

*The Irish  
Counties Journal*

*Christmas 1987*





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and  
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Jane, Wally and Elizabeth*





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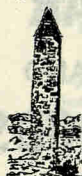
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**President:** Mr. John Cleary.

**Chairman:** Mr. H. McCormack. Tel. 01 387 8604

**Vice-Chairman:** Mr. John Connolly.

**Treasurer:** Mr. F. Corrigan.

**Secretary:** Mrs. Mary McCormack, 29 Platt Street, London NW1 1RP

Our A.G.M. was held at The Irish Centre, Camden Town NW1 on Thursday, 22nd October. Officers and committee remain unchanged. Our Chairman Hugh McCormack, thanked everyone for their confidence and support over the years. He said although the Association is small a lot of work gets done. This was evident also at the Irish Festival at Roundwood Park, where all our committee members helped wherever they were needed. Our stall was well stocked as usual, with home made products. Belleek China, Parion Ware, Linen, souvenirs and home baking. Our parade girls looked very nice as usual in our County colours. Our visitors from home and elsewhere were amazed by the splendid overall organisation and the support — 99,000 people all enjoying a fine day out in glorious sunshine.

All our committee have been to Ireland this year on holidays. Speaking for myself (yours truly) Hugh and I had a great time. First, with a stay at Melfast and County Down and around the lovely Strangford Lough area, and then on to Inonea and Enniskillen. We visited Bundoren, Belleek Potteries, Denygonnelly, Lisnaskea and Newtownbutler areas, where we visited our families and friends. Our daughter Betty and son-in-law Brian McCabe and the two children. Thomas and Liam enjoyed fishing on Lough Erne and the many inland lakes there. A visit to the Marble Arch Caves was very interesting and also driving along the scenic views. We were lucky with good weather. The holiday helped Hugh a lot after his operation.

When we came back we had a pleasant surprise party organised by our two daughters, Betty and Maura and their husbands Brian and Robert to celebrate our Ruby Wedding Anniversary. It was nice to see all our old friends together on this occasion, and all the lovely presents, Mass Novena's and cards — all unexpected. Our Association presented Hugh and I with a Waterford Crystal Glass set. All these are treasured memories.

Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Greene, our long-standing members also celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary in August this year. We wish them many more years of happiness together.

Our next function and get-together is our Annual Dinner and Dance at the Grosvenor Rooms, Willesden Green, NW10 on Saturday, December 5th. Please note the date and try to be with us on this enjoyable occasion. We hope to have with us Fr. Dermot Tredget, ordained earlier this year and is now at Douai Abbey, Reading, Berkshire. Fr. Dermot is a former member of our Association. Please telephone me for details and tickets on 01 387 8604.

Finally, in this season of Advent we wish all our readers and friends everywhere a very Happy Christmas and a bright New Year.

God bless, Mary McCormack — Hon. Sec.

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President: Mr. Richie Norton.

Chairman: Mr. C. Kervey.

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Assistant Secretary: Mr. W. Stenson.

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Treasurer: Mrs. T. Curran.

Tel. 01 672 7809

Assistant Treasurer: Mrs. D. Kennedy.

Tel. 01 672 5263

P.R.O.: Mr. Pat Looney

Tel. 01 672 0888

The year 1987 is almost at an end. It was a good year for the Association, both the supper and dinner dance were a great success. Thanks to the wonderful food supplied by the Management of The Irish Centre, Camden Town. The prizes donated by many firms and banks and a beautiful engraved map presented to us by The Westmeath County Council Mullingar. Added to this was the many enquiries we had from potential members and the number of people who joined us during the year. It gives us the strength and encouragement to carry out the good work we have done for the twenty two years. We need many more of you so come along to our monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of every month at the Bull's Head, Clapham Common, Old Town SW4 and join us in this way we can be a great association. We can plan new ideas and functions for the year 1988, and be proud to say that we are from County Westmeath.

The map of the County has now been presented to the committee of St. Boniface Social Club, Mitcham Road, Tooting, in memory of all our deceased members and our Late President Fr. Pat Fitzsimons, Clonmellow who was also P.P. of St. Boniface Church from 1973 to 1984.

