

1988

# IRISH SUPPORT & ADVICE CENTRE



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IRISH SUPPORT ADVICE CENTRE  
ANNUAL REPORT 1988



The aims  
and work of the Irish  
Support and Advice Centre are  
reflected through the following case  
stories of the Report -stories more of hard-  
ship and struggle, than of failure or weakness.  
In both Ireland and Britain the trend appears to  
be that of the rich becoming richer and the poor,  
poorer. There are in some of the case stories a strong  
sense of powerlessness and entrapment, and a growing  
fear that a new 'Broadway generation', is being repeated.

We must continue to defy the temptation to redefine the  
problem away or side step the challenges and responsi-  
bilities. We all have to make changes happen, especially in  
regards to the growing number of homeless and  
powerless in our midst.

It should be noted that the case stories are based on  
the real-life situations of our clients and for obvious  
confidential reasons, names and certain  
personality traits have been changed to  
protect their identity.



***HOMELESS  
... POWERLESS***



## OUR AIMS ARE

- To Support those in need through Equality of Opportunity.
- To Articulate the needs of the Irish Community.
- To Create an awareness of the Social, Cultural and Historical Background of Irish People.
- To Search with the Irish in London for an understanding of faith which is appropriate to their new cultural situation.
- And to Encourage the Irish Community in their efforts to integrate in a multi-cultural society.

### BOARD OF MANAGEMENT IRISH SUPPORT ADVICE CENTRE

#### BOARD OF MANAGEMENT:

Pat Smyth (Councillor Kensington and Chelsea, Chairman).  
 Jim Kiely (Director and Vice Chairman).  
 Patsy Corley (Castlebar Association).  
 Ivan Gibbons (Councillor Hammersmith and Fulham).  
 Patrick Lonergan (Social Services).  
 Brendan McBride (Dublin Association).  
 Tony Hennessy (Councillor Hammersmith and Fulham).  
 Seamus McCormack (Federation of Irish Societies).  
 Seamus McKeon (Irish Chaplaincy Scheme).  
 Donal Quinn (Ex Resident Austin House Hostel).  
 Malachy Loughran (Augustinian Order).  
 John Gorter (Councillor Hammersmith and Fulham).  
 Paddy Moynihan (Irish Pensioner's Association).  
 Carmel McGowan (Social Worker).  
 A. Papathasiou (Council for Racial Equality).  
 Bob Mulcahy (Liberal Party).  
 Carol Wilson (Social Services).  
 Breifne O'Reilly (Irish Embassy).

The Irish Welfare Bureau consists of both (1) the Irish Support and Advice Centre, based at 55 Fulham Palace Road, and (2) Austin House Hostel based at 72 Hammersmith Grove.



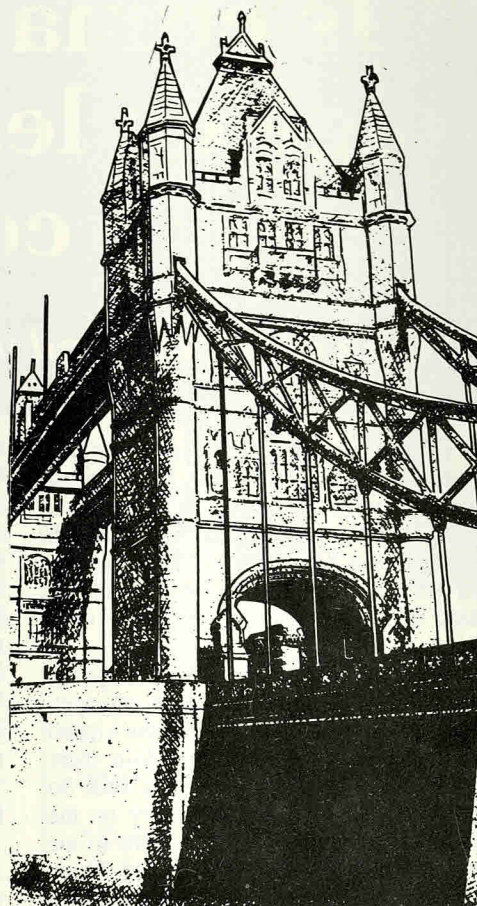


# ONCE UPON A TIME ...

.... In fact for centuries emigration has been part of Irish History. The first massive influx of Irish immigrants to England took place in the end of the last century. The next great migration to Britain came in the 1950's mainly due to the disastrous decline in industrial development in Ireland. In the 1980's the third exodus is taking place. Many of the immigrants who arrived in the 1950's settled in the Hammersmith and Fulham area. The 1981 Census Statistics shows that 11.3% of the population of Hammersmith and Fulham were Irish born. The Catholic Church both in Britain and in Ireland was very much aware of the problems they faced. The Catholic Social Welfare Bureau had been founded in Dublin in 1942 to help people on arrival in London. The Irish church responded by sending personnel to England, two of whom were assigned to Hammersmith.

They were given temporary office space in the basement of the local Catholic Church. This was not sufficient or satisfactory and work soon began on a separate office building. This was completed in 1972. Hammersmith and Fulham Council contributed £300 towards the cost. This was the first sign of recognition by the local Council. In 1977, with voluntary contributions and effort, Austin House Hostel was opened in Hammersmith Grove with its separate Board of Management, to provide short term accommodation for young Irish immigrants. The voluntary status of the Hostel has not been changed since.

In recent years, substantial increase in grants for the Centre (as distinct from the Hostel) have been gratefully received from such agents as the Irish Government (through D.I.O.N.) and the Hammersmith and Fulham Council.



## AUSTIN HOUSE HOSTEL

As stated above, our Hostel opened in 1977. From our experience the vast number of Irish immigrants are young. Upon arrival, who they meet and where they stay, makes an impression on them for better or worse. Accommodation in London is unbelievably scarce and expensive. The Bed & Breakfast situation is fraught with hazards.

In contrast, Austin House Hostel provides a friendly environment for a young person living away from home for the first time. It offers the resident a permanent address and the opportunity of making new friends in a fast and lonely city.

Emphasis during their stay with us is on preparation. Residents are encouraged and challenged to do things for themselves.

Our Social Worker listens, and then advises in regard to rights and entitlements.

The Development Officer makes available the relevant information

gathered from his research regarding accommodation and employment.

A Career Guidance Counsellor comes regularly to our Hostel to hold a group meeting, where she informs the residents of further opportunities in the educational and occupational fields. Motivation and encouragement form an important part of her role.

We have successfully initiated a new scheme, whereby young people from our Hostel have been helped to form compatible groups, culminating in the renting and sharing of a house together. This has proved to be one of the cheapest forms of accommodation available in London.

We also provide the stimulus for growth in the area of continual and ongoing contact. This has proved a welcome facet to those in a transitional period of movement, from the Hostel's facilities to a more independent, self-reliant existence.

"Our overall aim in regard to the question of accommodation is to support, encourage and challenge young people to become sufficiently independent, self-reliant and wholly integrated into their new environment and the wider community."





# Is cuma leis an oige ca leagann si a cos.

*Youth does not mind where it sets its foot.*

"We got to Holyhead, right, and gets this coach but it's the wrong one. Only brings us to the railway station. So we gets on the train for London but the Ticket fellah puts us off at Llandudno. 'You'se have to get off, go on, off.' So that night we slept in the entrance at the back of a bakery.

Next morning when we wake up freezing, we see just inside a fence in an open shed, a lovely bed. We could have kipped on it. Don't know what it was doin' there but it was a sickener! A lovely bed. So we spent the rest of our money on the coach ticket to London. We went to me mate's sister's place in Hounslow. There were nine of them stopping in a place only meant for six. 'Go on home,' she says to me mate, 'You can't stay here. Go home! I'm not taking responsibility for you.'

That night we slept in the entrance to the subway at Victoria Station. You have to go round the back and climb in over two fences. There's just about two feet of the entrance over your head. In the morning the police come around and wake you. Next night we did the same thing and I wakes up and I sees this old man looking down at me. He's well dressed and has his coat draped over his shoulders. 'You looking for somewhere to stay Paddy? Want some work? 'Work?', I says. 'Yes',

he says. 'Work? Sure', I says, 'That's what I'm here for.'

So we go into Victoria station and we thought he was going to buy us breakfast, but he gets into a Taxi and brings us to this lovely flat. It's gorgeous. I sees the telly and the video and, if he tries anything we'll jump him and rob the gaff. He made us coffee and when he went into the kitchen he kept peeping in at us. To see we weren't robbin' his things!

We went then and signed on and they kept sending us to different offices. We walked all over the place. And then we signed on but they wouldn't give us any money. So that night we went back to your man's flat. Michael was his name. He brings us upstairs to the bedroom but there's only one bed in it and on the floor a small mattress. 'Wait a minute,' I says, 'where am I sleeping?' 'In here with me'

**" ....that night we slept in the entrance at the back of a Bakery".**

he says! 'You will be alright, you will be in your sleeping-bag'. He gets into pyjamas and we get into bed. I'm looking at him, you know. One false move and I'll split his head open. 'You would be very foolish,' he says, ' if you tried



Two young Dubs arrived at our centre. One his hair completely shaved, and his friend, a very tiny lad, aged sixteen.





anything.'

We're knackered, me and my mate. We haven't slept for days. Jasus, in the middle of the night he starts feeling me. I jumps out of bed and put the lights on. 'What is wrong?' he says. 'I'm sleeping on the mattress with me mate,' I says. 'Kindly do not waken me up again', he says. 'What? says I, 'you had your hand on me'. Do not be silly, Paddy, 'he says, 'you were only dreamin'. 'You'll be f..... dreamin'. I says, 'if you try it again'. 'You would be very foolish if you tried anything with me', he says. Anyway we had a good kip for the rest of the night, that was the day before yesterday. In the morning, fair play to him, he gave us our bus fares into London.

We went back to Victoria and we met a man there in the tea bar and he brings us back to his house, said he had loads of work. All we had to do was fill in the forms in his house. Straight away we saw he was a spacer. Takes all his money out of his pocket and his papers and puts them on the table, then he puts them all back in his pockets again! And keeps doing this. I sees a two in one there, so first chance you know, rob it.

And I keeps hammering me fist into me hand, like that, so he better not try anything. Asks us do we follow Celtic? And he keeps going in and out of the flat to a phonebox and pretending he was making calls. But we could see from the window it was all a cod. Then he comes back in tells us he tried to murder his girlfriend and asking us how many years would he get? Jasus he was a real spa.

**"We went then and signed on. And they kept sending us to different offices. We walked all over the place".**

Deadly crack it was with him. But he won't let us out of his sight. He knows we'd rob the gaff.

That night we get into the sleeping bags and getting a great kip when six o'clock in the morning the flat's raided by the



**"Do not be silly, Paddy," he says, "You were only dreamin'!" "You'll be f——' dreamin', I says, "if you try it again".**

Police and he's arrested. 'Come on, youse'll have to leave' they tell us, 'he doesn't want youse here when he's not.' He'd gone around to his girlfriend and tried to kill her with a knife. Real spacer but the police put us out so we couldn't rob the gaff.

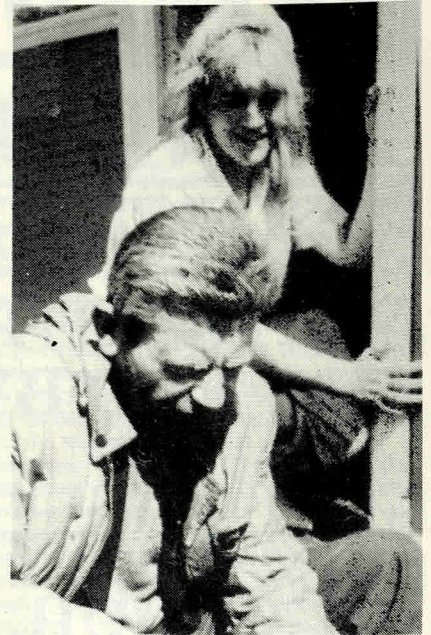
When you're hungry you have to rob for it. See to get the fare over I nicked me old man's video recorder and flogged it to a bloke in a shop for £150. I can't go back to Ireland until I pay that back. Me oul' fellah would murder me but he'll forgive me if I find work and do well. All that money gone! We got drunk on the boat and slept in the lifeboat, you know hanging up in the air. We climbed up on the deck where only the Captain goes and we got in the lifeboat and had a grand drink in there, vodka and beer and were sleeping when they threw us out. So I went down to the Gents and me mate cut me hair and I shaved it with a razor. I couldn't go down the street at home with me hair like this, all baldy. Me mother would go mad. 'What'll the neighbours say?'

Me old man tells me every morning - 'When I come in this evening this house better be spotless and you better be out of bed.' I hate f—— hooverin'. I walk the bleedin' alsation three times a day. He's more bleedin' bored than I am! Get up, get out, get a job.'

There 's nothin' in Ireland. There's nothin' in Dublin. We thought we were elected when we got on the train. Me mate was so sick drunk he puked all over the central aisle of the carriage and all the way up it, going to the lavatory. You should have seen the faces of the people lookin' at us. But that wasn't why we got thrown off at Llandudno. Before we kipped in the bakery there we tried to get to a Disco but the bouncers there wouldn't let us in. We started slagging each other off. 'Does the Queen ever come here?' I says to the bouncer, 'She does' says he, 'She loves Llandudno'. 'She better not come tonight' I was pretending to aim a rifle. Me mate says 'you better not say them things here.' They chased us out of it!

On the coach next day we met a girl from Wexford smoking weed. She was in the back of the bus. We pulled up in this big place. 'Where's this?' I says. 'You know f—— well' she says. 'I don't' says I. It was Birmingham.

We walked miles, we haven't a bean. Someone told us there's jobs in the Standard Newspaper. But it costs 20p and we haven't got a penny. We just want work. On the buildings, anywhere. Work. This form I have to fill in...



