

T H E I R I S H C E N T R E

O C T O B E R 1 9 6 8

: NEWS - LETTER :

D i a r y

Thurs. 3rd	Cavan Association Annual Dinner & Dance, at The Gresham.
Sat. 5th	Clare Association Bacon & Cabbage Dinner
Sat. 12th	West Meath Assoc. Bacon & Cabbage Dinner
Tues. 15th	Council of Counties Meeting
Thurs. 17th	Offaly Association Bacon & Cabbage Dinner
Sat. 19th	Wexford Association Bacon & Cabbage Dinner
Thurs. 24th	Tipperary Association Benefit Dance
Sat. 26th	Derry, Fermanagh and Armagh Bacon & Cabbage Dinner
Thurs. 31st	Crean School of Dancing Bacon & Cabbage Dinner

BINGO : Sunday, Wednesday & Friday

WEEKLY TOTE: Draw -

It would be an interesting hobby for you to tot up how many Irish organisations and societies there are throughout the country. I should think too, that according to the constitutions of each one of them, there would be something to the effect that they would foster the spiritual and material welfare of the Irish, and also Irish culture. It is in an effort to bring all these societies and associations into one strong forceful unit that some sincere men are trying to set up a federation of Irish Societies in Britain, and it was for that purpose they met at the Irish Club, last Saturday. They will be meeting again, at The Irish Centre in November. It is hoped that this venture will succeed in organising the Irish and that we will be a strong force in this country. It is our prayer that "they all may be one".

It was the privilege of the writer of this letter to be down in the Portsmouth Irish Club last week. As usual there was the cead mile failte atmosphere at the Portsmouth Club. For the past seven years they have helped us out to the tune of £100 each year, and this year again they have presented us with a similar cheque. On your behalf I thanked them. I might add that whenever you are down in Portsmouth you can be sure of a big welcome at the Irish Club there.

The "count down" with regard to the opening of the new hall has begun. We are just waiting on the Brewery to instal the Bar, and then it is a question of furniture and take off. It has been a long wait, but by Christmas we will have everything swinging. We are hoping to have good Ballad Sessions there, with waitress service for the members. If and when it works out you will have a very nice club room, and we hope many a happy evening.

Canon Sheehan once compared life to a chariot, whose wheels moved painfully and slowly at the start, but once set moving - particularly when going down the deep decline of life - we cannot even see the spokes. Well time seems to pass so quickly in The Irish Centre that we can hardly see the chariot! In terms of days and weeks, it is now a long time since work re-started on the new hall; it is longer still since the Clare Association had the portrait of President Kennedy painted; but at long last both upper and lower halls are almost completed, and to that we say "thank God". We are having a new Bar installed in the J.F. Kennedy Hall, and with the face lift it has already got, plus the new Bar, we expect to have a very warm comfortable room. The Bishop of Killaloe, (Dr. Harty), will be over to unveil the portrait of J.F. Kennedy. That is not until the end of November, and as to what form the occasion will take, it has not been decided.

A Charity Walk will be organised in the near future. Such Charity Walks can make a lot of money. But, and we must stress this point, they only make money when properly organised and also when there are people to walk. The point I'm making is that we must all give a hand. Anyway, we will be letting you know all the details in the future.

Many of the shops will be displaying Christmas Cards now, but before you make your selection, you might consider buying them from The Irish Centre this year. We will have a supply of our Cards "in aid of the Irish Centre", here at the Centre, and by purchasing them your demands will be fulfilled and our financial position will be strengthened that much more, and our work publicised.

We have in the Aer Lingus Company a group that is known as "Friends of The Irish Centre". They are running a dance in the Gresham Ballroom on the 4th November in aid of The Irish Centre. We hope for your support as do the friendly Airline.

God bless you all.