

# *The Irish Counties Journal*

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NOVEMBER, 1984



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Press Officer: Christine Bonney. Tel. 01 521 4776



Committee:  
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Michael McMahon, John Moone, Bill Beswell, Tony Cullinan, Maura Davies.  
Hon. Auditors: John Corry and Andy Murphy.

Firstly I would like to thank all the Clare Youth who entered the two Youth Quizzes on the 14th and 21st October last and congratulate both teams on winning on both nights. Our two Youth Teams now go into the semi-finals. We are all very proud of them. A word of thanks also to all who came along to support the teams, it was certainly very encouraging.

### Chairman's Message.

As another year draws to a close the 26th in the life of the Clare Association, London, it gives me great pleasure to write a short note for inclusion in the Irish Counties Journal.

Firstly I would like to thank the officers, committee and members for their loyal support to me during this my 1st year as Chairman, I must also take this opportunity to apologise to my hardworking Vice-Chairperson, Mrs. Teresa Doyle who for some unknown reason has not appeared in the Journal in our list of officers—many apologies Teresa.

When I took office last February I did so in fear and trepidation of what lay ahead. Certainly I had a sleepless night or two and as I get nearer to our big weekend—the Annual Dinner on 17th November—I feel sure I will have some more. Still I have enjoyed this past year and I extend to all our fellow officers and friends in all the other County Associations early Christmas Greetings at this festive time and for all Clare people and our many friends. I wish to thank The Irish Post for all the publicity given to us during the year and our own Clare Champion especially the latter for the 200 copies of the paper to distribute to Clare folk at the Irish Festival last July.



Lastly I extend a very warm welcome to all our guests and friends attending our Annual Dinner on the 17th November, especially The Most Rev. Dr. Michael Harty, D.D., Bishop of Killaloe, our Patron—and delighted we are here in London that the Dublin vacancy holds no interest for him. Finally if this report seems disjointed I apologise, it was written at 6.30 a.m. on our departure yet again for Whitegate, Co. Clare, for a rest before our big weekend—the third time going over this year.

Joe Collins, Chairman.

### **Annual Dinner Dance, Saturday, 17th November, 1984.**

I've been assured that this months Journal will grace our tables for our big event of the year namely our Annual Dinner which will be held as usual at the Rainbow Rooms, Kensington. For those of you who are coming for the first time, here are the directions: Coming out of Kensington High Street tube, the first left and the Rainbow Rooms are immediately on your right. If you are coming to the Dinner by car the directions are the same, turn left after the tube and carry straight on where you will find a car park, which is open all night, a very short distance away. There is another car park adjacent to the Rainbow Rooms but unfortunately it closes early and as most of you normally leave in the early hours of the morning its better to go the other few hundred yards to make sure you have transport home. Don't be late, it's 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. and if you don't sit down on time you will have less time for your dancing and enjoyment. This music for dancing will be by McGinty and the Diddymen. Tickets are even cheaper this year at £13.50 available from Bridie Shaw, telephone 01. 254 4257, myself, any of the telephone numbers at the heading of this report, or your usual committee member.

### **West Clare Reunion.**

The West Clare Reunion which is a very popular function every year, will be held at the Irish Centre, Camden Town, on Thursday, 15th November also 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. The music for this function will be by The Springtimers and tickets can be had at the door on the night priced at £1.50p. Food will be available from the Centre's chef, at extra cost if you should feel you'd like a bite. Father Culligan (Kilkee) will be bringing a coach full of people from West Clare for this night, some of whom will be attending our Annual Dinner also. As usual Most Rev. Dr. Michael Harty will be in attendance at both of these functions. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Harty for the great interest he takes in our Association, he never misses our Annual Dinners or Reunions and is always at the other end of the telephone to assist if necessary, as is Fr. Donoghue.

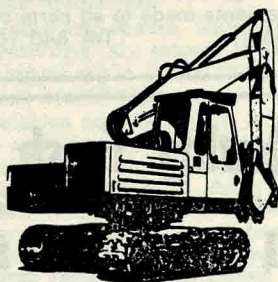
Please come along to both events, bring your friends and we will make it the best year ever.

God bless, regards to all.

Christine Bonney, P.R.O.