## THE LOST EMIGRANT

"One for sorrow two for joy",  
And so another bottle frowned,  
"Years ago", he mumbled,  
"I landed, look at what I found"

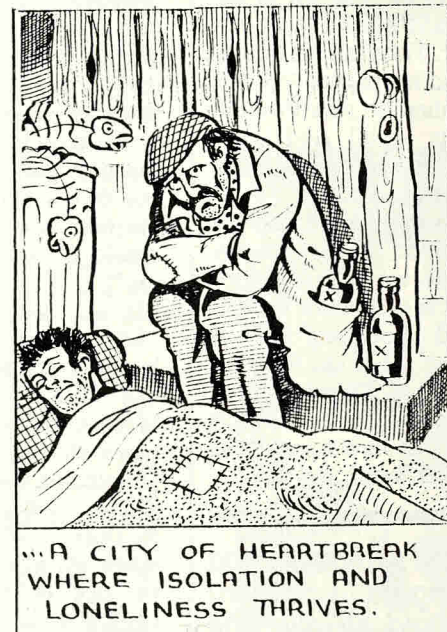
His drunken eyes were deep  
A shamrock accent never left,  
as yet, his smile still warm,  
Forgotten pride, mortal theft.

He scrambled sickened from the bench  
"Tell them its all a lie"  
Bereaved stories rambled on  
"three for a wedding four to die".





# 'O MARY THIS LONDON'S A WONDERFUL SIGHT WITH THE PEOPLE HERE WORKING BY DAY AND BY NIGHT'





# A CHURCH RESPONSE

The church in Ireland was the first to respond to the needs of our immigrants in the 40's and 50's. The years of experience gained by the Irish Chaplaincy Scheme eventually led to further Immigrant Support Groups being set up in the 70's and even in the 80's. The new wave of immigrants may not be a Mass going people, but they most certainly find their way to Presbyteries and Convents in time of need, as shown in our statistics.

The Church has continued to send personnel to Britain. One recent arrival from the Christian Community in Ireland has been Fr. Noel Clarke from Ballina, Co. Mayo. He has been kind enough to submit some of his experiential reflections to our Annual Report.

I will say at the outset, that when I volunteered to become an Emigrant Chaplain, I looked forward to a dynamic mission of ministering to Irish Emigrants in London. I made the necessary preparation of finding where I would be staying and what I would be working at. What I was not prepared for was my own experience of being "immigrant". The loneliness I felt here for the first few months was overwhelming. The trauma of leaving home, of leaving parent's, of leaving friends was much greater than I had imagined, and this despite the fact that I have five sisters and three brothers married here in London. If I had no family here, how greater the trauma would have been!

So my impressions of London are tempered by my own psychological and emotional adjustment to being "immigrant". Upon settling in, I decided that to give London a chance to impress me, I would have to give it time. So I decided that it would take six to nine months, if not more, to familiarise myself with the workings and the problems of the city. So I am still in a "learning process". My work includes Hotel Work, contact with young immigrants and the homeless.

**"I have five sisters and three brothers married here in London"**

I have so far contacted some 200 young immigrants who have arrived within the last two years. This I manage by travelling to the haunts of the young immigrants at the weekends in particular, and invariably these are pubs and dance-halls. The overall picture received is one of the intense loneliness, fierce pressure, and difficulties making ends meet. While all have jobs, many are not suited to the type of work available. While all have accommodation, many find it difficult to adjust to the often sub-standard rooms they stay in. While most socialise, it is limited to the local pub scene, and is a far cry from the "pop and rock" scene they enjoyed at home. It is difficult for one to "keep one's head, when all about are losing theirs". To date, I reckon London is much more about loss than gain for the young immigrant.

**"For the highly skilled there is financial reward, for the semi-skilled a marginal existence, and for the unskilled, downright hardship"**

There is a loss of dignity when having to settle for inferior living standards. There is loss of worth when having to settle for work not suited to one's talents or academic qualifications. There is loss of home and friends when confronted with the anonymity of London. There is loss of cultural and religious values when immersed into a multi-cultural and multi-denominational society. For the weak of heart and mind, there is loss of self and a life lived in oblivion. And the gain?

This is at a premium. For the highly skilled there is financial reward, for the semi-skilled a marginal existence, and for the unskilled, downright hardship.

**"Ireland continues to disgorge it's hundreds of youngsters weekly to this alien land"**

However severe the loneliness and pressure of the working immigrant, it pales into insignificance when compared with the plight of the homeless. One can only lament the acute shortage of accommodation in London, and become angry at it's continuing decrease. And the number of homeless grow daily.

The terms "Cardboard City" and the 'Bull Ring' may ring a bell with many, but they have no meaning unless one visits them, and experiences at first hand level of the degradation that so many have to endure. It certainly sullies the name "Christian". These people, numbered among them the sons and daughters of Ireland, are worthy of recognition, and in a caring and just society would be accorded the dignity befitting the human person. The fact that they are not, is more a statement on society, than on their alleged failure to acquit themselves adequately in London. Many of these have given their all to the system, and have received only ignominy in return.

Tragically, a growing number among the homeless are young Irish, who have come to the city with great hope and future ambitions, but who have also come ill-prepared, and ill-equipped to cope with life's problems in London. There are the "casualties", the 7% who disappeared last year. If 600 came each week, then we are talking about a minimum of 32,000 a year! Sadly, all indications are that this number will continue to rise in the future. Despite this trend, Ireland continues to disgorge its hundreds of youngsters weekly to this alien land. Numbered among the growing homeless will be some who are presently struggling to make ends meet.

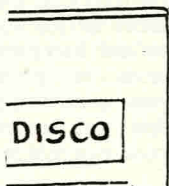
It should be remembered that practically all of our young immigrants are used to high standards of living at home, and many will not find similar standards here. Whatever about the notion of emigrating to "better oneself" and climbing the ladder of success, it is humiliating and soul destroying to slip down the slippery slope from the outset.

Having to cope with bad accommodation, work not suited to one's talents, and the trauma of "Culture-shock", are the first of many steps in the wrong direction. While many adjust and make the grade, and there are numerous success stories, even these are

**"Are we as a nation unable to provide a living at home for future generations?"**

punctuated with periods of intense loneliness and severe pressure and deep frustration.

It is not sufficient to prepare our young people for emigration, nor provide services for them here in London, but rather to look to the future and plan for the day when there will be no emigration, or at least no forced emigration. Is this too much to ask? Are we as a nation unable to provide a living at home for future generations? Must we fail future generations as we have failed those in the past, and as we have failed the present generation? We, as a people have failed our youngsters today by not providing them with a livelihood at home. We are guilty of stealing their birth right, that "inalienable right" to work and live at home.





# A NEW VENTURE

## PROJECT WORKERS REPORT

**T**his is my first report as Project Worker since joining the staff here in September. I must start by stating that any mistakes in style and presentation are my own.

Broadly speaking, my duties have fallen under two main headings, namely, Research and Representation. I shall deal with Research first.

### 1. RESEARCH

With the active support and help of Fr. Jim I have concentrated on two main areas, that is Employment and Accommodation.

**EMPLOYMENT:** The last five or so years have seen a massive and sustained increase in the numbers of young Irish people coming to Britain for the first time. The vast majority of these young people come of course to London, where they experience "culture-shock", anti-Irish racism, and the problem of finding secure employment sufficient to pay the high cost of London rents.

Given the great variety of skills, academic qualifications and work experience, plus the all too frequent non-recognition by British employers, of the Irish Republic's second level educational qualifications, the ability of the Irish Support and Advice Centre to provide a comprehensive employment service is of course limited.

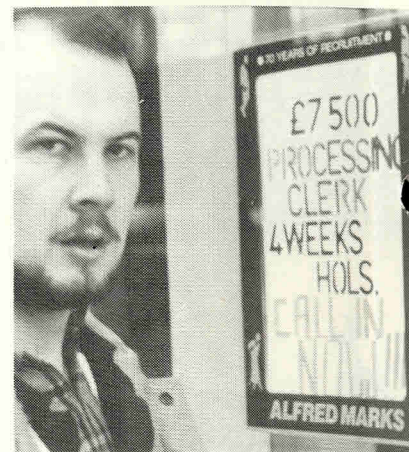
However, important developments have taken place in the past year. In this context, my work has centred on finding sources for vacancies and relevant training initiatives.

**SOURCES:** The Centre can now boast a coverage of most of West and South-West and South London, through collecting and displaying vacancies from 20-30 weekly local papers. Added to that we receive fourteen Local Authority current vacancy lists on a weekly basis. We also have close links with a number of employers and employment agencies and collect local vacancies from the Job Centre on a twice weekly basis. We can now provide advice on where to look for work, and on how to construct and alter C.V.'s. It is hoped that with computerisation we can offer our clients a full C.V. compilation service shortly.

### TRAINING:

On the training front I am personally indebted to Vадna Murrell-Abery of the Barons Court ILEA Careers Office for providing me with advice and literature including possible sources of grant funding for a variety of training schemes. At present the Irish Support and Advice Centre is involved in local discussions

surrounding the introduction of the Migrant Training Scheme (MTS) initiative. The MTS will hopefully be financed and supported through a variety of agencies including, the European Social Fund, Irish Government, London Local Authorities and Irish voluntary agencies in London. Hammersmith & Fulham Council has already lent its support to MTS and the Irish Support and Advice Centre will do all in its power to impress upon the relevant agencies the need for such a scheme and the possibilities it presents.



### ACCOMMODATION:

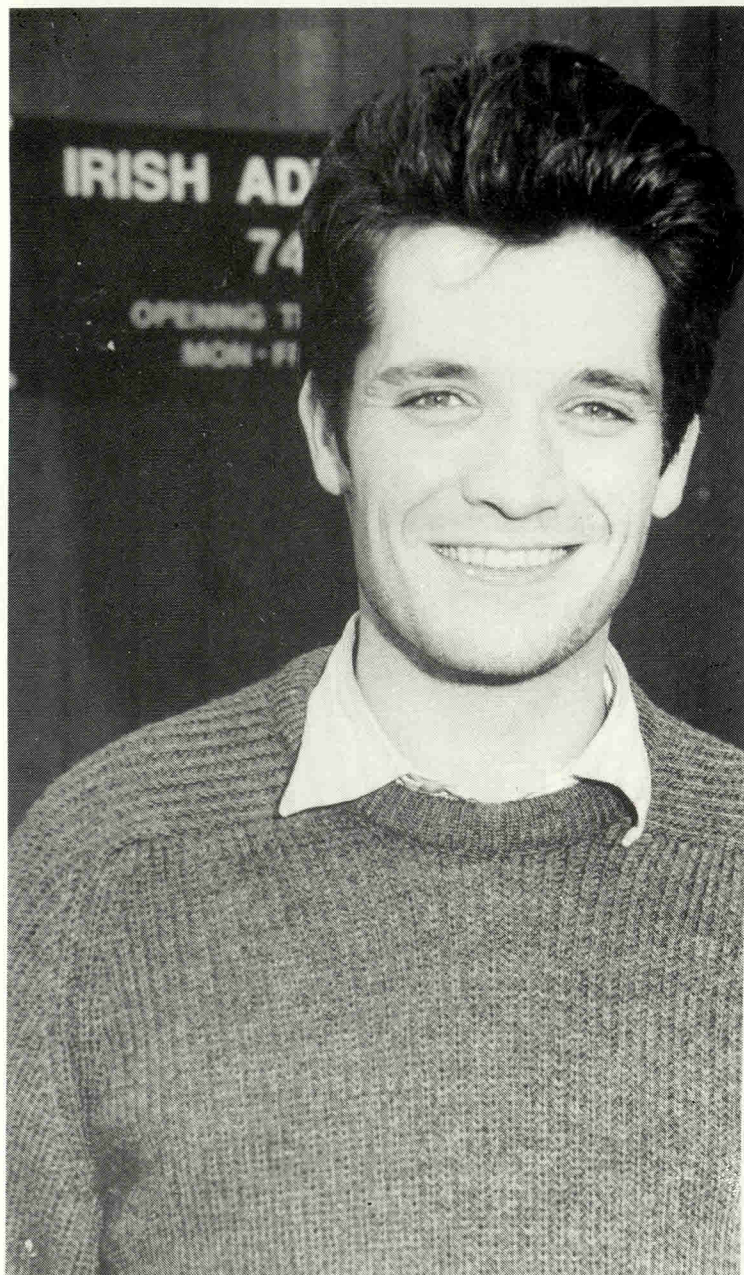
On the accommodation front we now collect copies of the 'Capital Flat-Share' list on a weekly basis. Again we use the local Newspapers and receive requests from Irish landlords and landladies through the Federation of Irish Societies Lodging Scheme, who are prepared to take in newly-arrived young Irish people. I have taken some time to contact Housing Agencies to impress upon them the plight of many young Irish people. We hope that flowing from this, it will be possible to construct good liaison and referrals systems with these agencies to provide statistics on the numbers of Irish clients, so that the centre and other Irish agencies can approach the relevant authorities for special provision backed up with this empirical data on need.

An example of the importance of this sort of data was provided by Stonewall Housing Association, 14% of whose residents last year were Irish. Stonewall is a housing association which provides accommodation for young single lesbian women and gay men, many of whom have suffered threats or actual physical violence solely on the basis of their sexual orientation. Without this data it is very difficult to plan service development to insure that the Irish Support and Advice Centre maintains its high standards of equal opportunities practice. The need for this information is therefore great.

Finally, in terms of accommodation, could I take this opportunity to make two pleas. Firstly, could agencies dealing

In recent years there has been a growing demand for information regarding accommodation and employment. In response to this, the Centre has appointed a Project Worker: Sean Reddin.





*Our new Project Worker, Sean Reddin. Sean is a native of the Borough and is second generation Irish.*

with housing provision locally insure that they maintain records of the numbers of Irish clients/residents and, could they please send that information to me. Secondly, if there are any Irish people with room in their houses that can provide accommodation on either a short or long-term basis, could they again contact me.

## 2. REPRESENTATION

Running adjacent to the research aspect of the post has been the need to represent the Centre at a variety of meetings. Again these meetings have centered on employment and accommodation, and related issues such as the ending of In

come Supplement to 16 and 17 year olds, and health and safety concerns in the construction industry. There have been two major constructive by-products of the Irish Support and Advice Centre being represented at meetings where other statutory and voluntary sector agencies are present. Firstly, representation has provided a forum for raising the needs and problems encountered by the local Irish community. Secondly, these meetings have provided the opportunity to make contact with individuals and organisations that can, in conjunction with the Irish Support and Advice Centre, develop good working practices in terms of liaison and referrals. In this context the current series of meetings leading up to the first ever conference on the needs of the local Irish community are of course very important.