The annual Mass is held every year in St. Boniface. This year it was on Friday, 23rd October and the presentation was held after Mass in the new functions room kindly loaned to us by the Club committee. Glad to see so many attending. I was very pleased to see my old friend Father Seamus Hetherton say the Mass for us, assisted by our own P.P. Father Paddy Murtagh, Tubbr Curry, County Sligo. My grateful thanks to you both. Thanks too to Chairman John O'Sullivan and the Social club committee (all of whom turned up) for the facilities given to us on this special occasion. I would like to add that despite attending another function on that day both Fathers Hetherton and Murtagh did not fail us on this important night. This night cannot be concluded without a special mention and thanks to my old friend for many years John Armstrong. John and his good wife Lil always attend our functions despite being very busy. He is the Chairman of the Longford Association in London. A Knight of St. Columba and Secretary/Treasurer to various organisations throughout London. John Armstrong is a great son of Longford.

Our Annual Supper was on Friday, 27th November in the New McNamara Hall, The Irish Centre, Camden Town. A report in the next issue.

As this is my last report before Christmas May I, on behalf of the committee, thank all our people for your support throughout the year. Please keep up the good work and make a New Year promise to strengthen the association in 1988.

(Continued on Page 16)

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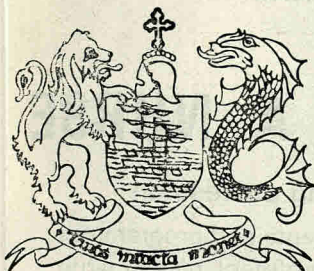
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## The Waterford Association, London



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Vice-Chairperson: Mrs. Kitty Groves  
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Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Mary Allen, 10 Ashmore,  
Agar Grove, London NW1 9SL Tel. 01 267 8100

Asst. Hon. Sec.: Mr. Bill Aulsberry,  
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Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Sharon Whitehead,  
46 Stoneleigh Terrace, Raydon St.,  
London N19. Tel. 01 359 5994

Membership Secretary: Kieran Kiely

The Association has been busy with organising the Dunhill G.A.A. Club's event. A coach load of fifty travelled to London on October 23rd. Friday and Saturday were spent shopping and sightseeing. On Sunday we had Mass in the Irish Centre for the team and supporters which was celebrated by Fr. Joseph Flynn who travelled with the party. After Mass it was off to Hackney to play Cuchulainus. Unfortunately the visitors lost. After the match it was back to the Irish Centre for a Bacon and Cabbage Supper and presentation of prizes as a memento of the visit. Mr. Tom Coffey of Cuchulainus presented Tom Casey the Dunhill Captain with a beautiful trophy to commemorate the trip. Everyone was loud in their praise of the weekend and hopefully this will now be an Annual event.

It is difficult to get back into the swing of things after the summer and to realise we are now running up to the Christmas preparations.

The holidays in Waterford this year were relaxing and lazy, we visited all over, old friends and what relations we have left. Our Mayor Councillor David Daniels invited us to City Hall on a Saturday morning for an informal chat and refreshments, we very much enjoyed the time spent with him. We also spent some time in Dungarvan with our friends in the County Council. Maurice McHugh and Brian McNally. I am sure its because we are getting older but each time we go home now Ireland seems more beautiful and precious to us.

We wish a speedy recovery to Karl Wade, presently in hospital at Harefield. Karl has had a heart and lung transplant. We remember him in our prayers and at Mass. To Dan McManus of the Fermanagh Association we say get well soon Dan.

### Annual Dinner Dance.

Our annual dinner dance took place on 14th November, at the Irish Centre, Camden Town. It was our most successful yet. Everyone enjoyed themselves, and nothing but praise was heard all evening. The food was excellent, well done again the Irish Centre. Caroline and Spectrum were the band and entertained all age groups with a variety of music all night long.

Chief guests were the Mayor and Mayoress of Camden and the Mayor and Mayoress of Waterford. The Mayor and Mayoress of Camden received members of Waterford Corporation and County Council officials at the Town Hall prior to the dinner, where an exchange of gifts took place.

Mr. Kevin Hall, representing Waterford Crystal, during the evening presented Mr. Paddy Stafford with a beautiful trophy. Paddy was the

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## London Wexford Association

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<b>Vice-Chairman:</b> Mr. Pat Clegg (01 388 0172)	<b>Treasurer:</b> Mr. Martin Kirwan <b>Assist. Treasurer:</b> Mr. Phil Roche (01 459 2617)	<b>Youth Officer:</b> Miss Ann-Marie Kirwan

Dear Members,

### The Late Mickey Connors.

It came with great sadness and shock to all in our Association and the Fr. Murphy's G.A.A. Club to learn of the sudden death of Mickey Connors, who collapsed and died playing in a hurling match in Oxford for the Fr. Murphy's last July. Mickey was a hard working committee member of the Association, involved with the stewarding of the London Festival, our Yacht Club and the Darts League. His most outstanding contribution however was the service he gave to his most beloved Fr. Murphy's G.A.A. Club over the last twenty years as a player and a committee man. One has many fond memories spent in his company, for he was, without doubt, a great Wexford character. Full of wit, full of sport and a fair and generous man, the first to support any worthy cause particularly any Wexford cause. Mickey loved nothing better than to discuss hurling or football with visiting teams from his native county, or with his friends over a pint in the Prince of Wales, or the occasional Wexford sing-song, his favourite being the 'Boys of Wexford'. To his wife Theresa and children and to all the Connors family goes our deepest sympathy. May he rest in peace.