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Assistant Secretary:

Mrs. Una Pursey  
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P.R.O.: Mrs. B. Donohue, 154 Thornbury Road, Osterley, Middx.  
Tel. 01 560 7584

In the hope that we have this issue of the Journal on the tables for our Annual Dinner which takes place on Saturday, 10th November next, in the McNamara Hall, The Irish Centre, Camden Square, London NW1 9XB. Reception 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. Tickets £11 from the above.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our friends to our Annual Dinner, it's nice to see all our supporters exchanging pleasantries and dancing the night away, through them we are encouraged to carry on the work of the Association.

I hope to see our secretary, Maura, back from America in glowing health to enjoy the festivities. My sincere thanks to Maura for all the work she did on my behalf while I was away. How am I supposed to follow her, she writes so beautifully?

This year our Association has decided to devote all monies raised to aid multiple sclerosis and the purchase of a kidney dialysis machine. All donations thankfully received, while saying this I wish on behalf of the Cavan Association, London, to thank the people at home in Ireland, as well as here, who have always given so generously in the past for all our good causes. Lets all work together as a team and so make the name of Cavan a name to be remembered in this our 32nd year. We must of course remember the Cavan People who started our Association way back in 1952 and all the people who have worked in our name down those years—Some gone to their eternal rest and some who are still with us. They all gave generously of their time and talents to make our Association what it is today.

### The Boston Tea Party.

Our Boston Tea Party which was held on 30th September at the Irish Centre was a great success, so much so that we have booked the McNamara Hall already for the same function for 1985. Our thanks to Florrie Darcy and her son for all their help and of course to all the people who came and brought all those lovely cakes and biscuits and all the kind people who gave a hand with the washing up.

### New Association.

Congratulations to Luton, Beds. and Herts Cavan Association on holding their first Dinner Dance which was a huge success. A number of our members travelled from London to join them and had a wonderful time here's wishing them success in the future.

### Annual General Meeting.

The A.G.M. will be held on 9th December, 1984, time 3 p.m., the place The Irish Centre.

A speedy recovery to all the sick and our sympathy to all who have suffered bereavements during the past year. Brigid Donohue, P.R.O.

## Irish Heritage

Society for promoting Irish & Anglo-Irish Literature, Music & Drama

Patron: Miss FLORA DEACON

President: LIAM MARTIN

Vice-Presidents: ELIZABETH GREEN, DAVID PETRIE

Chairman: TOM DUNNE

Committee:

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Hon. Secretary:

ELIZABETH LE MESURIER, 32 The Grove, Finchley, London N3. Tel. 01-346 2726

Dear Friends,

You will be pleased to know the final ratings of our McCormack Centenary Concert last June. Thanks to your excellent support the evening was a worthwhile event, and thanks to generous sponsorship, we managed to cover costs. More important, however, the artistic success of the concert was evident from the beginning, and the artistes must be complimented on giving fine performances of a very demanding programme.

You will be interested to know that Mrs. Pyke, John's daughter, was particularly delighted, telling us, and writing afterwards to say that the programme so closely resembled her father's recitals as she remembered them. McCormack's latest biographer, Gordon Ledbetter, also wrote to congratulate us on 'putting forward such a fine and representative selection from the tenors repertoire,' adding that, 'It is extraordinary the extent to which the breadth of repertoire remains unknown to the public, even among lovers of singing. I feel sure that the concert will have enhanced an awareness of John McCormack's art, and also demonstrated what fine talent abounds in Ireland today.' Thank you for your many kind letters and telephone calls of appreciation; we are most grateful. It was a night with which we were all proud to have been associated.

I would now like to draw your attention to November, 18th, when we celebrate our tenth year of 'Irish Heritage.' Looking back it now seems almost incredible that we have managed to present so many high quality performances, in top musical venues, with no more than modest sponsorship, and no assests other than the enthusiasm, dedication and generosity of our helpers. In those years also, we have given you many fine young Irish artistes, several of whom have now joined the international and operatic circuits, bringing credit to our country.

You will remember our success at the Lyric last year; this year we hope for something even greater, when we shall give you songs and readings which you have requested again and again over the years. We shall again be introducing a new artiste, a young Dublin baritone, Joseph Corbett, already much acclaimed at home, and whom you will enjoy.

For this special evening however, we have no sponsorship, nor are we sharing costs with any other Society, so a full house is absolutely vital. Do invite your friends along, they will love it.

Again thank you from all of us for your splendid support through the past ten years. Looking back to our first performance, and remembering all the hard work along the way, we are quite satisfied that the whole idea of 'Irish Heritage' and all that it stands for has been well worth while, while the high artistic levels maintained, and all the good-will between our two communities those performances have engendered, have far surpassed anything we then thought possible to achieve.