**CONFERENCE:** For the year ahead the conference on the 'Needs of Hammersmith & Fulham's Irish Community', being organised jointly by the Irish Support and Advice Centre and to the Ethnic Minority Dept. of Hammersmith and Fulham Council is a major focus for the issues I have raised in this report. The conference will highlight the problems experienced by the local Irish community in terms of employment, accommodation and welfare rights and attempt to provide some progress towards finding solutions towards these. It is crucial therefore that the conference is well attended both by the local Irish community and by the professionals whose work brings them into close contact with the Irish community. The date for your diaries, is Saturday September 9th, '89; do please let us know as soon as possible if you wish to attend.

## CONCLUSION:

I hope this Report has given both an indication of the work I have been involved with as well as the diverse demand and needs of the Irish Support and Advice Centre attempts to address. I would like to record my gratitude to some if not all of the many people who have provided help, advice and support. First and foremost I must thank Fr. Jim, Sr. Carmel and Eileen for their tremendous support and understanding, especially when I was finding my feet. In addition, thanks are due to Vadna of the Careers Guidance, Tony O'Brien of Construction Safety Campaign, Casey at Stonewall Housing Association, Brendan at Brent People's Housing Association, Pauline Savage at Hammersmith & Fulham Ethnic Minorities Department, Eamonn Mackle at Brent Arts and Entertainment, Hammy and Sandra at the Community Law Centre, Mark at Streetwise Youth Project, Councillors Ivan Gibbons, John Gorter, Andy Slaughter and the Leader, Mike Goodman. Thanks are also due to Paddy Moynihan of the Hammersmith & Fulham Irish Association and Dave Whitely of Sherbrooke Teachers Centre, and also to Kathy. To these and many more I am deeply indebted.

SEAN REDDIN  
Project Worker



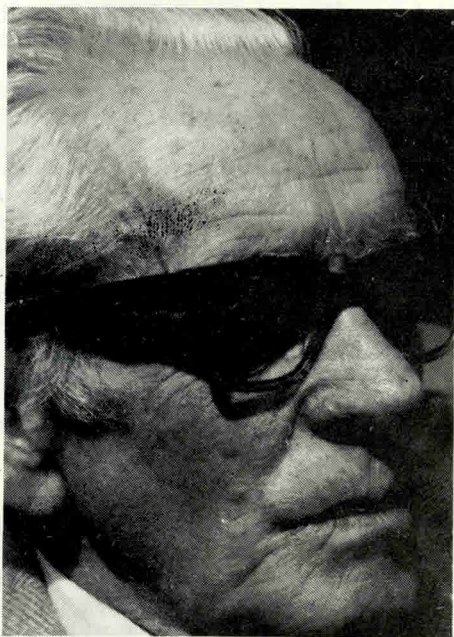
## People & Events 1988



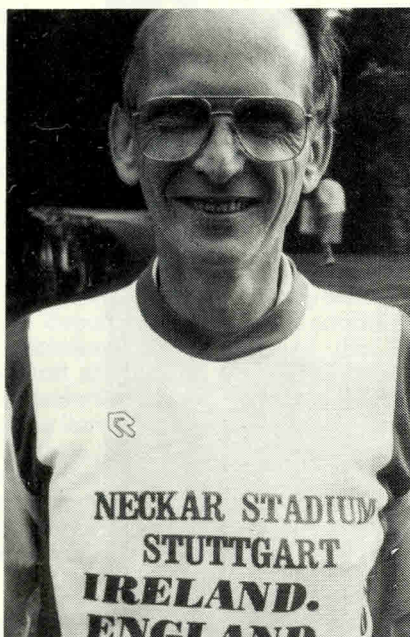
*Bill Ebbitt & Ger Brophy - Relief Workers, Summer '88.*



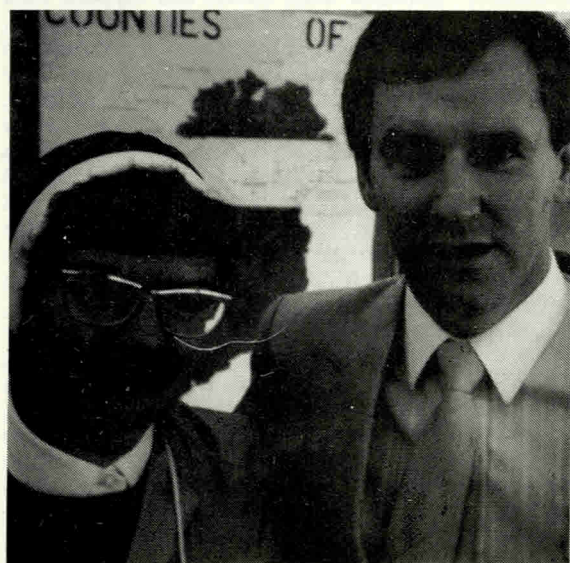
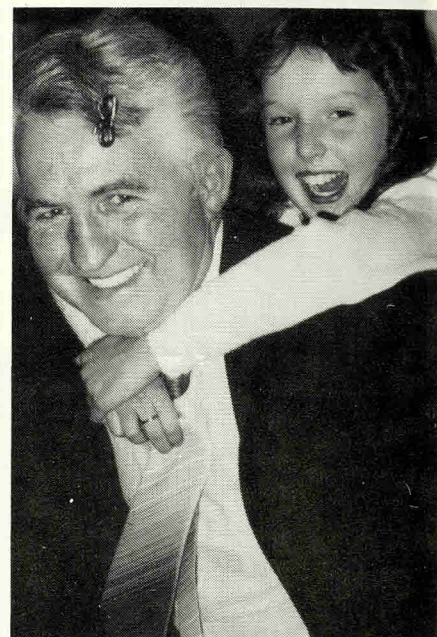
*Some of our Friends from the Travelling Community.*



*Pat Horgan, Advisor & Helper.*



*Peter Quinn at Kilburn Youth Festival.*



*Sr. Carmel & Sen. Paschal Mooney at London Irish Festival.*



*Maureen, 'Its a long way from Clare to here!'*





**'IN  
THOSE  
TWELVE  
HOURS  
WANDERING  
THE STREETS  
OF LONDON,  
I GREW UP ...  
AND I'LL NEVER  
REGRET IT.'**

I was working in a hardware shop and one day I said to myself I'm going to England. And one day over I came. And I had no place or anything. There was no future for me at home in the hardware shop. It was a pub with the shop in the back. And all the old gouters would come in telling their jokes and whatever. It was run by a nice little, old man about 5'1", always telling old jokes.

All my friends had gone. I rang a friend in London to see could he get me into a hostel. I rang him the night before I came over but he was out.

I'd given him such short notice. Of course you can't book a hostel in advance. I thought at least I could stop in the house that he lived in. So over I came on the boat.

***"I rang a friend in London, to see if he could get me into a hostel ...."***

Seven o'clock that morning I got into Euston. I waited and waited and at last he turned up at eight. I was really worried. So he says as we were walking out of the station, 'I've bad news for you'. 'What?' 'You have no place to stay'. I says 'You're joking!'

He couldn't put me up in his place. The landlord was getting annoyed, people staying. So we searched and searched and searched but we couldn't find anywhere for me to stay. So come seven that night we went to Kilburn to see would I know anybody. I was afraid to ring home because my mother would have a heart-attack. I was walking all day with my bags. I didn't know what to do. We'd go on the tube and I'd sit outside of pubs, you know with tables, bawling my eyes out! He'd be off looking for somewhere. I'd sit there with my bags bawling crying. 'What on earth am I doing here?' People would walk past and wouldn't say a word and me crying! God, let me go home any minute, you know, so it's night. I'm outside Biddy Mulligans bawling my eyes out. Then I phoned home and my sister answered. 'Try Joe' she says. My brother-in-law. 'But I thought he'd gone back', I says. 'No'. So I rang him and he was working in a hotel and that night he put me up.

And next morning I came to the Hostel and the nuns took me in. Until that, no one would have me. 'Please I'd say, take me in. Any corner will do'. No. I came without a place, without a job. And trying to get a typists job was hopeless.

My typing speeds - I was out of practice. They weren't up to scratch. The agencies turned me down. All of them. One of the Nuns gave me a typewriter. 'Get practicing on that,' she says. One day I was in me room bawling me eyes out and I said, 'that's it, I'm going home'.



Sister Rose came in and says, 'where are you going?' Home. 'Don't be daft,' she says. 'You can't go home in disgrace.' I stuck it out another week and the following Monday I got a job. To my regret. I was working as a secretary but they were absolutely horrible to me. I had to type letters, then do the dishes, clean the floors, the lot. And this is in an office. I left. Now I work in the Hostel itself. On the switchboard. And after Christmas I'm trying for the Bank.

We've got another Hostel. It's for the Down and Outs and pregnant girls. There's loads of young people there. The nuns told me why there were so many Irish among the Down and Outs. They come over and can't get anywhere to stay. And once you don't have a permanent address you can't get a job and once you get stuck in the rut you can't get out easily.

**" .... once you don't have a permanent address, you can't get a job ...."**

I hate living in England. I love nature. I grew up on a farm and I know I'll return. I hate the unfriendliness of the big city. I love to know Tom, Dick and Harry. For instance when I was sitting there with me bags and baggage, bawling my eyes out ..... not one person stopped. They just looked at me like I was a a weirdo!

**" .... I was sitting there with me bags and baggage, bawling my eyes out ... not one person stopped".**

I know it's a big place, I know that. But there's no green fields. You don't see nature, if you see what I mean. I didn't realise before I left what was going to face me. I was completely innocent. And in those 12 hours wandering the streets of London I grew up. And I'll never regret it.

When I meet my friends in Kilburn I ask them, 'if you had the job you have in Ireland, would you go home?' 'And they say to me - 'Don't ask a stupid question!!'

# ANGLO- IRISH CULTURE?

## SECOND GENERATION & THE FUTURE

There is a great number of second generation Irish in London. Many of them see themselves as British enjoying more or less an Irish connection. Others consider themselves as Irish. The latter became very visible and vocal when Ireland beat England in the European Cup last Summer. If culture is essentially a set of values, beliefs and attitudes, what do we, who were born in Ireland have to offer to these young people?

The image of Ireland we impart must be true to 1989 and not built on parents' dream vision on romanticised experiences or on the myths of yester year. These young people should be given the opportunity to learn Irish History - not to reinforce prejudices or cultural paranoia, but to put the balance right and to better understand their entitlement to an Irish heritage.

It is an advantage to live outside the geographical boundaries of a culture. Only then can we be selective about it. It

is an illusion for the 'Irish' who have immigrated here, to transfer Irish culture unmodified into this country. The most one can expect to achieve is an Anglo-Irish culture. This in no way should be viewed as a compromised culture but one uniquely enriched by the fusion of both whilst not being incarcerated by either. These young people have the privilege of choice.

We should support them in their efforts to become what they want to be in their present social context. If that means providing them with opportunities for Irish culture involvement, helping them to find employment, helping them to shed any inferiority complex, etc., etc., so be it! What they want is what should be provided. They must not be used as enforced inheritors of a culture, alien to their way of life. We can wish that they will want Irish cultural involvement, that they will enjoy it, that they will share it, that they will enrich it. We have the

responsibility to respond, not to impose, not to demand but invite and attractively present Irish culture as relevant and socially attractive to the young people who wish to be associated with us.

Some Irish cultural expressions of yesterday, however appropriate to their times, lack relevancy to-day. It is the nature of culture to constantly be self-creating if it is not to be a museum piece. Irish culture in this country must cease being traditionally stylised and live with the times. Cultural expressions imported from across the sea or from another period are only fit for the stage. Cultural rituals and expressions must be a vehicle to carry the feelings, convictions and values of to-day. A culture anchored to the past that cannot accommodate change will die; a tradition is something to draw from, not get locked into. So let our youth move and create new expressions of cultural traditions.

A youth movement is getting together, enjoying that experience, interpreting it and understanding it. Culture must be lived and in its living modernised, given a meaning and relativity to the here and now. Let the young people do the things they feel like doing and not what hypersensitive traditionalists think they ought to be doing.

Demographic studies of the Irish-born living in this country makes it advisable that the process of bequeathing their cultural inheritance should now begin.

A gradual withdrawal and a handing over to their descendants is timely if that inheritance is to survive. Things cannot remain as they are, nor as they were; there must be progress through process.

The older generation must be prepared to handover, to bequeath, to withdraw to the background, to "make their collective will", while there is time, lest their inheritance be dissipated or lost in a cultural milieu. It is a matter of urgency that initiatives are now taken in education, in re-inforcing cultural like-lines and in powersharing, to ensure, by coaching and nurture, a continuance of our cultural identity " .... a cultural identity is to-day one of the most important non-material psychological needs" (European Parliament Resolution 16.10.81).

Is it possible to maintain a cultural identity and be fully socially integrated? There is no conflict of interest here. It is certainly possible, desirable and mutually beneficial.





## My Diary of a Recent Event

Midnight. Door bell rings.

Young fellow, very dishevelled looking. Says he wants to talk.

It's urgent.

His name is Fergus. Claims his father has just died at home. I wonder. He wants the fare home. I ask his age. Says he's sixteen. He looks more like fourteen. I'm suspicious.

He was from Cork. I decide to phone a friend of mine to check the 'Examiner'. There's no mention of Fergus's father's name on the death list. Suspicious grow.

Fergus is very restless. I've seen this feature often. He wants to get home at all costs. Probably can't sleep or rest. Pressure building up inside. The need to be continuously on the move. Agitated. Has to go quickly.

He says he's staying in a squat near Victoria Station. There's four of them altogether. All Irish. Himself and another lad are sixteen. A girl of fifteen, and the youngest boy is fourteen.

It's late. I ask him to come back tomorrow morning. He agrees. I wonder again!

Next Day: phoned local garda station. They have no record of the death. In fact, they know the man quite well. Surprise. Fergus turns up. I decide, eventually to give him the fare. He agrees to repay me. I wonder.

Asked him to show me the squat. He agrees. I buy him an underground ticket. He's laughing. Says I'm a fool! Maybe! He goes through the barrier - without the ticket!

On the train, 'Ask him how he manages to live'. 'We have our own way of managing!' Petty crime. Begging. "How could anyone pass by a fourteen year old begging in Leicester Square?" Makes up to £30 a day. It's possible - I suppose.

