara Hall rang to the music, laughter and singing of about 300 Clare people to the music of the Dunloe Ceili Band and in great form and voice were Fathers Hillery and Ford to bring us such songs as "The Cliffs of Doneen" and "Spencil Hill" it was a splendid note on which to close our social events for this year.

It was a pleasure to entertain the Bishop and Priests who took the trouble of coming over from Ireland in order to be with us for these functions. We look forward to seeing them again in 1982, P.G.

It is now my pleasure to wish all our members and supporters a Joyous Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Pat O'Gorman, Press Officer.

## Westmeath Association in London



### Patron:

Most Rev. J. McCormack, D.D., D.C.L.,  
Bishop of Meath.

Life President: Lady Pritchard Jones.

President: Rev. Fr. Fitzsimons, P.P.

Chairman: Mr. Cyril McKelvey.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Billy Cashin.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. John McCormack.

Assistant Hon. Secretary: Mr. William Stenson  
Tel. 609 2909.

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Curran.

Assist. Hon. Treasurer: Mr. John McCormack.  
12 Corse Hill St., Streatham, London SW16  
Tel.: 01-677-3826

### A Happy Christmas Story or Little Miss Courage

Eight year old Mary Hardiman's sponsored walk of a mile around Aston Villa Football Stadium in Birmingham in aid of the Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust raised the sum of £6,500 and Mary was delighted to know she would have this amount to give to the Trust who send handicapped children to Lourdes. Mary Hardiman, whose parents come from Athlone and Tuam is severely handicapped herself having both her legs amputated when she was small, Mary also has little power in her arms. On the day Mary did her sponsored walk she covered the mile to the cheers of a packed stadium, she was accompanied by Aston Villa manager Ron Saunders and players Garry Shaw and Kenny Swain.

Mary expected the maximum sum of £3,000 for her courageous walk and was thrilled when she collected the £6,500. A press reporter in Birmingham then received a cheque for £230 from an Irish Post reader in Birmingham who had done a marathon walk and raised this amount for charity, he was so overcome when he heard of Mary's walk he gave his £230 to the reporter to be added to the £6,500 Mary had collected. At a special presentation in St. Teresa's Centre, Perry Bar, Birmingham, Mary presented the £6,730 to Mr. Pat Porter, the National Secretary of the Trust and included in the large number of people at the presentation was Bishop John Cleary, Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham.

Athlone, and Tuam and indeed all of Westmeath are very proud of you Mary as also the Westmeath Association here in London.

### G.A.A

Ringtown Hurling Club travelled over for a long weekend recently to play the Essex based Thomas McCurtains for the magnificent Westmeath Association Trophy. They were met on arrival at Heathrow Airport by Sean McCauley who extended a Cead Mile Failte on behalf of the association and himself that was on the Friday Yours Truly travelled back to their hotel with them to make sure they were comfortable and spent a few hours discussing old times. On the Saturday the team did a full day's tour of London and on the Sunday they travelled to Dagenham for the match. Weather conditions were extremely bad with torrential rain falling from midday. The match was fixed for 3.30 p.m. But summer time ended the night before so there was some confusion. In the first half although Ringtown pressed for most of the time, they found a very solid McCurtain back line and an excellent goalkeeper. Ringtown made the mistake of going for goals and at half time they were behind by seven points. The score at this stage being 3 goals and 4 points to 4 points. On resumption Ringtown

(Continued on page 24).




AIR CONDITIONED HALLS FOR HIRE FOR  
SMALL, MEDIUM AND LARGE PARTIES

## THE GROSVENOR ROOMS

*G.P.*

**Banquet Catering**  
 For ● Weddings  
 ● Dinner Dances  
 ● Conferences  
 ● Parties  
 and all Social Events

Visit our Luxurious Banqueting Halls  
 or Phone for our Brochure  
 01 451 0066  
 Walm Lane, London, N.W.2  
 Private Car Park and Fully Licensed



**Go USSR**

**Go INTOURIST**

**Sun and  
Sea**

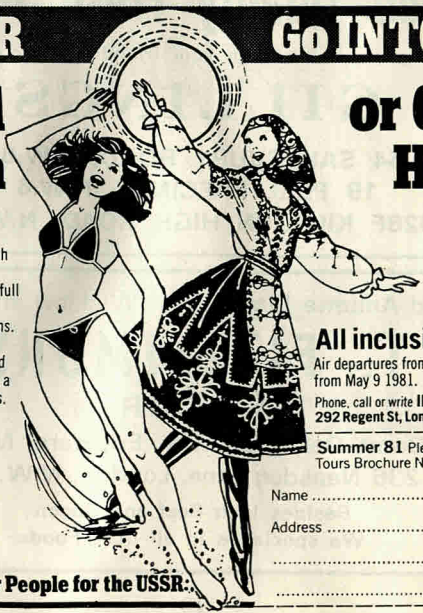
**or City  
Holidays**

Travel from coast to coast in the USSR on real value-for-money holidays at guaranteed prices with NO SURCHARGES. Choose from a fascinating choice of itineraries, full of interest and with many entertainment and cultural options. Send for the colourful and informative Intourist brochure and take a truly memorable holiday in a country that spans two continents.