We look forward to seeing you again, and welcoming you to the Lyric.

Sincerely yours,

Tommy Dunne, Chairman.





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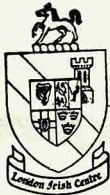
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## TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT 1983

### Foreword.

A Welfare Report, of its very nature, fits into the same category as a medical report. If we lived in an ideal world where "God is in heaven and all is well" there would not be any need for either one. This report is produced to help us better serve those who are in need in the Irish Community here in London.

Once again I must ask the reader to be mindful of the danger inherent in absorbing statistics, namely, to miss the point that each one represents a real person like each of us. Inevitably, not all who are helped find their way into our statistics. Recognition must be given to the incalculable work carried on within the social and cultural amenities provided at the Centre.

I record my sincere and heartfelt thanks to the dedicated staff at the Irish Centre and at our Hostels. This is extended to the vast numbers of genuine helpers who serve on committees and sub-committees and those who are not on any committee and who give of themselves in time and effort in supporting our services to the needy. Such work is a proof of the gift of Faith.

Beannacht Dé oraibh go léir.

Father Claude Malone, O.M.I., Director.

### Youth on the Move — The Rising Tide . . .

By comparison with other E.E.C. countries, Ireland tops the jobless queue and has the youngest population. As the recession and the depression deepens, "to take the boat" may be the only escape for many young people trapped in the treadmill of unemployment, casual jobs, unfinished apprenticeships, lay-offs, redundancies, or closures. Responses to these situations vary from anger, alienation, boredom, desperation,

(Continued on page 14.)



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Dublin 12.  
Tel. 0001. 553123

### **Secretary:**

Mrs. R. Davies,  
96 Glasgow House,  
Maida Vale,  
London W9  
Tel. 01.624 7394

**Chairman:** Mr. P. Casey

Somewhere back an item appeared in the Irish Post which read as follows—Geraldine Folk Group based in Kildare Town and which comprises: Irish Dancers, Musicians, Singers and Pipers is offering its services without fee to any Irish Community group in Britain which will cover its accommodation, meals and travel costs. The group is well travelled having performed in Holland, Sweden, France, Portugal, Germany and Bulgaria. If any Festival Committee or other such Irish Group in Britain is willing to offer us free accommodation and meals, we will be pleased to hear from them. The group's spokesman is Martin Dempsey, 40 Melitta Park, Kildare.

It might be of interest to the Festival Committee for the Irish Festival at Roundwood Park, 1985. I'm sure they would be well worth considering, as Kildare folk would surely like to see them in London. At this moment in time our Association are unable to help due to lack of funds, but if and when we are in a position to do so we will most certainly be in contact with the organiser.

The Association plans a series of events for 1985. We do need more members to help us with these plans, so we are working hard to gather some more into the fold.

We appeal again to other County Associations who know any Kildare people to do their best in encouraging them to join us.

### **New Association.**

Our brothers and sisters in the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire area will hopefully have started a Kildare Association in that area by the time you read this. Perhaps they could travel to meet us here in London for a function and we could do likewise. Let me know your reactions. We might find some long lost friends or neighbours. The people trying to get things started are based at Luton and they are Pat Hoare, Tel.: Luton 25952 and May Hoare on Luton 594814.

## London Irish Festival Stewards Dinner

On Thursday, 18th October last the McNamara Hall at The Irish Centre was full to capacity with familiar faces attending the best function of the year the Stewards Dinner Party. What a wonderful meal beautifully served. The Centre staff had to cope with about 60 more than had booked in and they did it admirably. Florrie and her team work so well without any complaints. It's lovely to see such harmony and all smiling faces. We missed Bob Daly this year to do the write-up so the best I've got time for is to give you the Chief Steward's Speech which he had written out—it tells you everything.

### **Michael Sills' Speech to the Annual Stewards Dinner.**

Mr. Chairman, Rev. Fathers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure, as Chief Steward of the London Festival to welcome such a large and distinguished gathering of people here tonight, for the Stewards' Buffet and Dance. It is the Festival Committee's way of expressing a token of gratitude to the County Associations and other organisations who contributed so much to the stewarding and with various other duties at this years London Irish Festival.