He used to go to nearby Victoria Station - claimed he was harassed by an elderly man. He felt threatened and terrified. We arrive at the squat. He leaves me to go in. Alone.

There's four mattresses. It's a dump. Dark. Clothes all over the place. Couldn't help noticing coffee jar on the floor. I wonder! -Once more

Fergus throws a few things into a plastic bag. We leave for Slattery's bus. On the way he tells me, they sniff glue to pass the time. I recall the coffee jar.

I pay his fare and say goodbye.

Wonder will I ever see him again.

Arrive back at the centre - three young people waiting ....

## 1988 - "CHALLENGING AND EXCITING"

**Feb. 6th:** Conference in Kilburn organised by the Action Group for Irish Youth with the theme "Enquiry on Emigration". Our Centre was represented by three speakers Eileen Crowe, Pat McDonagh and Mervyn Smith.

**March 17th:** St. Patrick's Day - We celebrated.

**April 7th:** Irish Episcopal Conference in Dublin on Emigration. We were invited and attended this annual event.

**May 18th:** The launching of "Memories of Ireland" in Shepard's Bush Library.

**May 20th:** Fourteen members of Fermoy Urban District Council came to visit us in the Centre to see for themselves and find out the real issues affecting young Irish immigrants in London. A worthwhile initiative.

**April 30th - May 22nd:** "A sense of Ireland" Festival took place at the Riverside Studios, Hammersmith, organised by the Federation of Irish Societies. This major Irish cultural festival was well attended and was an outstanding success. It certainly helped to promote a greater understanding and appreciation of Ireland and its people through literature and art.

**July 3rd:** Roundwood Festival - the weather was unkind.

**July 8th - 14th:** Hammersmith Irish Pensioners accompanied by Sr. Carmel spent a week touring the south of Ireland.

**July 22nd:** A fund raising Barbeque in our Car Park under the Hammersmith Flyover. A great success, thanks to Patsy & Doreen Thornbury.

**July 24th:** Kilburn Youth Festival. A great crack.

**August 14th:** A seison in St. Augustine's Hall, for Irish students working in London for the summer. Hope it will be an annual event.

**October 29th:** Trip to Boulogne. Fifty people enjoyed a day out organised by the Centre.

**Nov. 19th:** Bazaar. Thanks to all our loyal group of helpers for their continued support in our fund raising events during the year.

**Dec. 12th:** Sr. Carmel and a group of Irish pensioners attended the Ethnic Minorities Christmas Party at the Town Hall.

During the year we were sad to say goodbye to Ger Kelliher. We wish him well in his new post. We welcome new staff members Eileen Crowe and Sean Reddin. During the holiday period we had three relief staff Ger Brophy, Bill Ebbitt and Paul Carberry. We thank them.



*'144 meetings gone ... one more to go!'*

*The staff from the Centre attended 145 meetings during the year. We are represented in the following groups;*

- Hammersmith & Fulham Single Homeless Co-ordinating Groups.
- Hammersmith and Fulham Information and Advice Workers.
- Hammersmith & Fulham C.R.E.
- The Liaison meeting at Charles House and Waterford House.
- Hammersmith Irish Workers Group.
- Borough Cold-Crisis Meeting.
- Police Consultation Group.
- I.L.E.A. Irish Working Party in Education.

- Community Consultation Meetings on Education Provision 1990.
- A.G.I.Y.
- Irish Youth Forum.
- Irish Youth Foundation.
- Hammersmith Irish Pensioners.
- Safe Start Foundation.
- Project Enterprise and Special Case Conferences.
- Federation of Irish Societies.
- Irish Chaplaincy Scheme.
- Hammersmith and Fulham Irish Association.



# IMPROVING EFFECTIVENESS

## INCOME

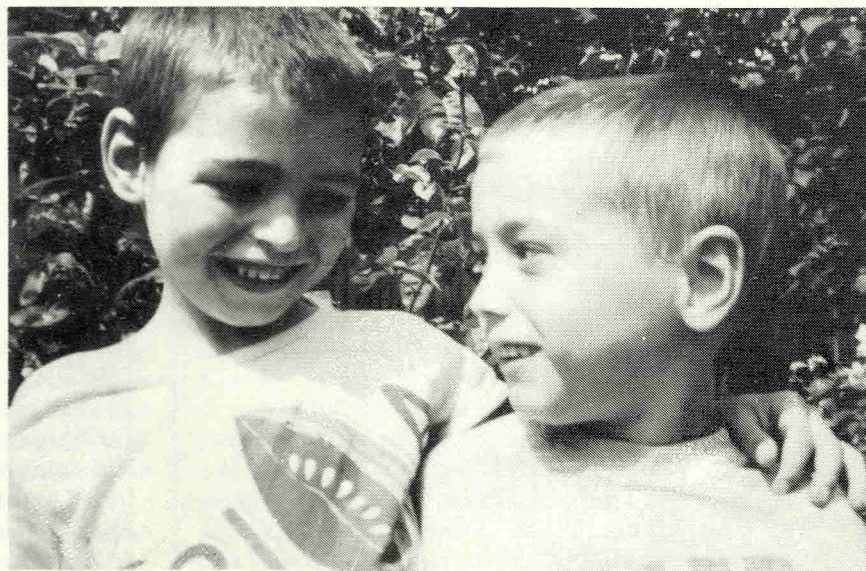
OPENING BALANCE AT BANK 1/1/88	52,172.51
GRANTS - Irish Government	32,314.41
GRANTS	
Hammersmith & Fulham Council	36,333.75
ANNUAL BAZAAR PROCEEDS	8,849.50
DONATIONS	2,741.93
JUMBLE SALE PROCEEDS	936.50
BARBEQUE REVENUE	1,105.00
INTEREST RECEIVED	819.13
REFUND	362.77
	<u>85,615.42</u>

The Irish Welfare Bureau has its accounts with **Allied Irish Banks Ltd.**, King Street, Hammersmith.

Its Accountants and Auditors are:  
**Beatty & Company**, 724 Holloway Road, N.19.

## EXPENDITURE

SALARIES	
- Including Tax & N. Insurance Contributions	52,172.51
WELFARE & PROVISIONS	2,266.11
ELECTRICITY	668.94
STAMPS, STATIONERY & PRINTING	2,078.89
PHONES	1,799.27
PETROL & OIL	500.93
MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS	1,529.51
HOSPITAL VISITS	109.51
INSURANCE - Vehicles & Premises	988.16
VEHICLE - Servicing & Tax	989.56
REPATRIATION EXPENSES	1,319.00
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	1,137.49
AUDITORS	943.00
FUNERAL EXPENSES	383.00
STAFF TRAINING	50.00
RENT	5,500.00
BIRTH CERTIFICATES	382.85
EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION	3,155.00
TRAVEL & CONFERENCE EXPENSES	794.20
SUBSCRIPTIONS	144.90
ADVERTISING	1,019.35
INTERESTED CHARGED	98.15
BAZAAR, JUMBLE & BARBECUE	
EXPENDITURE	4,099.27
SUNDRIES	664.41
CREDIT BALANCE	2,841.31
	<u>£85,615.42</u>





Most homelessness begins with the simple need of a home. The longer that need is unmet, the more likely that other problems may develop. Pushed out of mainstream society, some homeless people may not know the way back in, while others may decide it is simply not worth the effort. When one world collapses it is only expected that another, albeit limited and limiting, is constructed...

Here we offer some quotations from a recently published and excellent resource book, entitled: 'A Life to be Lived,' by P. Logan. (Darton, Longman and Todd Press, London 1989.)

The vast majority of homeless people are not problem-drinkers. Not only is this the case with young people, women and members of minority ethnic groups who are homeless, it is also true, as virtually all studies have shown, even of the white middle-aged male. Why then is homelessness persistently construed as somehow connected with, if not due to, alcohol abuse! Part of the answer is fairly obvious; homeless people who abuse alcohol have nowhere to hide. Executives, MP's and even clergy may take their midday drinks in discrete clubs and dining rooms; all a homeless person may have is a park bench. Unhappy spouses and lonely people on their own may sadly drink to excess in the confines of their own homes; homeless people who drink to excess can only collapse on the pavement. But this is just part of the reason for the popular association of homelessness and alcohol abuse. More subtle and therefore more insidious is that this allows society to put the blame squarely on the homeless individual, thus justifying the refusal to accept the more fundamental flaws in society which produce homelessness...

The world of the homeless person is one of shrunken horizons. It is a world they have had to construct, after the world most people take for granted has collapsed. Once their home is gone close personal relationships soon disappear, as do the familiar structures of life, the possibilities of deeply satisfying experiences, and indeed the sense

# 'HOMELESSNESS IS A PRISON'

of purpose. Life is telescoped into getting through the next twenty four hours. And in order to do this they are forced to pay the price for queuing for hours trying to claim social security, of wandering from address to address in search of a place to stay, of begging for money for a meal, of doing without the luxury of a proper wash or even of normal toilet facilities, and of finding doors - including church doors - shut in their faces. What is most shocking is how quickly a person becoming homeless can fall into the pattern of struggle for survival. For a person without any capital it can happen within days. Homelessness therefore is not merely the absence of money, it is the collapse of a world, the withdrawal of all security, the destruction of personal relationship.

Homelessness is easier to cope with if it is thought to be located somewhere else. The sort of homelessness most likely to occur in our own locality is often hidden ....



It is a simple fact that, in London at least, the greatest impetus for equal opportunities policies in the field of single

homelessness has come from agencies which would not consider themselves Christian ...

Homelessness is perhaps most effectively addressed by situating it within the context of a local borough or district. This is because local housing authorities have a responsibility for researching and planning services for homeless people as well as developing housing policies which are responsive to the needs of single people.

We are witnessing a sustained attempt to redefine the very meaning of poverty and homelessness as a way of pretending to reduce the problem to more manageable proportions. Then, having been marginalised the poor and the homeless are treated less and less as fellow citizens.

What is happening however, is a new generation of homeless people, whose alienation is there to be seen if we but cared - and dared - to look.

The struggle for survival may at times look like a losing struggle. Homelessness takes its toll of a person's physical and mental resources. Situations can become desperate.

.... People who are surviving homelessness must have considerable skills which deserve recognition and affirmation.

It is often said unfeelingly that homeless people choose to be homeless. The truth is that homelessness is a sign that they have - or believe they have - no real choices ...

The number of people reduced to begging has shot up in recent years. Commuters will have noticed this as they walk along the streets, subways and stations ....

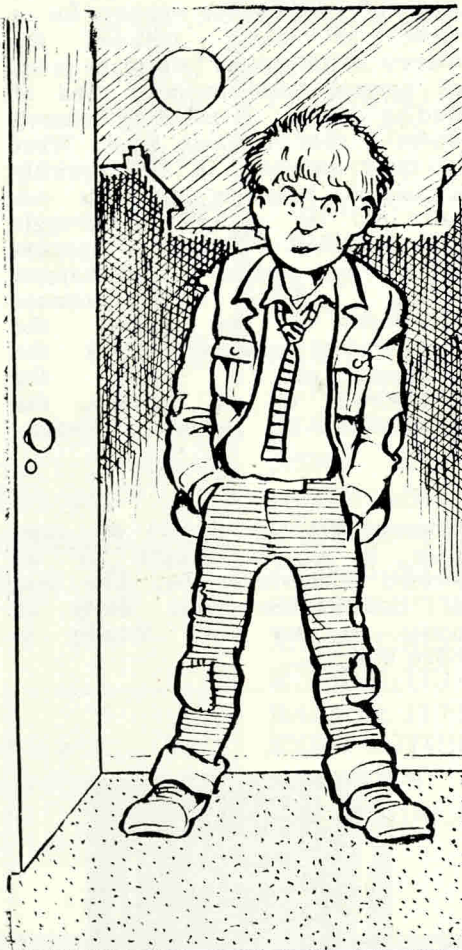


# EDITORIAL 'THE WINNER TAKES ALL'

Take a Capital City. Fill it with people. Then what? On a recent programme it was announced that three-quarters of a million elderly people leave London each year. And surprise ... three-quarters of a million young people come to find work and accommodation. The former leaving for space and calm, the latter coming for search and challenge. But somewhere in between these nicely rounded statistics, the powerful and the powerless play a game in which the winner takes all.

The most vulnerable group are those between 16 and 18 and without family support. Many of these are to be found squatting and living in extremely disastrous circumstances. Sleeping rough is becoming the norm for many and petty crime, begging and prostitution their only means of survival. Others get hooked and dragged down by their begging. What was a temporary expedient soon becomes a habit. Last year ('88) saw an increase of this age group coming to our Centre for advice and support. But with the pace of this particular plight gathering momentum, the situation is basically out of control. English young people of these ages and in these circumstances may have or, at least may seek family support, the Irish have little or no such resource. For them, London may well be a 'cul-de-sac' in which they are powerless and lost.

Loss of direction is a strange emotion. But it is turning up increasingly especially in those who have had to emigrate and leave their wives and children at home. Perhaps for them the emotion is extremely difficult to cope with, for many of them had previously known security. Loss of job, low income, demands of tax, mortgage and the education of children, force many to emigrate. It is one thing when children have to leave home - at a



*"Where can I sleep tonight?"*

***And at the end of the day, with all the discussions, glossy reports, research work and nicely rounded statistics, how can one respond effectively to the recently arrived immigrant, at six-thirty on a cold and wet January evening, who asks "Where can I sleep tonight?"***

certain point, that is natural - but it is bitter and unnatural when parents have to. This separation has nothing good in it.' (Irish Pastoral Letter, 15th March

1987).

The plight of the homeless becomes more poignant and distressing when placed against the background of the political machine. Considering that there are almost one million Irish-born in Britain with: no voice - no say, no vote - no power, in the arena of politics in Ireland, we can all therefore, identify in some very small and limited way, with what it is to be without a real say in the corridors of power.

