

THE IRISH CENTRE

F E B R U A R Y 1 9 6 9

: NEWS-LETTER :

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| Sat. 1st | Galway Association - Bacon & Cabbage Dinner |
| Sun. 2nd | Claire Association - Childrens' Party
Kells Party |
| Tues. 4th | Knockvilla Reunion |
| Thurs. 6th | Brent Irish Society - Annual Dinner |
| Sat. 8th | Dance - Kilrush C.B.S. |
| Thurs. 13th | Eyries Parish Reunion |
| Sat. 15th | Kerry Association |
| Thurs. 20th | Irish Exiles Association |
| Sat. 22nd | Westmeath Association |
| Sun. 23rd | Kilkenny Association - A.G.M. |
| Tues. 25th | Fr. McNamara's Publicans Bacon & Cabbage Dinner |

BINGO - Sunday, Wednesday & Friday

IRISH EVENING - Douglas Hyde Lounge - Every Monday

Dear Member,

It was exactly 9.31 p.m. on Thursday 16th January 1969 when Mr. Molloy (Irish Ambassador) declared the Douglas Hyde Lounge open. All the anxieties, trials and tribulations were forgotten for that moment and a great sense of joy and achievement shot through everybody's veins at the Ambassador's declaration.

Newspaper reporters were all furiously taking notes and we would like to take this opportunity of, firstly, thanking them for coming along and, secondly, congratulating them for their very fine reports.

Now we get down to the work of running it to the best advantage for the Centre and the greatest enjoyment of the members. The Douglas Hyde Lounge will be open to members only on weekends, that is, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We are sticking to this rule and even already it is working out very well. On the other nights of the week we hope to be able to have functions there which will be a paying proposition and also entertaining. And to start with, we will have Monday nights especially for sing songs and best Irish music. At the moment, we will just start with a Monday and we will wait and work out something for the other week nights.

What a day the Old Age Pensioners had on Saturday 18th January! It was perfectly organised by the committee and all credit to those people who helped. Many outsiders came along to help. The Mayor and Lady Mayoress joined the party later in the afternoon, and it was at this stage that the boys band did their best to add to the entertainment of a wonderful evening. It was truly a great day for everyone connected with it and every face showed a smile of complete satisfaction. Very often we can forget the obvious; like the night of the opening - we nearly forgot to have the holy water ready for Bishop Casey to bless the hall. But in connection with the D.A.P.'s party, it would be wrong to forget the people in the kitchen who worked so hard - as they always do - for all our functions.

Parish Reunions are becoming more popular every year. In the past month we've had three Parish reunions and each one was a huge success. Other functions which drew attention were the Mayo, Roscommon and Kilkenny Dances, the Kilkenny Beer Festival dinner and dance and the Kerry children's Party. These were all very successful functions and well organised.

Were you down at St. Paul's on the night Cardinal Heenan preached there? I went along and it is difficult to sum up the whole thing. Outside was Paisley and his followers. At first sight, it sounded horrible and looked bad. There were all sorts of blasphemies being thrown about even by men who wore the 'round collar'. I was horrified at the beginning. But then I went into the Cathedral and when I saw the vast congregation inside who were all so fervent and enthusiastic and then compared them to what was outside, it was only then one could get a balanced view of the whole thing. There were a number of objections in the Cathedral itself but there were as many bouncers, and they dealt with the situation very effectively. In spite of the few, it was a grand ceremony and nothing but good can come from it all. Paisley was still outside after the ceremony with the leavings of a few eggs and tomatoes in his hair and I thought to myself, if his head was as hot as his tongue, he could have had a very good fry for his breakfast.

Tickets are now available for our Concert at the Royal Albert Hall on 6th March. The reason why we are having it so early this year is because the Russian Ballet Company have taken over the Albert Hall for 3 weeks and it cuts across our normal date (16th). We could not get the 16th even though we had booked a year in advance. The prices of tickets are 25s.: 20s.: 15s.: 10/6d.: 7/6d.: The Artists are: The Johnstons, Theresa Duffy, Louis Browne, Donal Donnelly, Deirdre O'Callaghan, Dermot O'Brien and The Clubmen, South London Pipers, Ted Kavanagh Dancers. Comperer: Kevin Hilton. Please book early.

Since starting this newsletter, we have had our first Monday Night session. Finbar O'Dwyer and his men supplied the music and it was just out of this world. About 100 people turned up, and to a man, they agreed it was a wonderful night. A few from the audience gave a song,

others threw back the tables and chairs and did a few sets while 2 people from the Crean School of Dancing danced hornpipes and jigs. There was a little of everything and everyone enjoyed it. So now, if you are at a loss to know where to take your friends on any Monday night, may I suggest you take them to the Douglas Hyde Lounge where they will not only be entertained, but maybe they will want to entertain us.

On March 29th, the Mayor of Camden will be having a reception for the Lord Mayor of London. When his Worship was here at the Centre, he was so pleased with the performance of the Irish Centre Boy's Band, that he has invited them to play at this reception. We expect they will be ready also for the Albert Hall Concert on 6th March.

A Charity Walk in aid of The Irish Centre is being organised for the 11th May. All details will be given in the next News-Letter, but in the meantime, whatever volunteers you can get, we would be glad to know their names and addresses.

God bless you all,

Rev. P. Sheridan, O.M.I.

Singing Dancing Fun and
Laughter from 9 to 11 PM.
EVERY MONDAY
in Douglas Hyde Lounge
your chance to be discovered!!
Music by FINBAR O'Dwyer & the Boys.