The Association in conjunction with the Fr. Murphy's Club held a benefit dance in aid of his wife and six children at the National Kilburn High Road on Friday, 23rd October last. This was an outstanding success.

This year's annual dance took place in the Grosvenor Rooms, Willesden on Saturday, 21st November last. A report in the next issue of the Journal.

### Jumble Sale.

A jumble sale took place in St. Agnes School Hall, Cricklewood Lane on Saturday, 28th November, the proceeds of which were in aid of funds for our children's Christmas party. Date will appear in local papers when party will take place.

### Wexford London Link.

A Wexford/London Link steering committee has been formed with guidance from the Association to discuss possible ways to help recently arrived immigrants to London. The Chairperson is Miss Monica McClean (624 5816), Secretary Emma Carley (0753 73244) and P.R.O. Mary Furlong (361 4576). If interested please make contact.

### Fond Farewell.

We say fond farewell to our President Fr. Michael Funge, who will be leaving London shortly to take up clerical teaching duties in St. Peter's College, Wexford. Many thanks for your valued contribution to the Association during your stay in London Michael — London loss, Wexford gain.

(Continued on Page 16)



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### Chairman:

Mr. Joe Collins  
91 Wymering Mansions,  
Wymering Road,  
London W9  
Tel. 01 286 1640

### Secretary:

Mrs. Bridie Shaw  
351 Amhurst Road,  
Stoke Newington,  
London N.16  
Tel. 01 254 4257

### Treasurer:

Miss Nancy Bonney,  
57 Alexandra Road,  
Walthamstow E.17  
Tel. 01 - 521 4776

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Tommy Egan. Tel. 01 739 3865

Press Officer: Maura Davis 01 748 7910



### Committee:

Christine Bonney, Jim Commane, Michael McMahon, Pat Costello, Jim Long,  
Susan Meaney, Tony Cullinan, Bill Boswell, Una Stevens, Philomena Egan,  
Mary McNamara.

Hon. Auditors: John Corry & Andy Murphy.

On Saturday, 3rd October, we had our second Bacon and Cabbage Supper of the year at the Irish Centre, Camden Town. The numbers were somewhat smaller than usual but still all had a very enjoyable evening. By the time the Journal is in print we will have had our reunion at the Irish Centre on 12th November.

As we come to the end of 1987 we look on to 1988, not as far away as you would like to think and draw your attention to our Annual General Meeting which will be held at the Irish Centre, Camden Town on January 24th (Sunday). This year we need to see as many Clare people as possible. You must remember the A.G.M. is your chance to have a say in who and how the Clare Association is run and also about our successes and failures in 1987. Unfortunately membership has dwindled slightly in 1987 as with many other counties, this saddens us all especially as Clare has always been a very strongly supported county association. Let's hope this is just a temporary situation and with your help the Clare Association will be as strong as ever from now on. The A.G.M. is also a chance for members of the Association to join the executive committee of 1988. At the A.G.M. next year we will remember Mr. Tony Cullinan a very hard working member of our executive committee who sadly died this year after a long illness. We will have a special Mass in his memory after our meeting.

(Report of the Annual Meeting will appear in the next issue)

On behalf of the Clare Association Executive committee I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Christine Bonney.

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## ANNUAL REPORT 1986

The Annual Report of 1984 and 1985 indicated a new wave of emigration, particularly to London. The Report of 1986 confirms these findings and indicates that the numbers leaving the country are steadily increasing. This has resulted in an upsurge in the numbers of people coming for help to the Centre and has greatly increased the demands on the service to the extent of over-burdening it.

The reduction in the cost of transport had made London even more accessible and attractive. While new arrivals may not believe that the streets are paved with gold, London is still more appealing than an existence of despair 'on the dole' in Ireland.

The majority of callers at the Centre are single and under 25, usually in London for the first time. They generally call within a week of arrival.

Predominately they have no qualifications and have not received any formal training.

