

There were some complaints about last month's newsletter; all I can say is we hope it won't be as bad again. But you know sometimes there is so little to write about especially in the Summer months, and then too, I often find it has been forgotten about until very late. However, this is not the place for making excuses.

The month just past has been a busy one. On the Welfare side we had a total of 235 persons interviewed. Granted, emigration from Ireland has dropped but more and more are coming to our Welfare Office for the simple reason that more and more people are getting to know about the Irish Centre.

It was a busy month on the social side. The Bingo here is proving as popular as ever. This is and always has been a great way of getting money for us. And now that the tax law has been changed, instead of paying 2,000 pounds licence fee, we will only have to pay four to five hundred pounds. Our hard-working Committee are more than pleased at this turn of events - and no wonder.

Our Monday nights are going very well. I would say that the Ballad session in the Douglas Hyde Lounge every Monday night, is the best known one in North London and the one most enjoyed. So many people have expressed themselves on this point. It is heartening when strangers come along to tell us that although this is their first night here, it will by no means be their last, and that they enjoyed every minute of it. When this happens - we feel we are succeeding along the right lines. The most important consideration in any gathering is the type of people that assemble, and thank God, we get the very best.

Bishop McFeely was over to meet his Donegal friends. The Donegal Association did not have a lot of time to get organised and as a result the number was small but nevertheless the function was most enjoyable. Bishop McFeely has been over here on quite a number of occasions and he has warmed the hearts of all who met him. We feel he is part of us. By his coming he has shown how interested he is in his people.

Another man who graced us with his presence was His Lordship Dr. Russell, Bishop of Waterford. Every year since his appointment, Dr. Russell has visited us here.

We have many parish reunions here at the Irish Centre but very few to compare to that held by Achill. There must have been about 800 "Achillites" here and we can tell you the place was "alight" with laughter and good humour. I hope they enjoyed it as much as we enjoyed having them.

Another outstanding success of the month was the Boys' Band Concert at St. Pancras Town Hall. Since the concert, I have met quite a number of people who came to this Concert, and all seem to have the highest praise for it. Joe Lynch was wonderful as were all the artists. We know too we could have improved on one or two things and next year will do so, but taking the concert as a whole it was magnificent. From the financial point of view we could have made a lot more if the hall could hold more. We are sorry if you were one of the two hundred or so who were turned away because you had no ticket. But St. Pancras only holds 970 people, so we could not accommodate 1170! The moral is - book early next year!!

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The Autumn fair for this year raised the sum of 234 pounds. Our Club Committee here have some ideas on this annual fair and their policy may change. At present it is under review and we will be able to tell you more about it at some later date. Let us say here, thanks to everyone who helped and attended, and especially to those who worked for it.

As Christmas is coming (and no goose wants to get fat!!), may we remind you that you can all get your Christmas cards here at the Irish Centre. They are already on sale and if you ring through, the Receptionist will take all the details and see that you get them.

Some of you may not know that the Priests here at the Irish Centre belong to a Congregation known as the Oblates of Mary Immaculate (hence O.M.I.). Fr. Hackett, our senior Chaplain has been appointed to the Provincial administration. The new Provincial is also well-known to many of you - namely Fr. Dore, until a few weeks ago Parish Priest at Quex Road, and now Fr. Hackett is one of his four advisers for the Province, which includes Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales and Brazil. I know you will want to join with the rest of us in congratulating him.

We are coming to the close of 1969 which means you will now be thinking of renewing your membership with the Irish Centre. Why not get your friends to join also next year?

God Bless you all.

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

DIARY FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER.

Saturday	1	Tipperary Dance.
Tuesday	4	St. Martin's House Jumble Sale.
Thursday	6	Wicklow Bacon and Cabbage.
Saturday	8	Offaly Bacon and Cabbage.
Tuesday	11	Silvermines Social.
Thursday	13	Silvermines Social.
Saturday	15	Kilkenny Dinner Dance.
Monday	17	Inagh Dance.
Tuesday	18	North Tipperary Parishes Re-Union.
Thursday	20	North Tipperary Parishes Re-Union.
Saturday	22	Kildare Bacon and Cabbage.
Tuesday	25	Clonmel Re-union.
Thursday	27	Waterford Bacon and Cabbage.
Saturday	29	Galway Christmas Dinner.