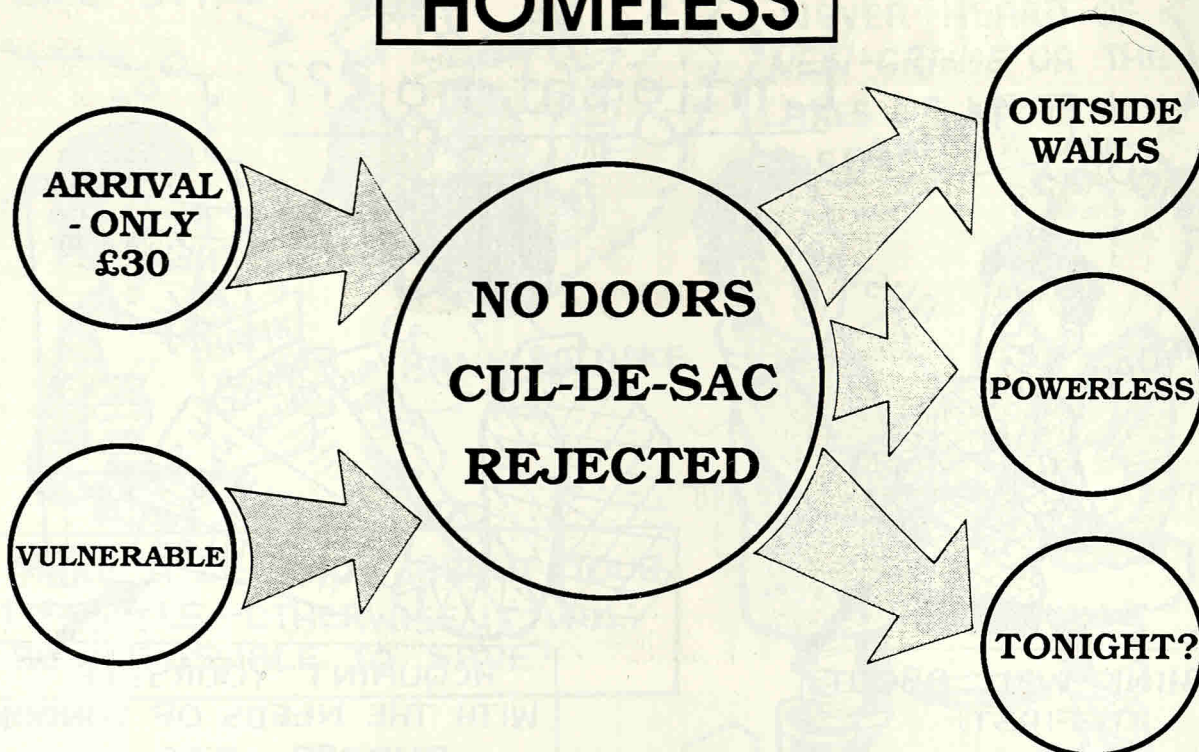
It was recently suggested that four weeks dole-money should be given to those emigrating in order to give them a safe-start. Though this initiative came in for some criticism, it was also a good effort to answer a tremendous need and fill a huge vacuum. In research done by Cara, it was revealed that 34% of young Irish immigrants upon arrival in London, had less than £30. If this is the case, these young people are absolutely vulnerable, especially because of the recent changes in the Social Welfare System.

The ideal that is continually presented and, indeed rightly so, is that the intending emigrant should bring at least £400 to £600. But in reality, this is certainly not always possible, many young Irish emigrants leave behind a house where there has been unemployment and indeed, hardship. They arrive with high expectations of succeeding in London, only to find these dashed. The bondage that ensues is quite capable of destroying the future prospects even of the most ardent of them. The Irish Support and Advice Centre would highly recommend that an 'Accommodation Safe-Start Fund' should be set up and administered by Irish Centres in Britain, in order to provide for the emergency conditions that many Irish emigrants encounter on their first three to four weeks in London. For where they stay and who they meet on arrival is vitally important - in fact, it is crucial in determining their whole future.

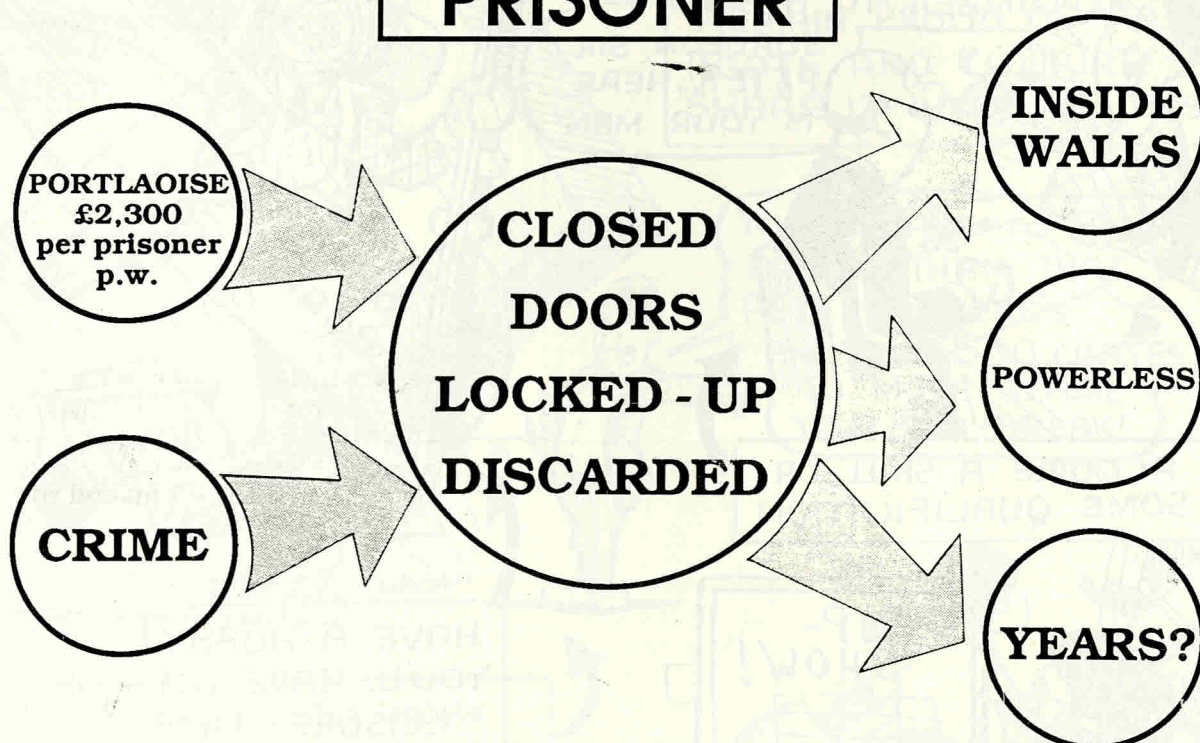
And at the end of the day, with all the discussions, glossy reports, research work and nicely rounded statistics, how can one respond effectively to the recently arrived immigrant, at six-thirty on a cold and wet January evening, who asks 'Where can I sleep tonight?'



## HOMELESS



## PRISONER



"Without the conscience of the world being stirred, these people aren't going to be helped. We dig deep into our pockets to help after a disaster, but pass by on the other side if confronted by appalling and squalid homelessness in this country or abroad. We are prepared to come to the help of disaster caused by act of God, but not by act of man - we must pay attention to the acts of man which we are partly responsible for." Lord Scarman.

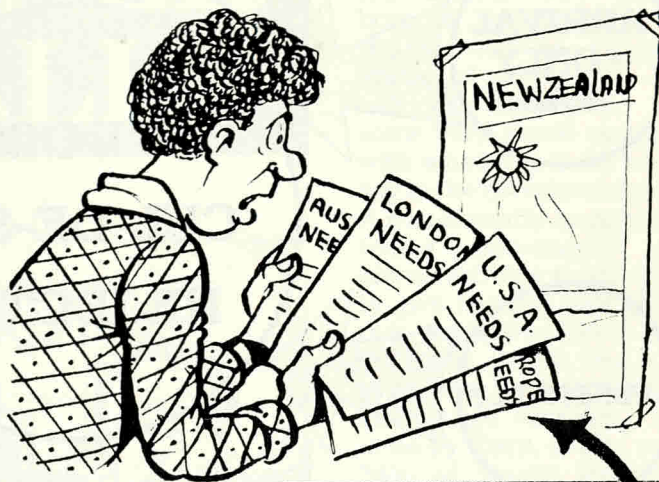


# Emigrating ???

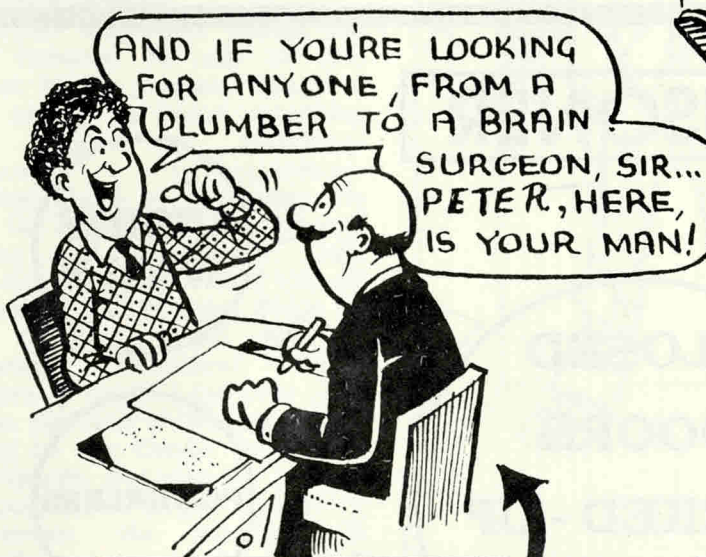
LONDON?  
AMERICA?  
AUSTRALIA?  
EUROPE?



THINK WELL ABOUT IT FIRST.



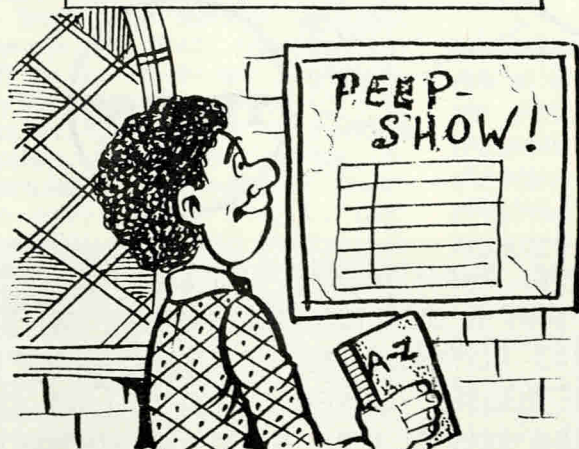
ACQUAINT YOURSELF WITH THE NEEDS OF LONDON, EUROPE... ETC....



ACQUIRE A SKILL OR SOME QUALIFICATION.



HAVE A HOBBY!... YOU'LL HAVE LOTS OF LEISURE TIME.



MAKE A DECISION ABOUT RELIGIOUS VALUES AND PRACTICES—OTHERWISE YOU'LL DRIFT.



PREFERRED  
LIFE STYLE

£20  
NOTE

AND HAVE YOU  
NEVER HEARD OF  
NEW-GRANGE OR THE  
LAKES OF KILARNEY,  
ANDY?

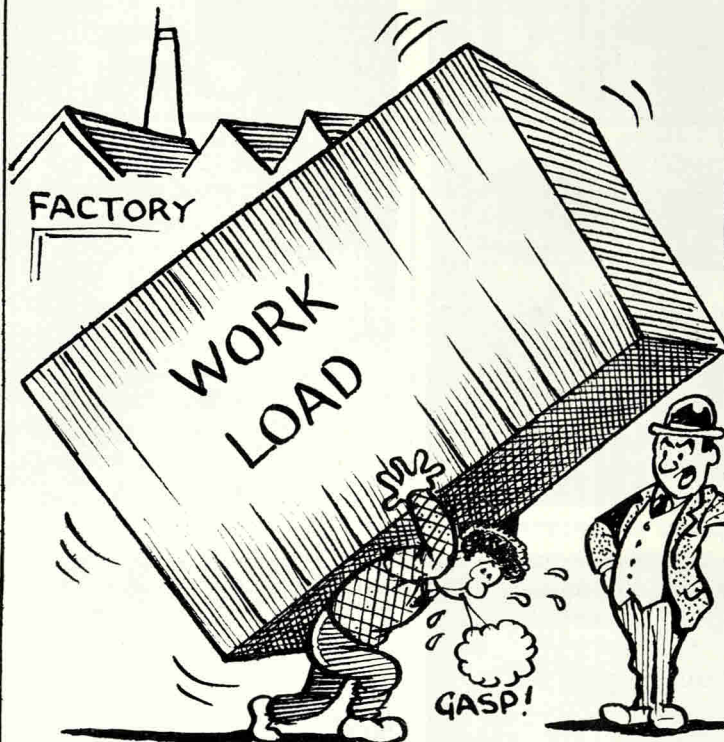
BANK  
BOOK

BANK BALANCE  
NIL!

MAKE A DECISION ABOUT YOUR  
LIFESTYLE—OTHERWISE IT WILL  
BE IMPOSSIBLE TO SAVE!



REMAIN PROUD OF YOUR  
ROOTS AND CULTURE —  
SHARE IT WITH OTHERS.



YOU'LL HAVE TO WORK  
FASTER THAN THAT,  
PETER!....THERE'S  
ANOTHER 500 CRATES  
TO MOVE BEFORE  
YOUR TEA-BREAK!