A total of 2,443 new callers were seen at the Centre in 1986, an overall increase of 14%. There were an additional 3,137 interviews of new and old clients who returned to the Centre after their first visit. This represented a 10% increase in additional interviews.

It is to be remembered that each of these callers is not simply a statistic but an Irish person in distress, seeking accommodation, advice on employment, or perhaps help with obtaining a birth certificate. Some come hoping to get a sympathetic hearing about their problems in trying to adjust to life in London.

Many did not want to leave Ireland but saw 'London' as their only hope of survival. Ireland's gloomy economy offered them little, except perhaps another training course. London represented the chance to 'Eat the Peach', i.e. take the risk that it would offer a more attractive lifestyle. Misleading reports reaching Ireland of the possibility of an exciting life for young people, supported by the media, encouraged people to leave. This had the unfortunate effect of discouraging many desperate young people from making forward planning for work and accommodation. The outcome was great disillusionment, hardship and suffering, when they were confronted with the realities of life in London.

## **The Irish Association of the Costa Del Sol and Associates**

A very Happy Christmas to each and every one of you from all of us here on Spain's sunny coast. The lovely clear blue sky and the constant sun are still a wonder to yours truly after nearly two years of residency.

At the present moment we are preparing for an outing to Gibraltar to visit our relations on the Rock, ha! ha! We have been for a trip to Mijas — a beautiful Spanish Village in the mountains with spectacular views on the way up.

### **Festival.**

How to describe the Festival for the Feast of San Miguel (St. Michael The Archangel) is beyond me, but I will try. For a week before the Feast Day there is dancing in the streets and Plazas of Torremolinos, especially called San Miguel, with the beautiful young and old ladies, even babes in arms dressed in gypsy costumes, something to dazzle the eye, one costume more beautiful than the next. As my brother-in-law remarked if they made a ten hour movie of it they would only give you a glimpse of the splendour of it all. There were two processions, one the week previous to the Feast Day and the other one culminating at the Church of San Miguel on the Feast Day. Before the procession commenced there were various services starting with Mass at 12.30 p.m. Later the Blessing of the Coral (The Church of San Miguel is only a few steps away from the sea). Then the beautiful ceremony of the presentation of flowers to San Miguel. Your eyes would play tricks on you with the procession of thousands of children with beautiful bouquets of flowers coming through Calle San Miguel all afternoon and evening until the final procession which took place at 9 p.m. The statue of San Miguel was taken from its normal residing place in the Church and put on a pedestral in the shape of a boat which was bedecked with lovely flowers and lights, it took sixty men to carry the aforementioned, a very tricky job; firstly there are several steps to be negotiated down from the church, at the bottom of the steps in unison the sixty men lower themselves to where you can just see a boat rocking from side to side all decorated in the most fantastic colours and lights with St. Michael The Archangel atop. The processions through the streets were something else with covered wagons drawn by oxen and decorated in flowers, inside were beautiful ladies and gentlemen, also children in their costumes. Behind each wagon were groups of traditional dancers. The first procession, Pilgrimage or 'Romeria' which took place eight days beforehand ended up the hills in the lovely countryside where a fair took place twenty four hours daily for a full week. The stalls, the amusements for young and old, the beautiful gypsy dancing, all on such a vast scale, so spectacular that my pen cannot give it all just description.

### **Welcome.**

Welcome back to Bill and Lynda who spent the summer months at their residence in Ireland plus visiting their children in England. To Mary who spends her summers with her family in Dublin and escapes the cold winter here on the Sunny Costa Del Sol. To Lilly, Tony and Lofty. To Don and Christine. Christine is our Playwrite, her play "Little Jenny Lind" was televised on Channel 4 on 5th July last, starring Dennis Waterman and Cathy Jamieson.

### **Visitors.**

Welcome to Dougie Morgan (Lilly's son) who boxes at Middleweight for Newport Boxing Club. To my sisters Maureen and Bridget. Maureen



was here at Festival time with her husband John, what an extra bonus they had. Bridget came in October with her son Michael. Michael was in great demand not only at our sessions but every night for the rendering of traditional Irish songs, what a lovely voice and he needs no microphone. Michael was trained with St. John's Church Choir in Waterford and is a soloist with same.

#### Meeting Place.

We have got together every Tuesday at the Poolside Bar at Las Estrellas which is ten minutes walk from the centre of Torremolinos. Our new Innkeeper Jack caters to our every whim with the help of our favourite Head Waiter Andres.

Jane T. Smyth (Mrs.)

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Waterford Assn. — (Continued from page 7)

Waterford Association personality of the year. Well done Paddy, you deserve it. Paddy and Jessie had 17 members of their family with them including 3 grown up grandchildren, and what a lovely family they are.