You will no doubt have heard by now that this years Festival boosted the largest attendance ever, and was a very enjoyable, peaceful and successful day and it is to you dear people here tonight, the stewards and other helpers that a lions share of the credit must be given for the dedication, enthusiasm and effort you put into ensuring that the Festival ran in such a smooth peaceful and troublefree manner, and it is a credit to us Irish here in London, that we can organise such a large event that has an attendance of over 80,000 people and yet runs trouble free, with very little or if any, police involvement required. Yet if one attended the Brent Show this year, where there was a small attendance, there was violence and Police were to be seen in force and again across the Irish Sea one had violence at the Pop Concert in Slane. The point I am making is that the press, local and national, apart from the Irish Post who must be complimented on the fine coverage they gave us before and after this years Festival, see fit to give us very little coverage and credit for a day that has become a second National Festivity day for the Irish in Britain and yet I am sure if there was the slightest hint of violence ever to occur the same press would give the Festival front page headlines. Ladies and gentlemen to me Roundwood Park first Sunday of July is the place where the greatest show on earth takes place.



One must welcome here tonight representatives of the carriers who contribute to the sponsorship of the Festival. Also all my fellow Festival committee workers who put so many hours of hard work and I might add sleepless nights in preparing for the Festival, they deserve a big thank you. To the Chairman of that committee Mr. Jim Troy, you are indeed welcome. We are glad Jim is back to full health again and I will be pardoned if I single out Jim as the man that has contributed so much hard work to making the Festival what it is today. There is one area vital to all our stewards and helpers which I must not forget to mention that is our refreshments bar. To Len Neeves and staff, and that wonderful lady Alice (Len's neice), who worked so hard making sandwiches, serving teas throughout the day, many thanks for a job well done.

Now one must turn to my partner in crime, if you will pardon the expression, Mr. John Connolly, Assistant Chief Steward, and thank him for all the assistance and help he has given me over the last three years. He has contributed a lot but has taken little credit, and I assure you one could not work with a nicer person.

One must welcome here tonight our Band for the evening Kathleen Devereux and Silver Wings and many thanks for appearing at the Festival, also our Guest artistes Brendan Blake and Kevin Pendergast.

To Fr. Malone, Florrie Darcy and staff of The Irish Centre, many thanks for an excellent meal. Sorry if we caused you any confusion.

Before I conclude I want to make a special announcement. You may have heard about the building site tragedy in London in which two young Clare men were killed, there is a collection tonight for this cause, please give generously.

I am sure you will all join with me in expressing a vote of sympathy with Seamus Troy, Chairman of the Council of Irish County Associations and his family on the death of his mother during the week. R.I.P.

In conclusion let me thank each and everyone for coming along tonight. Thanking you for your support to both John and myself. Looking forward to your continued co-operation in the future. Hope you enjoy the rest of the evening and remember please support the raffle.

Thank you very much.

Michael Sills.

**Irish Centre** (continued from page 8).

hopelessness and ultimately apathy and indifference. The significant increase in new arrivals to our centre in the latter half of 1983, may be signalling an about turn in emigration.

In a competitive labour market, flooded with unqualified young people, various youth training programmes, offered to Irish school leavers, seem little more than a placebo to the tax-payer. Courses of six weeks or six months in carpentry, welding or whatever, offer no foothold in today's world of skilled tradesmen, who are themselves fighting for survival. Surely better the adequate training of the few than the ineffectual occupation of the many. London has always been buoyant with a diversity of economic activities, but that seems no longer so, and confronted on arrival with prospects little better than at home, many are prepared to do just "anything"—but anything is currently hard to get.

There are two fairly distinct groups of young Irish people who approach us at the Centre. Firstly, there are those who come prepared—they may not have training or a whole lot of education, but they usually have a little money, they know where they want to go and just need some help getting there. Once settled in accommodation and work, they are on their way. Finbarr, aged 22, unskilled had been unemployed two years in Ireland and on arrival accepted a labouring job. The work was heavy and not overpaid, but he persisted. After four months of conscientious work and good timekeeping, he was made a ganger, and received an appropriate pay increase.

The other groups are those who drift into London, with no money, no plans, no belongings, no identification. Some claim they were "ripped off" on the boat. They gravitate, usually in small groups, to the City centre, with its' bright lights and rowdy or bawdy night life. They have cast off the harness of home and look forward to "enjoying" life. Sean 18 years and Pat 19 years, having paid for one night's bed and breakfast were destitute, but were surprised when asked to leave.