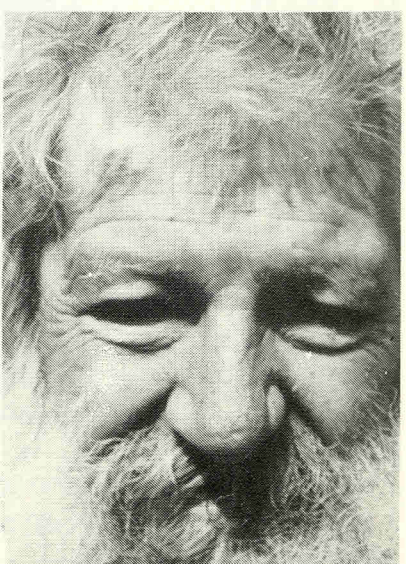
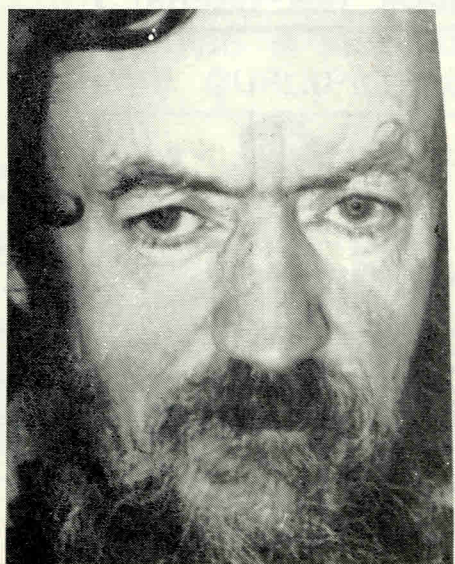
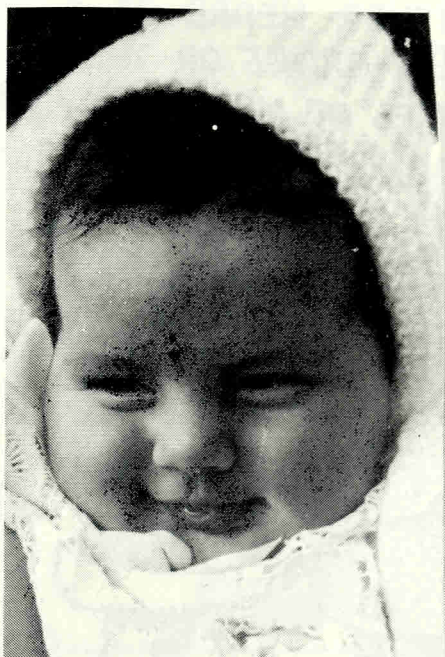
BE PREPARED TO WORK  
HARD— IT WON'T BE EASY  
IN THE BEGINING!





# Faces - Givers and Receivers

## Givers and Receivers







# A SUCCESS STORY

One of our great success stories in recent years has been the starting of a Volunteer Scheme Community Project. We are convinced that the potential of Volunteers and the Voluntary Sector is enormous. The goodwill and willingness to help is always present and welcome.

Working with individuals and families we try to see them as potential 'givers' as well as 'receivers'. We encourage people approaching us for help, to give to others. Several ex-users of our Support and Advice Centre and Hostel Service, are now Volunteers in our Community Project.

These Volunteers play an important role in maintaining contact with people with disabilities, the elderly and marginalised residents in the Borough. Involved are about fifty people, the majority being women who act as assistants to our Social Worker. Their main function is a 'Home visiting scheme' where the Volunteer builds up a personal friendship with the person she/he visits. So their role is perceived as 'friend' or 'good neighbour'.

Practical services provided include lifts to hospital, shopping, letter-

writing etc. The more experienced Volunteers engage in Welfare Rights, liaison with other agencies and referrals where appropriate.

Efforts are made to involve the housebound in activities through social gatherings in the local hall or in the homes of the Volunteers. Other events have included day trips for the housebound and half-day trips for the frail elderly. The Project makes frequent use of the local community transport bus and of the age-concern bus.

Last year, the Volunteers organized a very successful Christmas dinner and entertainment for 150 homeless people in the Borough.

The project is coordinated by a regular Volunteer group meeting, where cases are discussed and jobs allocated. Professional support, supervision and training, is provided by the Centre's Social Worker, who is present at all meetings. Many pressing demands are already made on the Social Worker's time in other areas of work. However, we feel that it is important to create space for the Social Worker to help develop local Volunteers to complement the work we are doing in the Centre. ■

## THANKS!

We would like to say a very special 'thank you' to our main funding bodies, Hammersmith & Fulham Council, and the Irish Government, for their continued generous support.

Thanks also to the following for their support and encouragement. The Irish Government DION Committee, Irish Episcopal Commission for Emigrants, Federation of Irish Societies, Irish Chaplaincy Scheme, Camden Irish Centre, Action Group for Irish Youth, Conway House, Cara, St. Brendans, Council of Irish Counties Association, Finbarr O'Donovan of Allied Irish Bank, Barons Court Careers Office, Hammersmith Housing Department, Paul Dunbar of Hammersmith Social Services Department, The Augustinian Order and Parishioners of St. Augustine's Church, Galway Association, Donegal Association, West-Waterford Association, Castlebar and District Association, Dublin Association, Riverpoint, Threshold, Staff & Management of Charles House & Waterford House D.H.S.S., Staff of Hythe House, Betty Stapleton & Moycarkey & Borris Parish Associations, Sealink, B & I, Bank of Ireland, A.I.B., Mullinagatha Apostolic Society, Nazareth House, Mary Strand at the Universe, Aer Lingus, Noel King and Economics Excavations Ltd., Monaghan Association, Patsy & Doreen Thornburry, Mags Sweeney, Jack Connolly, Br. Peter Quinn, John & Ann and staff in the Club, Pat Daly, The Advisory Group on Hostel Development, Liam Christian, Pat Horgan, Hammersmith Job Centre, Jim McGrath and Tom Nolan.



### Congratulations:

To Tony Beatty, our Accountant in being awarded the Bene Merenti Papal award, in recognition of his work for various charities.

To Brian Cunningham (Ex. Hostel) on the occasion of his marriage.

### Welcome!

Paul Cullen (Irish Embassy & Dion Committee).

### Goodbye

To Sean Healy (Irish Embassy), Fr. Seamus McKeon (Irish Chaplaincy).

Finally our gratitude goes to our loyal group of voluntary workers and to all those countless people who contributed in any way towards the effectiveness of the Irish Support and Advice Centre.



# TOTAL NUMBER OF CALLERS IN 1988 ..... 5749 NEW CASES IN 1988 ..... 2020

## PROBLEMS PRESENTED:

Accommodation	1589
Advice and Information	2333
Birth Certificates	288
Casework and Counselling	202
Clothing/Furniture etc.	1797
Employment	1145
Finance	448
People with Disabilities	263
Repatriation	43
Placed in Employment	712
Placed in Accommodation	1049
Cases Carried Forward (ongoing Support)	450

## AGE OF NEW CLIENTS - 1988

Age	Total	1988%
16-18	256	12.67
19-25	883	43.71
26-40	517	25.59
40-49	169	8.36
50+	195	9.65

## SEX OF NEW CLIENTS

Male	1304
Female	716
Families	84

## SOURCE OF REFERRALS OF NEW CLIENTS - 1988

Clergy	433
D.H.S.S	56
Friends/Clients	537
Irish Agencies	82
Irish Chaplaincy Scheme	10
Personal Applications	590
Posters/Leaflets	117
Riverpoint	53
Statutory Services	115
Voluntary Agencies	127

## COUNTIES OF ORIGIN OF NEW CLIENTS; JANUARY - DECEMBER 1988

County	Total	1988%
Antrim	61	3.0
Armagh	8	0.39
Carlow	8	0.39
Cavan	25	1.23
Clare	41	2.0
Cork	219	10.84
Derry	44	2.17
Donegal	62	3.06
Down	18	0.89
Dublin	369	18.26
Fermanagh	8	0.39
Galway	104	5.14
Kerry	76	3.76
Kildare	29	1.43
Kilkenny	47	2.32
Laois	10	0.49
Leitrim	22	1.08
Limerick	99	4.90
Longford	14	0.69
Louth	128	6.33
Mayo	34	1.68
Meath	46	2.27
Monaghan	12	0.59
Offaly	20	0.99
Roscommon	31	1.53
Sligo	32	1.58
Tipperary	73	3.61
Tyrone	40	1.98
Waterford	114	5.64
West Meath	22	1.08
Wexford	33	1.63
Wicklow	31	1.53

## HOSTEL STATISTICS FOR 1988

153 availed of our Hostel Services - of that number all got some form of work eventually. 132 started life in London by doing unskilled work.

8 went home and did not return.

10 were married and had left wife and family at home.

134 were smokers; 30 were asthmatic.

124 did not attend Church; 5 did not take alcohol.

144 were between the age of 16-24.

140 used sugar. 130 drank tea.

22 drank coffee; 152 waited for a letter from home.

## OTHER NATIONALITIES

England	81	4.0
Scotland	26	1.28
Wales	3	0.14
Afro-Caribbean	10	0.49
Others	20	0.99



# 'You line up like cattle ... the Subby comes ...'

I know a boy who got ten pounds off the Subby and the Subby told him he was going off to get the rest of his wages. And he never came back. The job was done and he had the fruits of the young lads work for a tenner. I know lad's who done a week's work and driving home the Subby asks them to get out and push the van, and they do. There's nothing wrong with the van at all. The Subby drives off and leaves the boys and he owes them the guts of £125 for the week's work. What can you do? Fill the trenches in again? For nothing? For revenge?

Getting ripped off is a way of life. I meself was working for a fella from Galway. We got on well, we had a good boss relationship. After six weeks he

**"Getting ripped off is a way of life ..."**

says to me, 'I'm going to Galway for ten days or so'. 'That's great', I says, 'what am I supposed to do in the meantime?' C'est la vie, he says. So I was unemployed for a few weeks. Moping about the Hostel, going insane. If you want work you get it at the Broadway. But it's no use. You only get a day here, a day there. There's no long term work. You get up in the morning between half five and six. Breakfast in the Hostel starts six. If you're the sort of person takes breakfast in the morning you have to wait until at least six o'clock, wolf it down, get straight out and catch a bus to the Broadway. And there's a cafe there at the Broadway and you just stand there like cattle and the Subby comes up to you - eenie - meenie - minie - mo ... You're chosen for the slaughter if you look like a boy who has done a lot of work.

See me, my jeans have tar all over them, dirt, and that's an asset. Get a young fellah just over, going up there with nice clean jeans and shiny shoes and he's got no chance. 'I heard a Subby saying to one of them one morning 'Hey garsun, I'm looking for labourers, not disco-dancers'. Subby says to you - 'Do you want a start?' Yes. How much? '£20. £30. £25'.

**"Hey Garsun, I'm looking for Labourers not Disco-Dancers!"**

Whatever. And £30 it is if you're very lucky.

You say where is it?

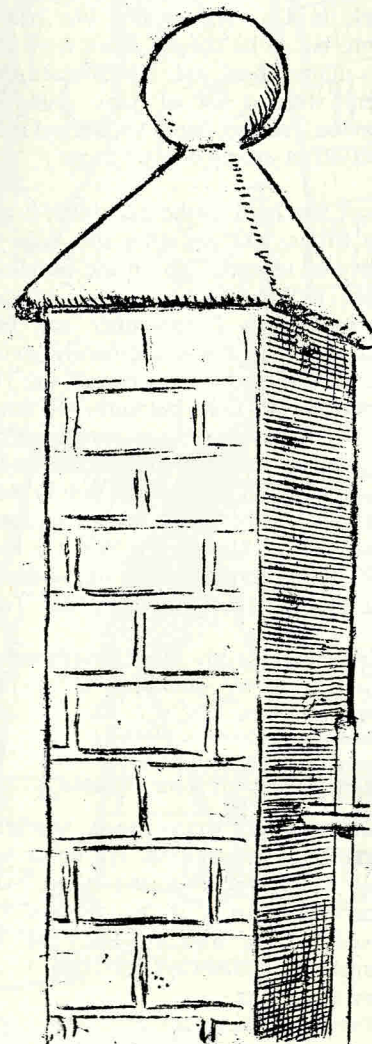
One day last week they drove me to Oxford. Fair enough, will you leave me back? 'Yes.' So you get in the van and find out what kind of work you'll be doing. And your man'll say 'have you done this sort of work before', and I say, yes. Because I have. I've been doing the buildings since I was seventeen. There's nothing new to me. The only thing I've never tried building is an Atom bomb. But I expect I'll get asked soon enough. You do the days work. You get your days pay and that could be you for another two weeks. It's difficult to survive.

The worst of it all, worse than the work is getting somewhere to live. I know four fellahs living in a room ten foot square. One in the bed. Two on the floor. One on the settee - £38 a week. The Hostel here is unbelievable. The crack is great. Everybody gets on well together. A great start to life in England, ... if you can get in. But if you can't get in, then you start sleeping in doorways, shelters, kips, squats, Bed & Breakfasts, mates, floors .... then if you are lucky Bingo - The Hostel. You stand a chance from then on. You're on your way up the ladder.



A new trend at our Centre is the growing re-emergence of young married men. Because of economic circumstances, they are forced to leave their wives and children and move in the hope of financial security to London. The sheer psychological pain involved in this traumatic change for these men and their families, puts a tremendous strain on marital and family relationships.

Meeting these men and listening to their sorry plights of doubt, fear, anger, indecisiveness and loneliness, has definitely been one of the saddest aspects of the whole problem of forced emigration and our work at the Centre.





DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE FOLLOWING STORY WAS SO SUCCESSFUL LAST YEAR, AND THAT IT WAS QUOTED IN FULL THROUGHOUT THE IRISH MEDIA, BOTH IN IRELAND AND BRITAIN, WE HAVE NO RESERVATION IN REPEATING IT IN THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL REPORT. IT REVEALS THE REAL LIFE SITUATION OF SOME OF OUR OLDER CLIENTS WHO CONSISTENTLY AND FREQUENTLY COME TO OUR CENTRE FOR ONGOING SUPPORT.

## THIS LONDON'S A CITY OF HEARTBREAK

*'I walked through the city a stranger in the land I can never call home;  
I cast the sad notion across me,  
in my search for my fortune to roam.'*

When that song came out, those words kept coming back, time and time again to me. I had left a large family of us back in Co. Westmeath. We had a farm, but to be honest, there were just too many of us, and I had heard that there were a lot of jobs going in London - and so, being young and able, I set off in 'search of my fortune'.

Work was hard for the Irish then. It was the fifties, and just after the War, so many of us ended up on the building-sites. We lived in difficult circumstances. I remember my first room so well. You could barely 'swing a cat in it.' There were two of us. The landlady was O.K. but sure, we never really stayed very long in the room. After a day's work, we headed home for a wash, and then out to the pub to meet the lads. To be honest with you, there was nothing else to do. When I look back on it, maybe we did stupid things like that, but could you blame us?