The Mayor of Waterford, Alderman David Daniels, presented the Chairman, Billy Allen with a cheque from the Corporation and a personal gift of a Waterford Crystal Vase. The Waterford Association presented Fr. Tom Scully, Director of the Irish Centre with a cheque.

The Chairman, in his speech, thanked everyone for the support received at all times. He congratulated members of the Corporation and members of the County Council on the sterling work they do for Waterford in these difficult days at home. The Chairman extended the sympathy of the Association to both communities in Enniskillen.

Father Michael Ryan, representing The Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, Dr. Michael Russell, said how happy he was to be back after 29 years and urged us all to work for our fellow countrymen and women.

The Mayor of Waterford said how happy he was to be with us and how encouraged he was by the links we have forged with Camden.

Speeches were kept to a minimum this year, an idea which was well received from the floor.

Miss Priscilla Walsh represented The Munster Express, and Mr. Kevin Cadogan represented The Waterford News and Star. Mr. Cadogan has supported our Association in numerous ways for many years. And, of course, The Irish Counties Journal was there in full force. To all the press, we thank you for all your publicity during the past 12 months.

It was lovely to see two past-Chairmen, Mr. John O'Keeffe and Mr. Jim French accompanied by their lovely wives. As well as a past Vice-Chairman Mr. Kevin Butler and his good lady.

Entertainment during the evening included pipe music and step dancing during the interval. The occasion was recorded on Video and this will be available in the near future.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone (too numerous to mention) for the wonderful raffle prizes. They filled half the stage and made a lot of people very happy.

A.G.M. on Sunday, 31st January at The Irish Centre, 3 p.m. sharp. Bacon and Cabbage Supper on 12th December, again at The Irish Centre - dancing to The Melody Aces.

To all who have suffered bereavements and to the sick, please be assured of our prayers.

To all our friends and relatives, have a very happy Christmas and a good New Year. We particularly extend warmest wishes to Jane and Wally and the Irish Association of the Costa Del Sol.

Mary Allen — Secretary.



## The Kildare Association London

**Life President:**  
Mr. P. Mulpeter,  
16 Rushbrook Park,  
Wellington, Templeogue,  
Dublin 12

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**Assistant Secretary:**  
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**Chairman:**  
Mr. T. Loughman  
Tel. 01 - 0689 22192

**Social Secretary:**  
Mr. J. Howard  
Tel. 01. 263 5774

We are pleased to report that E. Howard and M. Hand are making progress and our best wishes to them both for a complete recovery. We also hope that the recent hurricane left no damage to either you or your property. By the time you read this it will be getting near to Christmas and to each one of you may it be a holy and happy one, also that 1988 will be a successful year.

We learned, with regret, the death of the famous Larry Stanley, who served his County well during his lifetime. We do not often hear of success stories but the following is worth a mention. Some years ago Michael and Maura Mulpeter (son and daughter-in-law of our President) purchased a property in Hove, which they turned into a Residential Home. This was officially opened by the Mayor and Mayoress. Glowing tributes were paid to the couple from the business and medical community and well reported on the local press. This home is now regarded as the best in the area and we congratulate Michael and Maura for their hard work over the years to provide a happy and comfortable home for their residents.

The Association will have a dance in the Irish Centre, Camden Square on Saturday, 27th February, 1988, and the tickets will be available soon. Our Annual Dinner is booked for Saturday, 11th June in the McNamara Hall, Irish Centre, and a very good band has been engaged for the night. We hope that for this annual event we get full support from Kildare people living here. Do come along and enjoy a night amongst your county friends.

R. Davis.

\* \* \* \* \*

Westmeath Assn. (Continued from page 5)

A special thanks to all the papers for their free help in 1987 and to Elizabeth and family 'The Irish Counties Journal' who has put herself out on many occasions to help me. I will be always grateful.

Wishing you all a Happy and Holy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Pat Looney — P.R.O.

Wexford Assn. (Continued from page 9)

### **Sympathy.**

Our deepest sympathy to the relatives of the late Dick Gaul, Life Vice-President of the Association who died in July after a prolonged illness. Dick was in his eighties, was a former Chairman of the Association and also involved with the Fr. Murphy's Club over a long period. Our sympathy is also extended to any other member who suffered bereavement.

### **Get Well.**

We wish our Life President Mr. Jim Murphy and also another founder member Mr. Peter Brown a speedy recovery to health. Both are not very well at present.

Wishing all our members and friends a very Happy Christmas.

Kitty Watson — Secretary.

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