

IRISH CENTRE D I A R Y - MARCH 1970.

- Tues. 3. Sligo Association - A.G.M.  
Sat. 7. Waterford Assoc. B.&C. Dinner Dance.  
Tues. 10. Armagh Association A.G.M.  
Wed. 11. Comhaltas.  
Thurs. 12. Rath Luirc (Co Cork) Parish Re-union.  
Sat. 14. Westmeath Association - B.&C. Dinner Dance.  
Mon. 16. ST. PATRICK'S FESTIVAL CONCERT at the  
ROYAL ALBERT HALL.  
Tues. 17. ST. PATRICK'S DAY.  
Ballod Session & Dance at the IRISH CENTRE.  
Thurs. 19. TuNnamore & Rahan - Parish Re-union.  
Council of Irish Counties -Monthly meeting.  
Sat. 21. Donegal Association - B.&C. Dinner Dance.  
Wed. 25. Comhaltas.  
Sat. 28. Wexford Association - B.&C. Dinner & Dance.

Ist. Week April.

- Thurs 2nd. Clare Association - Benifit Dance.  
Sat. 4th. Meath Association.  
TUES. 7th. Thurles Parish Re-union.

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BINGO - Every Sunday, Wednesday & Friday.  
Ballods - Every Monday night.

NEWSLETTER

February is a most ungrateful month. It only gives us 28 days most of the time and only once every four years it comes up with a bonus. With the way that things happen here at the Irish Centre the days are swallowed up so fast that we seem to be working on a time-overdraft. It is impossible to get to bed the same day as one rises from it, and the position is getting worse. But thank God, we love it that way.

I received a letter recently from a man who is thinking of starting an Irish Club in a certain part of the country. He asked me for a few ideas. I began to think on just how best to advise him. I told him that a club is as good as one's sincerity is pure, as one's purpose is honest and as one's ideas are realistic. All this I believe to be true. And yet, in spite of the fact that one has all these virtues, it never ceases to amaze me how some people will doubt those qualities in a man. When someone throws him or herself into a project, heart and soul, with no other intention in mind but to give of his or her best and is then pulled down suddenly and told that they are just in it for what they can get out of it, or words to that effect, reminds us of what Christ said - "... you are like sheep among wolves". Too often the wolf has his paw on the latch and is preventing us from going out to do the job that we are called to do.

All that being said, it has been a great experience to be around the Irish Centre in the last week. The Council of Irish Counties had their A.G.M. here on Sunday last. While they were critical of themselves where they thought it was necessary, they were, at the same time, positive in their approach to the future. Their theme was - unity. Two days later they were guests at a dinner given by the Irish Centre. From what was said on both occasions it is plain to be seen that a breakthrough is emerging in the future of the Centre and the work of the Counties. The Counties have pledged their unfailing support to back the Centre in procuring the property next door, to develop it into a place which will serve both the social demands of the settled Irish and the welfare needs of the unsettled. With this kind of co-operation and sincerity, ideals can be realised, past efforts can be compensated, but above all work can be done. Let us hope that we can all get together and work together to procure this property to build the future Irish Centre and therein to have a place that will fulfill the needs of all. In a short time we will have an Irish Centre which will be the 'mecca' of Irish activities in culture, social and welfare fields. This will be done by a united effort on everyone's part.

This letter brings our best wishes for a happy feast day on 17th. March. Around that time there will be many concerts, dances and socials of one kind or another. Whether you will be organising them or sitting back enjoying them, we hope they will all be successful. The Committee of the Irish Centre are running the Annual St. Patrick's Festival Concert at The Royal Albert Hall on March 16th. You all got notice of this in the February newsletter. At the time of writing there are no tickets left at 25/=-, 20/=- or 15/=-. There are 20 @ 7/6 and only 100 @ 10/6. Thank you for your support and we hope that you really enjoy the concert.

The Wexford Association are running a concert at the State Theatre, Kilburn on the 17th. March. With names like ... Theresa Duffy, The Emeralds, The Kavanagh School of Dancing ... it will be of a high quality. Apply to 452 D323 for tickets. We wish our friends of the Wexford Association every success.

On March 15th. we, the Irish of London, hold our St. Patrick's Day Parade. There will be floats, bands and pagentry in this Parade. The organising committee have worked very hard to make it a proud day for us all. They deserve our co-operation.

The Parade assemble in the Horse Guards Sq. at 2 p.m. At 3 p.m. everyone will have lined up behind their respective banners and the march will proceed to Tyburn. From the balcony of Tyburn Convent The Ceremonies take place. It is hoped that you all turn out for



that Parade and show our unity, loyalty and strength.

Our Albert Hall Concert takes place on 16th. March, which is a Monday night. And as you know Monday night is our famous ballad session night. It has been agreed that we drop the Ballad Session on the night of the 16th. March. We are all off to the St. Patrick's Festival concert at the Albert Hall.

Then on St. Patrick's night we hold a Ballad Session in the Douglas Hyde Lounge and a Dance in the J.F. Kennedy Hall. Admission to the Ballad Session is by TICKET ONLY and these tickets are available to members only (1970). If you want a ticket ring 485 0051. As there are a limited number of them available you will have to be quick off the mark. The tickets are 5/= each. Please don't ring for a dozen at a time and embarrass us by having to refuse. Remember. Members only.

The Dublin Association have written to inform us ... "The Dublin Association are promoting a Grand National Draw and now have tickets on sale at 6d. each or a book of 10 for 5/=. They are also offering to other organisations Ten pounds worth of tickets for Five pounds." The Committee hope and are sure that they will receive every help and support from other County Associations. The draw will take place at a Dance and Social on Easter Saturday 28th. March 1970, at The Green Coat Boy, 2, Green Coat Place, Victoria, S.W.I. Dancing 8.30 to 12 midnight. Licenced bar. Admission 4/=.

For your interest the following are some statistics from our 1969, Annual Welfare Report. Total number of males 1260; females 296; families 43 - giving a total of 1599. The numbers given here are only the ones recorded in the Welfare Office. Cases dealt with by the Chaplains and night staff total another 1500 persons. - In a word, there is a lot to be done and it is costing a lot of money. We must endeavour to cut down expenses as much as we can. Thank God the priests and nuns at the Centre work for nothing, we also have our Club Committee Receptionists at the desk every evening, - all of whom give their services free. This cuts our expenses by about Ten thousand pounds per year.

It was hoped we would have the printing concerning our Charity Walk ready by the time this newsletter went out, but this was a bit optimistic. However, the Charity Walk takes place on 17th. May. If you would care to help either by walking or by sponsoring a walker, please let us know. We know that there are a lot of people who wish to take an active part this year. Be part of our great effort - our target is to go beyond Five thousand pounds.

As some of you know, we have a very good resident band here on Sunday nights. You will also know that we have a very progressive boys brass band. To help us make the necessary money to buy uniforms for the band, we are going to run a dance here every Friday night, after our Bingo, starting on Friday 20th. March. We know that you will help us by telling your friends to come along to a real Irish atmosphere and an excellent band. So don't forget Friday 20th. March at the Irish Centre with the Echos.

We believe in trying to help the youth. On Sunday 22nd. March, we are having Mr. Tommie Maguire and his daughter coming along to start teaching boys and girls Irish music. This is an opportunity for you to have your boy or girl taught in the music that you all love and treasure. For a start we will have classes only on Sundays, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

God bless you all,

See you at the Albert Hall,

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