

# the IRISH centre

CEAD MILE  
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## Newsletter

52 Camden Square · London N.W.1

TELEPHONE: 486 0061/2



THE L  
NOTICE  
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If and when you have a flat to let, could you please let us know.

We quite realize that you want only good people.

Very often we hear about very good flats, but we do not have the right type for them. On the other hand, we very often have very nice people but we do not have the right kind of flat.

Perhaps with a little more cooperation amongst ourselves we could help to make a lot of people very happy. Thank you.

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LEAD MILE  
FALUTE

BIG OPPORTUNITY

I am running a draw next December.

1st. Prize is an Escort De Lux Car.

2nd. Prize, two tickets to Lourdes for one healthy person who must accompany a sick person.

TICKETS - 2/- each or £1 for a book.

Proceeds in aid of the Youth Band.

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Newletter

25 London Square London N.W.1

TELEPHONE: 465 0051/5



NEWSLETTER

The price of the adjoining property we are purchasing has been agreed by British Rail; the overall plans have been passed by Camden; the final figure for the National Collection has been announced - (£263,000). All these points have come almost altogether, and bring us to the crossroads in the life of The Irish Centre. One of the men who has led to this turn of events is Mr. Dominic Donnelly.

Dominic Donnelly has been Chairman of The Irish Centre for the past 10 years. Over that period Dominic has made many friends. On behalf of all the members we thank him for all he has done for The Irish Centre. He has seen the Irish Centre grow from its small beginnings to what it is today. Moreover he has guided events along the way which led to the large concern it is.

On the day that Dominic vacated the chair of the Administrative Committee, British Rail accepted our offer for the property at our price. This almost seems providentially timed! Dominic was never heard to shout. He never bullied. On the contrary, he respected every man's view. He coaxed, he discussed, he advised. He is a man with no enemies, yet he is fearless. Dominic always kept the end product in view and whoever or whatever he considered was best to achieve this end, they were chosen to help.

He remains on the Administrative Committee, and his experience and expertise will be invaluable for the major decisions which have to be made now. His purpose in leaving the Chair was simply that he wanted to make way for new blood, and he considered the new Chairman was a very capable choice to negotiate the building of the new extension. Once again we thank Mr. Donnelly, and we hope to have him around for many years to come.

While Dominic has now taken up the rank of "curate", Mr. Charles Gallagher has taken over as head of the house. We welcome Charlie and congratulate him. We all wish him well and we depend on him to guide us through to the successful new Irish Centre.

Mr. Gallagher has proved himself to be a very successful businessman. With his credentials of success, his experience of challenges, we know we have a great Chairman. It is up to us to give him all we've got. Let us not set ourselves up as infallible judges of his shortcomings but offer our services to his leadership. And now ladies and gentleman, I will step off the page for a while, as I here introduce to you -

MR. CHARLES GALLAGHER

"Dear Members,

By now, most of you will have heard that I have been elected Chairman of the Administrative Committee of the Centre. I hope to meet you all individually during the next few months, but in the meantime I decided to have a few words with you through the medium of our News-Letter. I hope to give you some idea of what we have to do in the coming years.

At this point I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Dominic Donnelly, your past Chairman, who has worked so hard and has given up so much of his time to the Centre over the last ten years. He has helped to nourish it from its early days to its present position - a wonderful achievement.

This is a very important point or landmark in the development of the Centre. You know that the Administrative Committee have been negotiating for some time to acquire further land, so that we may build new hostels, modernise the kitchen area and increase the size of the Hall. I am pleased to tell you that negotiations have now



been successfully concluded and legal formalities are with the Solicitors to be finalised. So this clears the way for the building programme. Architects have been instructed to prepare detailed drawings and when they have got the necessary approval from the Local Authority, we will then be in a position to start the actual building work. To carry out this programme will require a lot of money -- something in the region of £400,000 to £500,000.

You all know of the wonderful work done by the Episcopal Commission in organising the National Collection in Ireland. It was a wonderful success. I hope to let you know at some later date how much we will get from that Collection. We also expect to get some financial grants towards the building of the hostels. We will still be a lot short of the total amount required for our building programme.

It is encouraging to look back and see what has been achieved by the efforts of the members and Chaplains and Administrative Committee working closely together, so that some of our fellow men may be given a better start. This has been done by you, the members, by your efforts in fund-raising and supporting the Centre and attending the various activities that take place in the Centre. The work of our Welfare Centre is enormous. It is difficult to talk about Welfare without going into statistics. I do not intend to quote from statistics. I prefer to talk about people who require help and advice. This is what they get in a friendly, pleasant way. The Social Club at the Centre is well known to our members -- where they can get together, meet our people, and feel at home. The Social Club is also providing our people with the opportunity to hear our music, and many of our children are taught our National music, songs and dance. We are rightly proud of our Boy's Band and the children's Ceili Band. During the coming year we will want your help as much as ever. We have, as I outlined above, a very big programme. With your efforts, we will succeed in building this magnificent Centre. I want you all to become more involved in the activities of the Centre and to try and get more members to help us to raise the funds necessary to complete the new development. I want you to build the right image for the Centre, to be proud of the Centre, to advertise its success, to widen the circle and so make the Centre grow from success to success.

I will do my best to serve the interests of the Irish Centre, and by doing so, I'm serving those people who have built the Centre and also those who require help in establishing themselves in a new way of life. I look forward to working with you so that we can build a better Welfare Centre, a better Social Centre and a better way of life for those Irish boys and girls who need our help.

Let us have unity of purpose in their wellbeing.

Charles Gallagher

Due to ill health, Mr. Jim Conway has had to retire from Our Administrative Committee. Jim has retired from all activities for a while. He is one of the best known and best loved men in all Irish circles. One of God's great gifts to man is memory. When we look around, we see all sorts of little monuments to the great people of the past. These little things, and the big ones, remind us of the good old days when decisions had to be made and challenges had to be met. In a place like the Irish Centre, there are many of these monuments. They remind us of the people who have set us on the road to success. We associate things we see with these people. Like the poets of old who spoke our minds, these people who set up the Irish Centre have become our silent companions. We wish Jim a very speedy recovery.

So far we do not know how much we made on the Walk. It will be some time yet before it is all collected. We thank all who walked and helped. It is no easy day's work to tramp 30 miles, but all who took part did it in great style and good heart. A word of thanks to the County Associations and Irish Centre Club for all their effort in our Summer Fair.

On Saturday, 10th July, the Civil Rights are holding a march to Hyde Park Corner. A lot of people are genuinely afraid of these kind of marches. But have no worries about this one. It is a peaceful march for the best reasons.

This letter is for July and August.

We wish you a very happy holiday.

God Bless,

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

DIARY - JULY / AUGUST

Friday, 23rd July	Brent Irish Society Dance
Saturday, 24th July	Limerick Benefit Dance
Saturday, 31st July	Fermanagh Dance
Saturday, 28th August	Carlow Dance.

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Comhaltas Ceoltoiri on 14th, 28th July & 11th, 25th August.

Bingo every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday

Ballad session every Monday

Country and Western music every Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

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