



Tuesday, 10 February 2004

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Irish In Britain APPG

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Dear Mary Harris

St Bridget's Festival

Barra Hall Park, Freemans Lane, Hayes
Sunday 5th September 2004

Every year on 17th March the Irish community celebrates St Patrick's Day as the patron saint of Ireland. This is becoming an increasingly popular event in Britain with celebrations across the length and breadth of the country. Such has been the success of St. Patrick's day that our local Irish community has always wanted to have the opportunity of celebrating it all over again later in the summer. In addition many Irish women have argued that in the interests of gender balance we should also be celebrating an Irish woman saint.

Hence in Hayes we have decided to launch the **St Bridget's Festival** and to hold this celebration on Sunday 5th September 2004 in our local park. This will allow us not only to celebrate our Irishness but especially the role of Irish women in our history.

This initiative is being organised by the Barra Hall Park Regeneration Committee, a group of local residents, largely Irish, who have come together to refurbish their local park and bring it back into community use. I founded and chair this community organisation. The festival will comprise of music, dance, poetry, art and sports, all held in Barra Hall Park in Hayes.

To help us make this new initiative a success, I am writing to invite you to a meeting to discuss ideas, and to help plan and deliver this years festival. The meeting will take place at on:

Tuesday 16th March 2004 starting at 7:30pm
Wilson Room, Portcullis House, House of Commons
(a map is printed overleaf, the entrance to Portcullis House is shown as C)

I do hope you can attend this meeting and become involved in this community event. If you have any queries please contact our organiser Helen Lowder on 0208 589.9008. I look forward to seeing you on 16th March.

Yours sincerely

John McDonnell MP – **Secretary, Irish In Britain APPG**

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