

THE IRISH CENTRE, 52, CAMDEN SQUARE, LONDON, N.W.1.

JANUARY, 1968.

- 6th Dublin Association Dance.
  - 7th Kerry Childrens Christmas Party.
  - 11th Newport, Co. Tipperary Parish Reunion.
  - 13th The Crean School of Dancing Childrens Party.
  - " Roscommon Association Buffet & Dance.
  - 14th Sean McDermotts A.G.M.
  - " Waterford Association Childrens Party.
  - 18th Tollington Park Legion of Mary Dance.
  - 20th Old Age Pensioners Christmas Party.
  - 21st Tipperary Association A.G.M.
  - " Dublin Association A.G.M.
  - 23rd Individual Quiz Competition - 8.30 p.m.
  - 28th Galway Association A.G.M.
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We are now into 1968 It is our pleasant duty to wish you and yours a very happy New Year. What God may have in store for you in 1968 we do not know, but we hope that you will be able to measure up to His demands. As long as you can do just that then you will be at peace with yourself and you will be helpful to others.

It is no longer news to you that we had a wonderful Christmas at the Irish Centre. It is no longer news to you that we made headlines both here and at home on T.V. and Radio. The dinner on Christmas Day was a great success and to all who helped we say "go raibh mile maith agaibh go leir". A Mr. James Kennedy from one of the bigger hotels in Piccadilly rang us up to offer his services at the dinner and, as it turned out, he was a God's send because James is a Chef. He, with Sister Rita, prepared the meal which gave so much pleasure to 220 Irish boys and girls. All our staff in Kitchen and Bar plus many outsiders gave of their time and energy to make Christmas Day an occasion to remember. One good lady, when she saw the work that had to be done, rushed home, turned off the gas under her turkey, and spent until 7.30 p.m. here working very hard. This was the spirit that was in the atmosphere around the Centre on Christmas Day. In the Bar things were hectic. We Irish have been accused so often of being the "fighting Irish" Anyone who came here all over the holiday period would never agree with that image, but then the ones responsible for creating such images are never to be seen in well-behaved places or with decent people.

We owe a word of congratulation to Brendan & Bernie and their staff. Well done and many happy days and long life in the Irish Centre.

We had a large congregation at Midnight Mass. All three priests concelebrated and people told us afterwards it was beautiful. We like to hear these remarks. We thank Philip Wagstaff who played the organ so beautifully and the choir for their rendering of the Christmas Hymns.

As it is the New Year we ask you to renew your membership. You should do so at once. If you have not received a renewal form you can get one at the Centre.



The building extension is well on to completion. This is going to be a great asset to the Centre and we would hope it will be ready for March. One never knows - but you might like to put in the lighting or some such thing.

Since the beginning of the New Year we have started Bingo on Wednesday nights. This means we have three nights Bingo every week. Come early and make sure of a seat. And dont forget you can have a good dance to the music of the Islanders every Friday and Sunday night after Bingo.

Speaking of Dancing - New Year's Eve was the greatest night yet. It was great to see how people enjoyed themselves but there again those Islanders would make a cripple dance They have life and who better to respond than an Irish crowd.

As I write, we just have not completed negotiations about our new Weekly Pool, but we want you to be our Agent. How about it?

We are hoping to have our boys band on the march for St. Patrick's Day. We have been invited officially. Pray we will have them ready.

Tickets for the St. Patrick's Festival Concert in the Albert Hall on the 16th March will be on sale next month. We will be able to give you full details in our next bulletin.

Again a very happy New Year and dont forget to say a prayer for our sick members.

God Bless you all.