... "We would have paid when we got work." Accommodation however was secured for them and they "signed on." Allowing a few days for adjustment and orientation, they were found work, within walking distance of their accommodation. They arrived late the first morning, worked until noon and walked off the job. They were unwilling to work for £100 per week. Next day they returned looking for food and work.

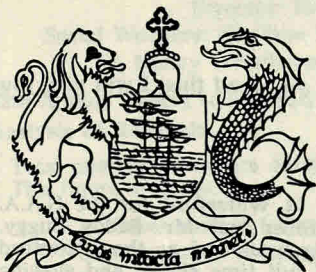
In London we depend by and large, on the settled Irish community for work and accommodation for the newly arrived. The polarisation of these two groups is evident. The men and women who made their careers and built their homes through hard work are intolerant of bad time keeping, casual attitudes to work, dyed hair, ear rings and tattoos.

If the Irish economy cannot absorb its' work force, then the system must change, to combine education for responsible emigration with pre and post school training, of a calibre which will withstand competitiveness.

Observation and statistics indicate, that for the present at least the tide of emigration seems to have turned and the outward flow has started in earnest. If this trend continues our resources, already stretched to the limits, could reach a point of crisis, with so many young people coming totally unprepared and unable to maintain themselves even for a few days.



## The Waterford Association, London



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**Tel. 359 5994.**

**Press Officer: Mrs. Jane T. Smyth, 6 Parkfield Gardens, Harrow, Middlesex HA2 6JR.**  
**Tel. 01 427 9721**

Monday, 22nd October saw the opening of the new Bridge in our native City, named Brother Edmond Ignatius Rice Bridge. The opening ceremony was performed by Mr. Liam Kavanagh, T.D., Minister of the Environment, the long awaited new bridge was not before time as the old Redmond bridge was so dangerous with all the TIR traffic going over it every day one could envisage a catastrophe as the old bridge was built for horses and carts. Now we have the safety of the new bridge we will still have traffic jams into and from Ferrybank and Sallypark, until the new highway which is now in progress is completed. The new highway which will cost nigh on £2m will be a dual carriageway from the Ardree Hotel up to the Sacred Heart Convent in Ferrybank which is the Waterford City boundary. The Kilkenny County Council takes over from here and work has started we believe on a Slieverue by-pass. All this will connect up with the new bridge eventually. There are some changes in Waterford and for people who have not been home recently the charges are vast.

Talking about the new bridge reminds me of our connections with Wexford. Long ago the Waterford people used to say the Wexford (Yellow Bellies) all came over the bridge and never went back, my own mother and father were guilty of this and were often heard to say, "I can guarantee my colour is no different to theirs." (Ha! Ha!) While I am proud to be a Waterfordian myself I can assure you that the happiest days of my youth were spent running through the fields of County Wexford.

Another great improvement to keep us in touch with Wexford is of course the great 'Roll-on, Roll-off' ferry from Passage. My father used to take me and our bicycles on Patsy Barron's rowing boat. Patsy would always ask the family how Janie was, Janie was his old girl friend and my mother. The family are often heard to remark these days as they cross the new great ferry, Mammy and Patsy Barron would be enthralled to see us crossing in our cars to make the journey that much shorter between Waterford and Wexford. It of course makes it that bit easier when catching the boat back to this country. There are so many



changes for the better that those of you who have not been to Waterford for some years would be very surprised and delighted. So hurry home for a visit or you won't know your way around. A perfect time at the moment with such cheap fares about for a visit home.

#### **Annual Banquet.**

Our Annual Dinner will be over when you read this, I will give you an account of it in the next issue.

#### **G.A.A. Centenary.**

Lots of celebrations are taking place in Waterford for the G.A.A. Centenary year. On 13th and 14th October last Mr. Paddy Buggy, President of the G.A.A. hosted a golfing week-end at the Waterford Golf Course. The competitions produced full time sheets and glowing tributes were paid to Paddy Buggy and the Gaelic Athletic Association at an Irish Night held in the club house to conclude the week-end and present the prizes.