**Traditional SUN and SEA holidays in wonderful scenic settings.**

**CITY TOURS including the White Nights Festival in Leningrad.**

**INTOURIST**  
**the International Tour People for the USSR.**



**FROM  
£210**

**All inclusive 8-15 day tours**

Air departures from LONDON and MANCHESTER from May 9 1981.

ABTA Member  
 Phone, call or write **INTOURIST MOSCOW LIMITED**  
 292 Regent St, London W1R 7PD Tel: 01-580 4974

**Summer 81** Please send me the Free Intourist Tours Brochure NOW!

Name .....

Address .....

.....

..... STMI

Peter and Teresa Fitzsimons (Wicklow)

## **JINKS**

**BUTCHERS**

2 PARK PARADE, HARLESDEN,  
LONDON, N.W.10

All Irish Food sold

## **QUINNS & SONS**

**BUTCHERS**

272 Chiswick High Road, London, W4  
26 Northfields Avenue, Ealing, W.13

and

7 Petersfield Rise, Alton Estate, Roehampton, S.W.15

Variety of Irish Foods Available

**QUINNS & SONS - BUTCHERS**

## **Good Quality Fresh Meat**

always available from your friendly local butcher

## **GILLINGS**

54 SALUSBURY ROAD, N.W.6.

19 PEEL PRECINCT, N.W.6

328F KILBURN HIGH ROAD, N.W.6

Tom and Annette Fitzsimons (Wicklow and Ruislip)

## **T. FITZSIMONS**

**BUTCHER**

187 Burnt Oak Broadway, Edgware, Middlesex  
236 Neasden Lane, London, N.W.10

Tel.  
952 1403

Besides Irish Beef and Bacon  
We specialise in all Irish Foods

Tel.  
450 7600



There are  
thousands of  
crystal clear  
reasons for  
being proud  
of Waterford.

aterford  
Crystal

**Irish Welfare Bureau** (continued from page 11).

failed my examination", and so on from a recent article on 'Hidden Talent' carried by the The Daily Telegraph. This dialogue between teacher requirements and skills of the jobs. During this process much latent talent was discovered, the girls became confident and were eager to return to school to acquire the qualifications and skills for their choice of job. "The class room stragglers became happy, confident young women and found education interesting and exciting", stated their class teacher.

My very sincere congratulations to Sr. De Lourdes and her staff on their courageous and invaluable venture. I wish them every success and sincerely hope that very soon many other schools will experiment with this 'experienced based learning'. There are religions in Ireland at this moment wondering how best they can co-operate with the Irish Chaplaincy Scheme in Britain. I suggest to these dedicated people that they co-operate in the introduction and the implementing of E.B.L. into the big city schools, particularly those in the poor and deprived areas. It is my strong opinion, that this application of learning to everyday life, will rapidly diminish and finally eradicate the 'no good at school' idea. Consequently the future young emigrant will be full of self-confidence and well equipped for his choice of occupation.

On various occasions I have questioned lads as to whether or not, during their Post Primary education they ever heard a talk or discussion on emigration. I am sad to state their replies were always in the negative. I am well aware that Fr. P. J. Byrne and his dedicated team do trojan work by way of advance preparation for intending emigrants, but my main worry is the youngsters who never heard of their work, never read church notices and who suddenly decide to set sail. These people must be helped. How? I have dealt with this serious topic in my previous report but alas! This year I make a special appeal to all the Bishops of Ireland to circularise headmistresses/headmasters and Spiritual Directors, insisting, that at least occasional talks on emigration be given to all classes. Surely every class has as least one who will emigrate. "Every single person . . . is the object of Christ's Redemptive love" (Pope John Paul II). What about The Good Shepherd leaving the 99?

Once again I wish to say a very sincere thank you to many people for their encouragement and support during the past four years—my Superiors, my Community in Midleton, those who helped each year with the sale of tickets for our Annual Bazaar, the members of The Irish Chaplaincy Scheme for their supportive friendship, Fr. B. Gilmore for his ceaseless efforts to 'bind us together' and his constant reminders of our majority priority—Evangelisation, the manager and staff of Charles House for their continued kindness. The lads join with me in thanking Fr. Lawlor and the Bureau staff for the continued co-operation. We congratulate them on the great work accomplished, in and through the Bureau, during the past decade.

Sr. Rosario.