*'For a working day seems never ending,  
From a shovel and pick there's no break;  
And when you're not working  
you're spending,  
A fortune you left home to make.'*

I met a lovely woman then, and after some time, we married. We never had any kids. There wasn't time. The marriage broke up within months. She couldn't cope with my drinking. It's something I've always regretted. I still miss her - a lot.

After the breakup, things gradually got worse. I began to give up. My dreams

became nightmares. All the things I had hoped for began to vanish. Going home with lots of money, a wife and confidence. Come to think of it now, I even would have pretended to have made it, as that was the expected thing at the time.

*'And for every man here who finds a fortune,  
And comes home to tell of the tale;  
Each morning the Broadway is crowded  
With many the thousands who failed.'*

When they eventually found out at home of my drinking and broken marriage, I think they gave up on me altogether. Anyway, to be honest with you, I was too ashamed to go home again. In fact, the only time I went home after the breakup of my marriage was to my mother's funeral. *I could sense the rejection!* Maybe it's one of the reasons I've lost respect for myself ... I don't know. I miss so many things. I miss home.



### 157 BUILDING WORKERS WERE KILLED LAST YEAR

A large proportion of newly arrived Irish immigrants, find their first job on construction sites, unaware of the pitfalls and dangers, many lacking insight into possible accident consequences.

The latest accident figures are frightening. There are two deaths every week, and the number of reported accidents is rising faster than ever.

The incidence of many cancers, back injuries, respiratory diseases such as bronchitis, emphysema, asthma and many other ailments, are much higher in building workers than in the general population (Hazards, 4, June 1985). As many as 4,000 building workers may die every year from industrial diseases. (For further information apply to Construction Safety Campaign, London).

*'So young men of Ireland take warning,  
In London you never will find Gold at the end of the rainbow,  
For you might just have left it behind!'*

Occasionally, I go to a B & B, but generally, I live rough. There's quite a few of us around the Broadway - at least we have one another as friends.

We still drink a lot of the little we get from casual labour. The 'skippering' can give us up to £30 a week. Somehow, we manage.

*'Ah, this London's a city of heartbreak,  
On a Friday, there's friends by the score,  
But when the pay's finished on Monday  
A friend's not a friend anymore!'*

Sometimes, I think of dying. And I must admit, it's frightening. I know my friends here on the Broadway would miss me, but I also wish my relatives at home would miss me too. I'd still love to go home... but I'm afraid. I wouldn't know what to say. I'd have to get all dressed up, and sure what would they think of me anyway? It's all too much for me. But at least I had my dream!

*'I remember that bright April morning,  
When I left home to travel afar;  
But to work 'til your're dead  
For one room and a bed,  
It's not the reason I left Mullingar.'*



# *Aimless Wandering Immigrant Dead*

I walk with the rest of them up and down  
Between Mornington Crescent and Camden Town  
Pain in the belly, sore in the head  
Aimless wandering immigrant dead.

I dug that hole then filled it in  
I'm buried there up to me chin  
You can leave me in it, I'll tell no lies  
And for the traffic light you can use me eyes.

I sit in cafts and drink black tea  
And try to think what's wrong with me  
The night is weeping and full of cries  
But I can't join in I've got no eyes.

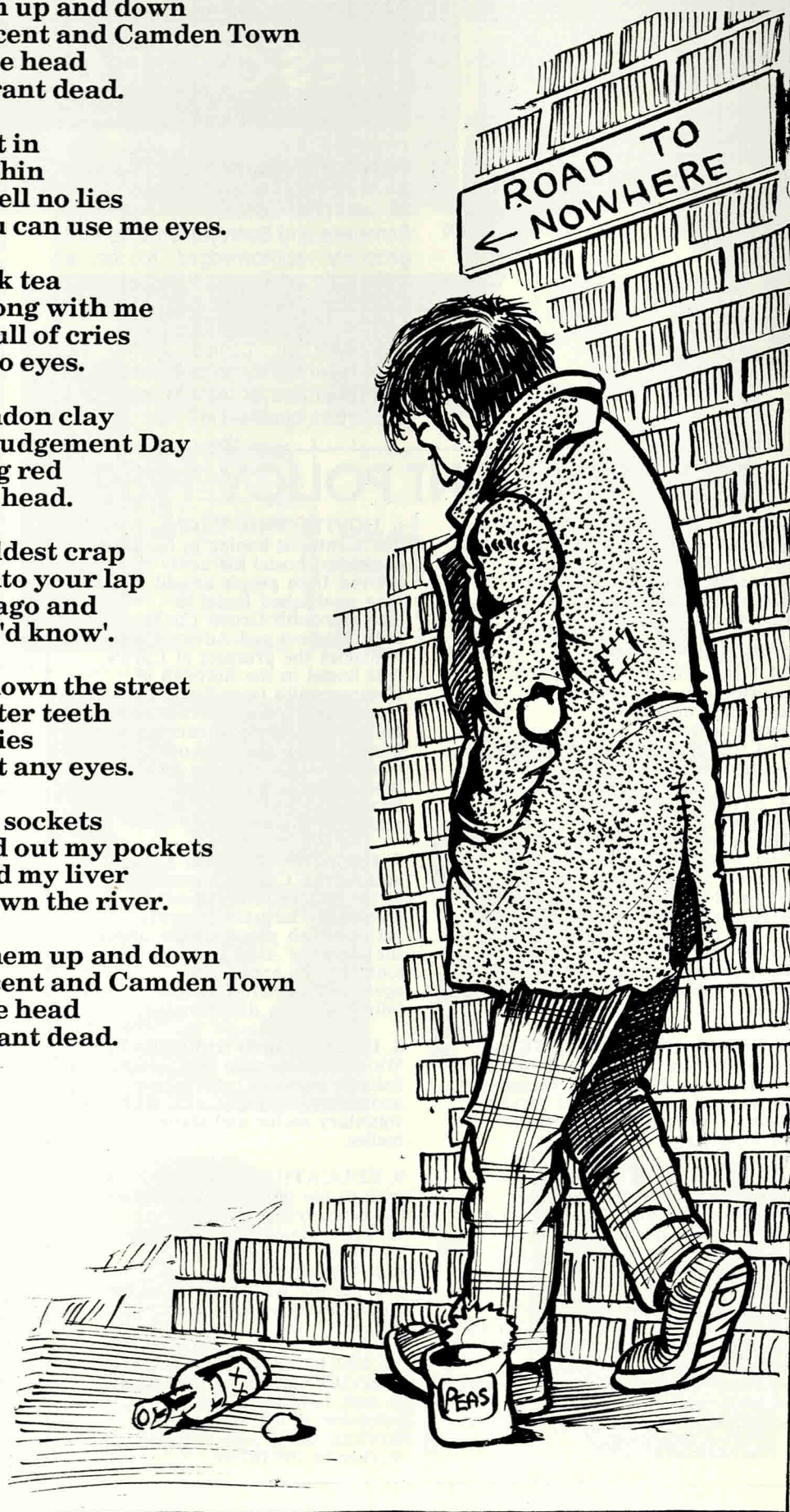
I've left them buried in London clay  
They'll stay there now 'til Judgement Day  
Flashing green and flashing red  
As the City roars above my head.

In the pub you hear the saddest crap  
Straight from their souls into your lap  
A fella shouts - 'I left years ago and  
There's no one there alive I'd know'.

There's a woman walking down the street  
With Autumn hair and Winter teeth  
I'd like to kiss and tell her lies  
But she'd see my face hasn't any eyes.

London tore them from the sockets  
Detroyed my mind, emptied out my pockets  
The drink has all but ruined my liver  
And the Subby's sold me down the river.

So I walk with the rest of them up and down  
Between Mornington Crescent and Camden Town  
Pain in the belly, sore in the head  
Aimless wandering immigrant dead.







# CONSEQUENCES...

## LIFE'S OTHER DIMENSION

In the first quarter of 1988, 1,525 women travelled from Ireland to Britain to have an abortion. (Offices of Population Censuses and Surveys). This figure is generally acknowledged to be an underestimate. Our experience points to the fact that there are many in need of aftercare counselling. The Abortion Clinics spend vast amounts of money on their services. Who advertises for those in need of aftercare counselling?

Mandy had an abortion. Six months later she was all smiles every time we met. But John, her boyfriend, though not the father of the aborted baby, said: 'I know she keeps smiling, but she's destroyed inside.'

Everywhere one goes in London, the signs and notices inviting with seductiveness, almost normality, the choice to have an abortion. On the buses, in the underground, on the lifts and in the newspapers. If you don't want the baby or the pregnancy, the choice is yours.

And Mandy is destroyed ...

She came to London two years ago, full of hopes and ambitions. After six months she met Paul who was extremely kind and encouraging to her. Up until then, Mandy had felt very alone. She tried to concentrate on work and improving her secretarial skills. But to no avail. Then things started to look up. Paul took her out and showed her the bright lights of life, and London. Life was liveable.

And everywhere the signs inviting...

Then Mandy became pregnant. Paul seemed to change, and she once more, began to feel isolated and alone. 'I felt confused, and the pressure on me to make a decision quickly,' she told me later. It was only a matter of weeks and she had made the decision.

And everything was back to normal. Or was it? ...

The signs that had been so inviting in a time of crisis now became unbearable reminders of her unhappy decision. Unable to cope or accept the consequences of her previous decision, she became very depressed.

'It was as if I was watching life go by, and hoping it would forget me, and leave me alone. I was angry and felt bitter about so many things. About having to come to London in the first place; about meeting Paul; about falling in love; about my decision to have the abortion. And mostly, because I had no one to talk to afterwards.' As she was speaking she appeared bitter. I listened.

And I wondered. Where are the signs for Mandy ... Now?

'Interestingly, bereavement counsellors were among the first wave of rescue services into Lockerbie after the Pan-Am crash. We are learning that the crushed human spirit needs as much love and care as crushed bones'. (from Colm Kilcoyne, Sunday Press 15/1/89).

## DEVELOPMENT POLICY 1989

**1. COMPUTERISATION:** The Centre hopes to have a computer system up and running and networked with the Camden Irish Centre and an emigration centre in Ireland.

**2. PROJECT WORK DEVELOPMENT:** We aim to provide a more systematic approach to securing accommodation, employment, and training for newly arrived young Irish people.

**3. CONFERENCE:** In conjunction with the EMD of Hammersmith & Fulham Council and with the support of other Council departments, the Irish Support and Advice Centre will organise the first ever conference on the Borough's Irish Community. It aims to highlight the problems faced by Irish people locally, and research their needs.

**4. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES:** (1) The Irish Support and Advice Centre is looking into a variety of ways of monitoring its service delivery to insure it maintains its high status of equal opportunities practice. (2) In addition the Irish Support and Advice Centre is looking into awareness training for staff vis a vis Equal Opportunities.

**5. DIMENSIONS OF THE LOCAL IRISH COMMUNITY:** The Irish Support and Advice Centre will approach a number of statutory and voluntary agencies with the intention of seeking more information on the numbers of Irish people using their services.

**6. HOSTEL PROVISION:** (1) The Centre is hoping to open an additional hostel for newly arrived Irish people to add to our long established hostel in Hammersmith Grove. (2) The Irish Support and Advice Centre welcomes the prospect of Cara's first hostel in the Borough of Hammersmith (specifically for older men). With a decade and a half of experience in running a hostel locally and with our extensive links with the local Irish Community we look forward to a close working relationship with Cara.

**7. HIV/AIDS:** The Irish Support and Advice Centre is concerned at the lack of information specifically targeted to newly arrived Irish young people under the threat of Aids, and will be lobbying the appropriate agencies to insure that this information be disseminated.

**8. LIAISON AND REFERRAL:** We wish to develop even closer links in terms of both liaison and referral systems with other voluntary sector and statutory bodies.

**9. EDUCATION POST 1990:** We wish to see (i) Induction courses for new arrivals, (ii) Irish dimension in all local education, (iii) A priority placed on appropriate training facilities for young newly arrived Irish people.

**10. EXTENSION OF EXISTING SERVICES:** It is our intention to seek funding for (a) an extension in our counselling services, and (b) an outreach worker in the future.



# HAMMERSMITH The Centre - Its Friends and Concerns



*The Bridge*



*Christmas Day on the Broadway*



*Brian (ex-hostel resident) and Catherine*



*Hard Work - Low Pay*



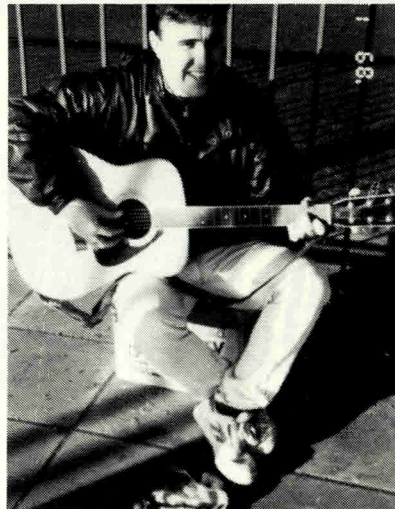
*'My Heart is in Ireland'*



*Jimmy - Smiling!*



*A new arrival*



*Busking*



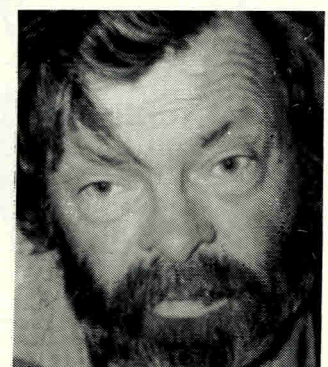
*Skills needed Today*



*At the Hostel*



*Creative Leisure Time*



*Step into 1989*



# I don't want a present - Just come home soon'.

*Dear Daddy,*

*Some of the boys in my class are saying I'm very good at football. We beat St. Joseph's last Thursday, and I scored two goals. It's a pity you weren't there. Even Mammy and Sharon came. But Sharon fell asleep during the match. I don't think Mammy really likes football like you do. Yesterday the head master gave us a half day off. The teachers had a meeting. I went with my pals Paul and Joe to the canal to do some fishing. It was the first time I went fishing in a long time - since you left. Will you be coming home soon?*

*What's London like? The boys say it's a big place. On the television it looks different to Dublin. Do you like it there? I wish I could come and see you and we could go to a big football match there. Do you think you'll be there long? Mammy, I think, misses you a lot because last week she was crying. When she's like that I don't know what to do.*

*Sharon is bigger now, and is always opening the presses. I like her, and I play with her a lot. I'll finish now Dad. By the way, I don't want a present - just come home soon.*

*Bye for now,*

*Lots of Love, Billy.*



I never thought it would happen to me! A good job, wife and two kids, everything going well for me. Why? Up to a year ago, I had always thought of emigration as a difficulty for the young person just coming out of school. You know what I mean! The youngsters, educated, but with no space to be employed at home. I knew it was a problem for them, but I also felt somewhere inside me, that they'd manage. They had youth and enthusiasm on their side!