#### **The Fraher Memorial.**

Continuing on the G.A.A. Mr. Buggy unveiled a memorial to that great Dungarvan man Dan Fraher on 27th October as we go to press. The memorial is being blessed by our Patron who is also Patron of the G.A.A. in Waterford namely Dr. Michael Russell Bishop of Waterford. An open air Mass will follow the unveiling at Cnoc Bui, Sliabh GCUA, where Dan Fraher is buried. Dan was a young man when the G.A.A. was founded. Mr. Fraher excelled in running, jumping, weight throwing, vaulting, wrestling, hurling and football. Dan was also a gaelic speaker, he purchased the Gaelic Field in Dungarvan for the games. He was a great administrator and a vital force in the emergence of the Gaelic Athletic Association. I expect he was the idol of our former Chairman, Willie Barron, also a Dungarvan man and a great Munster and All Ireland Hurler in his day.

#### **Annual Raffle.**

I hope our members did not push the Annual Raffle Tickets to one side hoping for some miracle sale when December comes. The prizes are quite good, 1st £100; 2nd B+I Voucher for a car and two passengers return trip to Ireland; 3rd Waterford Glass; 4th Specially designed Tea Set. A chance of all these for 10p per ticket or 50p for a book of six. Please get the dust off and sell them before 1st December.

#### **Christmas Dinner.**

Our Christmas Dinner is taking place early this year, Saturday, 8th December, it will consist of Bacon and Cabbage (main course) with all the trimmings. The place, The Irish Centre, Camden Town. The above raffle draw will be held at this dinner. So do come along and enjoy yourselves and perhaps go home with a valuable prize.

See you all on the 8th December. P.G.

Jane T. Smyth, (Mrs.), Press Officer.

## The Irish Welfare Bureau

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

Telephone 01 741 0466.

Director: Rev. Fr. Brian Lawlor.

Social Workers: Sr. Jane Francis and Sr. Carmel McGowan,

Sr. Nancy O'Sullivan, Kay Mazur, Chris Willison.

### 13th Annual Report (continued from last issue).

#### Analysis of Referrals.

Total number of callers dealt with in 1983: 6,263.

This figure includes.

A. Cases carried forward from previous years	768
B. New Cases referred in 1983 .....	679
C. Repeat callers .....	4,816
	6,263

#### This case load entailed:

	1981	1982	1983
Domiciliary Visits .....	232	225	460
Hospital Visits .....	134	115	130
Prison Visits .....	25	20	21
Supportive Appearances in Court ...	1	1	3
Escorts to Trains, etc. ....	12	4	14
Ongoing Supportive Work .....	469	484	470
Number Repatriated .....	8	7	9
Number of Burials .....	2	4	6
Telephone Enquiries .....	2,105	2,025	2,495
Interviews in Bureau .....	4,436	5,488	6,263

#### Types of Problems:

	1983
Accommodation .....	533
Material .....	3,025
Meal Vouchers .....	2,735
Financial .....	532
Advice & Information .....	526
Psychiatric .....	54
Birth Certificates from Ireland .....	42
Bus Tickets .....	124
Groceries .....	81
Application for Repatriation .....	14
General Welfare .....	48

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London N3 1QL  
01 346 2726

Lyric Theatre,  
Hammersmith,  
London W6 0OL  
01 741 0824



## **London Wexford Association**

**Life President: Mr. Jim Murphy**

**Life Vice-Presidents: Mr. Dick Gaul and Mr. Martin Whitty.**

**President: Rev. Fr. Michael Funge.**

**Chairman:**  
Mr. Michael Sills  
(01 452 3443)

**Vice-Chairman:**  
Mr. Pat Clegg  
(01 388 0172)

**Secretary:**  
Mrs. Kitty Watson  
(01 965 6045)

**Treasurer:**  
Mr. Martin Kirwan  
**Assist. Treasurer:**  
Mr. Phil Roche  
(01 459 2617)

**Vice-President:**  
Mr. Tom Bailey

**Registrar:**  
Mr. Peter Fitzpatrick  
(01 965 4420)

**Youth Officer:**  
Miss Ann-Marie Kirwan

Dear Members,

May I at this point thank all our members and friends who have supported our functions and events throughout a very successful year. We look forward to your continued support of the Association in the years ahead. You may not be aware that this year the Association celebrates the 30th Anniversary of its foundation. This event we intend to celebrate in grand style at our function which is our Annual Dinner and Dance to be held in the McNamara Hall, The Irish Centre, Camden Town NW1 on Saturday, 17th November, 1984. We are honoured to have as guest of honour the Mayor of Wexford Councillor Kevin Morris and the new Bishop of Ferns, Dr. Brendan Comiskey. Other guests are our President Rev. Fr. Michael Funge. The Mayor of Camden Councillor Barbara Hughes. This year dinner will have roast beef as main course. Dancing till 1 a.m. Music again supplied by that popular band Kathleen Deveraux and Silver Wings. A coach, if necessary, will be provided for patrons, with pick up points at The Spotted Dog, Willesden, The Crown Cricklewood and Quex Road, Kilburn. It is also hoped a representative of the People Newspaper will travel over to cover this function. Tickets are now on sale priced £10 each and are available from either Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer or any committee member.