The Directors and Staffs of  
McNicholas Construction (Holdings) Ltd.  
take great pleasure in wishing all their Friends and Associates

**HAPPINESS AND GOOD FORTUNE**

**FOR CHRISTMAS**

**AND THE COMING YEAR**



McNICHOLAS  
CONSTRUCTION  
COMPANY LTD

**Elstree Road, Elstree**  
**Hertfordshire, WD 6 3 EA**

Telephone 01 953 4144



Civil Engineering and Public Works Contractors since 1949

A Happy Christmas from:  
**JOHN FANNING, M.N.A.E.A.**

Estate Agent, Surveyor-Auctioneer and Valuer  
Please consult us for Properties in the London area

**JOHN FANNING & COMPANY**  
48 CRICKLEWOOD BROADWAY, LONDON, NW2  
Telephone 01 450 4688 and 450 3591

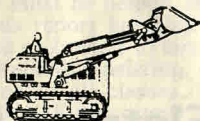
A Happy Christmas to you all from:

Gerry and Eva Keane (Mayo)

**THE WHITE LION**

290 HIGH STREET, ACTON, LONDON, W3

**P. MULKERRINS LIMITED**



---

**DEMOLITION & EXCAVATION**

---

Plot 16, Cardiff Road Industrial Estate, Watford, Herts.  
Tel. Watford 24960

**Kennedy's Irish Goods and Records**

(Mail Order)  
For all your Record and Tape Requirements

Claddagh Rings (Gold or Silver) Also on Necklets, Bracelets and Earrings,  
Aran Sweaters, Irish Coffee Goblets, Damask Table Cloths, Family Plaques,  
Many hundreds of souvenirs too numerous to list.

Send large S.A.E. for our free catalogue of Irish Goods, Records and Tapes to:

**KENNEDY'S RECORDS (M.O.)**

28 GEORGE STREET, LEEDS 2. Tel. (0924) 435604 or 822650

Visit our Shop at the LEEDS IRISH CENTRE, YORK ROAD, LEEDS, 9.  
Open: 8 to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday and all big show nights

**WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS**



## **M. J. CLANCY & SONS LTD.**

Civil Engineering Contractors

## **Clancy Developments Ltd.**

Building Contractors

## **Clancy Plant Hire Ltd.**

Plant Hire Specialists

## **R. E. Docwra Ltd.**

Public Works Contractors

## **Docwra Plant & Tool Co. Ltd.**

Plant Hire Contractors

## **Wembley Pipe Welding Co. Ltd.**

Specialised Welding

## **Callan Investments Ltd.**

Estate Developers

**CLARE HOUSE**

**COPPERMILL LANE, HAREFIELD**

**MIDDLESEX UB9 6HZ**

**Telephone: Harefield 3711**

**Westmeath Association** (continued from page 16).

changed tactics and although they had not the same territorial advantage as they had in the 1st half, they used every opportunity that came their way to score points. The last ten minutes of the match was very exciting as Ringtown had all the play in the McCurtains half and time ran out for them just as they looked as if they would win. The final score was McCurtains 3 goals and 8 points to Ringtown's 1 goal and 9 points. This was a very hard fought match and hard knocks were taken without any form of retaliation, in fact everyone present agreed that Ringtown players were a credit to their club, the Westmeath G.A.A. and the G.A.A. throughout Ireland for the manner in which they conducted themselves on and off the field. It was a pity "Andrias O" was not present to see the way Ringtown's manager Paddy Maxwell presented his team, if he was he would have awarded 100 marks for presentation to Paddy and his boys in green and gold.

Yours Truly presented the trophy to Jim Driscoll, the McCurtain captain. The Ringtown team were entertained to dinner and were later guests of McCurtains in the Tom Watson, recently opened night club, the Shannon Suite, Seven Kings, Essex, where they danced until the early hours of Monday morning.

During the course of the evening, Paddy Maxwell presented Sean McCauley with a tray and a large box which he said contained "chickens or fowl or some sort." He said it was Ringtown's way of saying thank you for arranging the weekend trip, which they all enjoyed very much. Sean Mc Cauley said, he never expected anything like a magnificent silver tray, the fowl or anything else as he was always available to help any G.A.A. club or any Westmeath person coming to London, and he considered it an honour to be asked. When I went home my wife gazed in amazement at the beautiful tray and on telling her to put the fowl in the freezer, she said no I must clean them first and on opening the box to clean the fowl out popped a beautiful set to match the tray of tea pot, coffee pot, sugar bowl and cream jug. The following morning I went to the hotel to thank Paddy and the boys for their magnificent but unnecessary gift. I travelled with the team to the airport to wish them godspeed on behalf of you all. I told them that we emigrants were very proud to have them for the weekend as indeed we have been to have had other clubs in the past such as: Raharney, Brownstown, Castletown, Geoghan and Athlone.

It only remains now for me to wish you all a very happy Christmas and prosperity in the New Year.

Sean McCauley, P.R.O.

A Happy Christmas from Jim and Eve O'Flaherty (Clare)

## **MASONS ARMS**

HIGH STREET, EDWARE, MIDDLESEX

TEL. 01 952 0730

Saturday Night is traditional night with Joe Cormican (Galway)

Sunday Nights: Jim Hogan and The Diplomats

Thursday Nights: Johnny Rafferty



# Dugsley Roofing



New Roofs, Roof Repairs,  
Guttering and General Property  
Maintenance



Telephone 01 992 7757



# Dugsley Roofing

# THE IRISH POST

The weekly newspaper of the Irish in Britain

Over 400,000 people in this country now read  
The Irish Post each week.  
It keeps them informed.

On sale throughout Britain every Thursday  
price 15p.

Also on sale in Ireland and U.S.A.

★

**The Irish Post, 2/4 The Broadway  
Southall, Middlesex**

UB1 1PR

Tel. 01 - 574 2058 3916/4914