Then suddenly - the cloud burst, and the rain came pouring down! Within six months, my partner and I saw our business fall apart, our mortgages rise, and with growing kids, the daily demands increase.

I went on the dole but found it to be impossible. I couldn't manage to make ends meet.

Six months ago I arrived in London. My feelings were confused. A terrible emptiness filled by fear, shattered my previous confidence. And ironically, I knew this was my only hope. I had to make it work.

Being a carpenter by profession, meant work was easy enough to come by in London's busy expansion schemes. Working night and day. I could earn over £400 a week. That lasted for a while - then exhaustion!

Hotels are comfortable, but unrealistic. With nowhere else to go, I was spending most of my wages just keeping myself in accommodation and food. What was left over was sent home to help meet the bills - especially the mortgage. My wife has no job.

She feels very let down, very hurt and wonders if we'll make it. Sometimes she's strong. But increasingly, pressure reveals powerlessness, and it all becomes too much. I worry.

Yet, there was some hope for a while. Sending some money home regularly,

**"What was left over was sent home to help to meet the bills... My wife has no job."**

and keeping myself here. But I was unable to save much. Just before Christmas, I managed to acquire hostel accommodation. But it's only for a short while, and hopefully it'll give me the space to save for a deposit on a house. The deposits are a killer!

I managed to go home for Christmas, partly to find an answer; but mostly to feel secure and in control once again. I returned - confused.

I'm not sure that London is the place to bring my wife and kids. Life is so different here. Though I'm thirty years of age now, I feel like an eighteen year old again. Afraid and unsure.

I never thought it would happen to me! ■

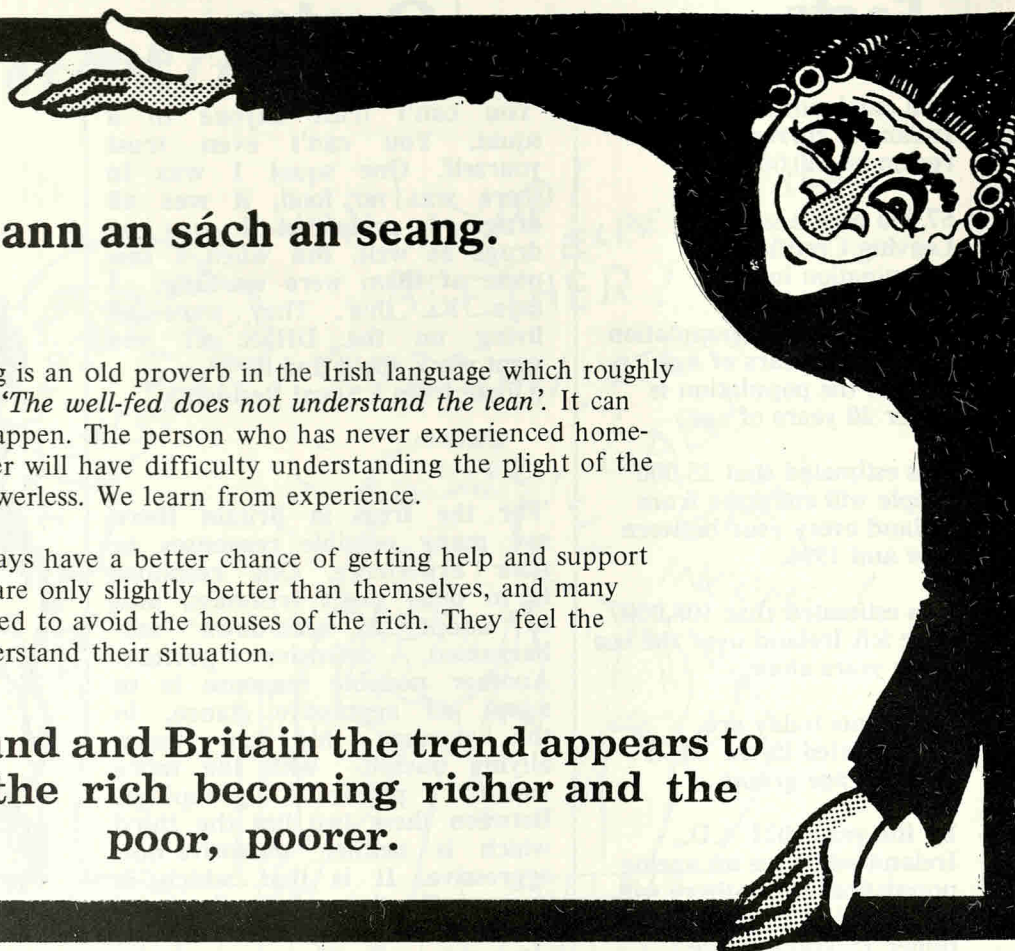


## Ní thuigeann an sách an seang.

The above heading is an old proverb in the Irish language which roughly translated means *'The well-fed does not understand the lean'*. It can happen. It does happen. The person who has never experienced homelessness and hunger will have difficulty understanding the plight of the needy and the powerless. We learn from experience.

The poor will always have a better chance of getting help and support from those who are only slightly better than themselves, and many beggars have learned to avoid the houses of the rich. They feel the rich may not understand their situation.

**In both Ireland and Britain the trend appears to be that of the rich becoming richer and the poor, poorer.**



### MINIMUM COST OF STAYING IN LONDON PER WEEK

RENT	40.00
FOOD	40.00
TRAVEL	10.00
TOILETRIES	5.00
NEW CLOTHES	5.00
ENTERTAINMENT	15.00
SAVINGS	10.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£125.00</b>

### ROUGH ESTIMATE OF ACCOMODATION COSTS IN W. LONDON PER WEEK

Room - with shared facilities	£45.00	-	£50.00
Shared Room for two	£70.00	-	£80.00
Bed Sit	£50.00	-	£60.00
Flat	£80.00	-	£100.00
Maisonette - two rooms +	£110.00	-	£130.00
House	from £160.00		



## Facts

- The employment figure in Ireland is currently in the region of 240,000.
- 57,000 people sat their Leaving Certificate Examination in 1988.
- 50% of Ireland's population is under 28 years of age. 40% of the population is under 20 years of age.
- It is estimated that 25,000 people will emigrate from Ireland every year between now and 1996.
- It is estimated that 108,000 have left Ireland over the last three years alone.
- Emigrants today are concentrated in the 18-25 year old age group.
- By the year 2021 A.D., Ireland will have an ageing population where there will be more people over 65 than under 15 years of age.
- 70% to 80% of emigration is to Britain.
- Emigrants are more often highly skilled and better educated than their predecessors.
- More emigrants are leaving from the big cities many of whom have no skills and come from deprived urban backgrounds. There is also substantial emigration from the north of Ireland particularly from Derry and Belfast.
- It is estimated that 10% of new emigrants end up sleeping rough.



## Quotes

'You can't trust anyone in a squat. You can't even trust yourself. One squat I was in there was no food, it was all drugs. I pretended I was on drugs as well. But when I saw none of them were working, I says 'F... this'. They were all living on the DHSS. If you want work you'll find it.  
(Quote from a Squat Resident)

'For the Irish in Britain there are many possible responses to their experience. One response is to deny one's Irishness, and to adopt a head-down embarrassed, defensive posture. Another possible response is to adopt an aggressive stance, in the extreme this can mean allying oneself with the more violent political groupings. Between these two lies the third which is neither defensive nor aggressive. It is that which is born of the perception of oneself and one's Irishness as gift. Many who came here, particularly in the 1950's lacked confidence and so developed a semi-ghetto mentality. Recent years have seen a development of a sense of ethnicity and the possibility of each ethnic minority being able to contribute something of immense value to a multi-cultural society. The Irish in Britain, and in particular the second generation, are becoming alert to this, but slowly'. (Donal Spring 'The Furrow' P447).

With the 'subby' there is no thought of safety because they know you are on a casual basis. You start digging at seven o'clock, then home. It usually takes an hour and a half to travel back. The safety is bad and they don't care - you can be replaced by another man in a half an hour. They have no regard for personal safety. It's get the job finished and nothing else. This is what is known as 'Popular Capitalism' and they have virtual immunity from the law. (Quote from newly arrived).



### To My Daughter

Once people left Ireland to find work.  
But you who were born in England,  
Left me to find happiness  
Ireland.  
A Salmon spawn, returning to its beginnings.  
To Dublin and Galway ... your father's land ...  
Drawn by the rain and the mist,  
A grey magnet, Electric,  
compelling, eversure,  
Dublin grey and wet with tears,  
lonely, lost, lunatic forever.  
You will never return to me, it is me that will swim the seas now,  
Looking forever not for an Eldorado; full of Gold but Ireland  
Place of dreams, tears, and lost children.





## AN ANNUAL REPORT IS...



"AN ANNUAL REPORT IS GETTING AN IDEA FROM  
ONE'S HEAD INTO SOMEONE ELSE'S..."

### SEAGULL

Seagull, I hear you cry  
as when a lad  
I watched you wheel  
through sunny skies  
Or sail the wind  
over pounding surf  
and raging spray.  
Seagull, I hear you cry  
and my heart gives a wrench  
Homesickness I thought  
long-forgotten  
Comes flooding in.  
Seagull, I hear you cry  
but when I do  
Don't you also  
hear ME cry?





## CHANGING THE FUTURE ...

55 FULHAM PALACE ROAD,  
HAMMERSMITH, LONDON. W6. 8AU.  
Telephone: 741 0466

... **WITH YOUR  
SUPPORT**

DEAR READER,

WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT ALL PEOPLE IN NEED,  
AND ESPECIALLY IRISH IMMIGRANTS, YOUNG AND OLD.

AS YOU MAY HAVE READ IN THIS OUR ANNUAL REPORT  
1988, THERE ARE A GROWING NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN A STATE OF  
HOMELESSNESS AND POWERLESSNESS AND THE DEVELOPING FEAR  
OF A 'NEW BROADWAY GENERATION' IS VERY QUICKLY BECOMING  
A REALITY. WE ALL HAVE TO MAKE CHANGES HAPPEN IN ORDER  
TO SHAPE A BETTER FUTURE.

QUITE FRANKLY, MANY IMMIGRANTS HAVE NO MEANS OF  
COPING WITH THE CRITICAL ACCOMMODATION PROBLEM IN LONDON—  
ESPECIALLY DURING THE FIRST FEW WEEKS.

OUR AUSTIN HOUSE HOSTEL HAS BEEN PROVIDING AN  
EXTREMELY VITAL INTERIM SHELTER TO MANY OF THESE, OVER  
THE LAST NUMBER OF YEARS.

WE NOW INTEND TO DEVELOP AND EXHEND THIS SERVICE,  
WHICH WE ANTICIPATE WILL LEAVE US £170,000 IN DEBT.

WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL HELP—NOW. PLEASE SPARE  
YOUR CHANGE, OR MAKE A LARGER DONATION.  
ANY CONTRIBUTION IS WELCOME.

THANKS.

YOURS SINCERELY,

Jim Kiely



# **WE RECOMMEND ...**

## **EDUCATION**

1. That Career Guidance foster at primary school level an even stronger awareness of the needs of Europe and the World.
2. That all students learn a foreign language.
3. That all students acquire a basic saleable skill.

## **INTENDING EMIGRANTS**

1. That they be aware of the importance of Adaptability i.e., the necessity for integration and inculturation (the ability to share our cultural heritage and to be enriched by that of others.)
2. That they be aware of the significance of making some personal decisions regarding (a) lifestyle, (b) religious values, (c) ongoing education and, (d) the constructive use of leisure time.

## **POLITICAL ACTION**

1. That stringent efforts continue to be made to revitalise the economical resources of our own country.
2. That the Irish abroad should be given a right to vote in Irish elections.
3. That the Irish Government appoint a Minister with responsibility and accountability for immigrants and emigration.
4. That the Irish Government give support to the Migrant Training Scheme; and that, those working in the Irish emigration services lobby the T.D.'s and M.E.P.'s for European Social Funding support for the M.T.S.

## **PASTORAL ACTION**

That a Pastoral Plan be drawn up to include an effective response to the faith needs of the young Irish in London.

## **WOMEN**

That disadvantages in employment and housing, suffered by many Irish women, be recognised and included on agendas for reform.

## **TRAVELLING COMMUNITY**

That the Travelling Community be treated with special consideration, understanding and sensitivity - and that acknowledgement should be given to their right to retain and develop their own cultural identity.

## **HOUSING**

1. That homelessness be recognised as a central issue facing many Irish immigrants in London.
2. That the Housing Corporation urgently prioritise an appropriate housing response in conjunction with Irish Centres in London.
3. That London local authorities and public funding bodies provide more emergency revenue to Irish Centres to meet the immediate homelessness problem.

## **FUNDS**

1. That funds from the National Lottery be used to increase the State's contribution to the welfare of its immigrants abroad.
2. That an emergency 'Safe Start Fund' be set up for the needs of the most vulnerable newly arrived immigrants.
3. That the governing authorities in Northern Ireland make available funds to be distributed to Centres dealing with immigrants from there.

## **RECOGNITION**

1. That all Irish educational qualifications be accorded their due recognition of their counterparts in Britain.
2. That the British educational authorities recognise the necessity felt by the Irish community for a more comprehensive view of Irish history to be taught at all levels of the curriculum.





## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

*\*If you are an Irish Politician...*

(a) What can you do to ensure adequate preparation for those who are forced to emigrate?

(b) What is your responsibility towards those who have already emigrated?

*\*If you are an Elected Representative in Britain...*

What is your commitment to the Irish Community?

*\*If you belong to the Settled Irish Community ..*

What can you do to advance the cause of the Irish community in Britain?

*\* If your are a New Immigrant...*

What can you do to contribute towards your host country, and your own people?