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

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will take place in St. Agnes School Hall, Cricklewood Lane on Sunday, 2nd December, 1984. Starting at 3 p.m.

### **Children's Xmas Party.**

Parents are now reminded to send in the names of their children who wish to attend this years party which takes place at the Spotted Dog Willesden NW10 on Sunday, 16th December, 1984. Starting at 3 p.m.

### **Darts League.**

Entry forms are now available for teams wishing to enter into the Associations 1985 Darts League. Closing date for entries Monday, 12th November. League to commence on Monday, 26th. Forms can be obtained from Chairman Michael Sills or Sean Diviney of the Prince of Wales. The Association wishes to thank Sean for donating the new League Cup and for all his assistance during the year, and to Brendan Brennan for donating the Pat Keating Memorial Cup to honour the memory of a great Wexford man, who was a generous benefactor to our Association, in particular the Darts Section, who died earlier this year. We are indebted to his wife Mary and family for allowing us to organise the Pat Keating Eights Knockout Competition. The high esteem in which Pat was held in the Kilburn area was reflected by the huge attendance which came along to the Prince of Wales on Monday, 8th October to witness the semi-finals and finals of the competition with the B.R.S.A. Club Cricklewood beating the Marlborough Kilburn in the final. Afterwards the cup and trophies were presented to the winning teams by Mrs. Mary Keating. Mrs. Kitty Watson, Secretary of the Association presented a bouquet of flowers to Mary as an appreciation of gratitude.

### **Quiz.**

On going to press the association were still in the Council of Irish Counties Senior and Junior Quiz Competition. The Senior team will have played Carlow in the second round on Wednesday, 31st October. The Juniors 'B' team will have played Waterford on Sunday, 14th October and the 'A' team will have played Donegal on Sunday, 21st October. The Association intends organising a Quiz League to be run from the Prince of Wales, Willesden Lane on Wednesday nights during the winter months. Clubs and Associations are welcome to enter a team in the competition. We also invite members of the Association who wish to form a team. The team will consist of five players. Mr. Sean Diviney is donating a cup for the competition. More sponsorship would be most welcome. For more details contact Chairman Michael Sills.

### **London Irish Festival.**

This years London Irish Festival was the best ever with an attendance of over eighty thousand people. We would like to thank all the people who helped on our stall and the people who visited it. The London Wexford Mummies who gave a display of mumming and carried our banner and marched in the parade. We would like to place on record our sincere thanks to Mr. Billy Ringwood and Theresa his wife, Wexford County Development Officer, who once again had a display of Wexford goods and handicrafts at our stall and of course, Mr. Noel Dillon and Wexford County Council for allowing Billy the time to come over.

We wish a speedy recovery to our Life President, Mr. Jim Murphy, who suffered an accident recently and to any other member who may be ill at this time.

Michael Sills, Chairman. 01. 452 3443



# PRIESTHOOD?

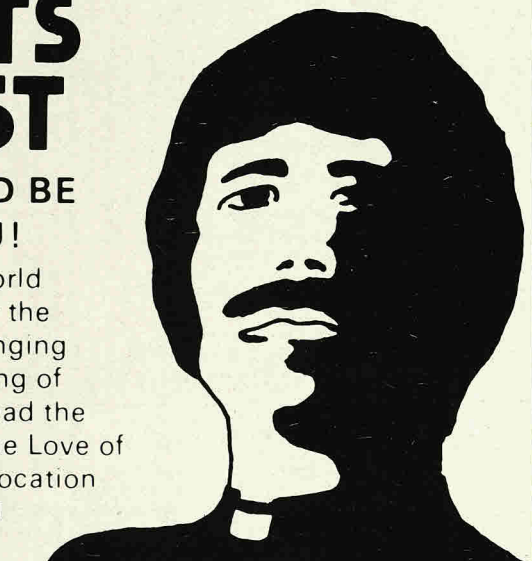
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