

Issue 9

July 2003

FREE

# IRISH IN LEEDS

PUBLISHED BY LEEDS IRISH HEALTH AND HOMES



Hello everyone,

We hope you enjoyed the St Patrick's Day edition. See inside for some photos from the celebrations in Leeds.

There are a lot of exciting things happening in the Irish community this Spring so read on to find out about set dancing classes with the Tierney school of dancing, the launch of a new Irish website and much more.

This is a free newsletter edited by Leeds Irish Health and Homes. While it is a vehicle for us to let you know about the services we offer, it is also a community newsletter.

So if you have any suggestions, questions or articles that you would like to see printed please drop us a line at :

**335 Roundhay Road  
Leeds**

**LS8 4HT**

**Email:**

[anna@lihh.org](mailto:anna@lihh.org)

Hope you enjoy reading!

*Anna*

**The Irish In Space? Cyber Space, that is**  
*Leeds Irish Health and Homes website*  
*[www.lihh.org](http://www.lihh.org) goes live*



Leeds Irish Health and Homes launch their new website on August 1st 2003. The launch comes at a time when the number of referrals to Irish Health and Homes is increasing significantly.

In the last year alone we have received over 4553 calls to our

service. The majority of these calls are from current clients but many are from agencies, both statutory and voluntary and individuals enquiring about the services we run.

**Anna Dunne, Communications Officer highlighted:**

"Although our core services revolve around housing and outreach services we have many other groups, advice services and reports that people can access. We are hoping that this website will be a new communication tool for the Irish community in Leeds, providing an initial point for people who need information straight away about all of our services.

We are particularly pleased with the development of this website as we were unable to secure any funding towards its implementation. We have drawn from expertise within the organisation to push this project forward.

We will be adding lots of new pages as the website develops over the next year. I would encourage people to log on and check it out. I am sure they will be surprised at how vast our services actually are.

We would also like to encourage as many other organisations as possible to offer a reciprocal link to their websites so we can make getting information off the web as accessible as possible to those that need it most."

For more information about the website please contact: Anna Dunne – Service User Involvement, Communications & Fundraising Officer  
Phone: 0113 240 1130 Email: [anna@lihh.org](mailto:anna@lihh.org)

**[www.lihh.org](http://www.lihh.org)**



## Leeds Irish Community Forum

On May 1st 2003 the Leeds Irish Community Forum was re-launched at the O'Meara Suite, Leeds Irish Centre. Leeds Irish Health and Homes began to develop this Forum last year but due to funding issues the meetings had come to a halt.

We were delighted to receive funding from Leeds Voice Community Chest to administer the meetings this year and the re-launch was a successful and interesting evening.

Ant Hanlon, Director of Leeds Irish Health and Homes led the first meeting. It is hoped however that in time other attendees will lead the meetings. It is a key aim of the Forum that it is an open floor for all Irish groups and individuals to comment on issues affecting themselves and their community. Key highlights from Ant's speech that night are as follows.

**Leeds Irish Community Forum** is about

- Inclusion;
- Representation;
- Development;
- Expanding on good things; and
- Re-addressing the lack of participation of the Irish community in community issues.

At previous meetings we established that:

- LICF is a forum not a committee
- LIHH will administer but not run LICF. We hope to see rotating chairs
- That attendees of the Group have a responsibility to make it work

Since the last meeting we have been:

- Talking to interested parties outside the

Irish community e.g. Councillors to harness support;

- Secured a funding bid of £3000;
- Commissioned a photo exhibition of the Irish community by Corinne Nicholson. The exhibition is a community exhibit and can be used by other Irish groups.
- Developed the Older People's Forum which is a partnership of YIEF, the Tuesday Club, the Irish Centre & LIHH. They have met John Battle MP to discuss funding to develop services for older Irish people.
- Supported the Returning to Ireland seminar organised by The Safe Home Programme based in Mulranney. The people who came found it informative. The stark reality is there is not a lot of choice for people wanting to return to live in Ireland if they are not economically viable. This puts more onus on developing support services in the UK.
- LIHH have written a joint funding application to Dion for a club development worker on behalf LIHH & the Tuesday Club at Leeds Irish Centre.

It was suggested at the meeting that a co-ordinated directory of services/groups should be developed for and by the Irish community, providing easy access to essential addresses and numbers for Irish groups/important individuals in the community.

**The next meeting is on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July at 8pm in the O'Meara Suite, Leeds Irish Centre.** If you are interested in attending please send your contact details to:

Anna Dunne at Leeds Irish Health and Homes.  
Phone: 0113 240 1130  
Email: anna@lihh.org

## Funding received

We are delighted to announce that Leeds Irish Health and Homes has received renewed funding to continue to develop this 'Irish in Leeds' newsletter for the next 4 issues. The

funding has come from a successful bid to Leeds Voice Community Chest.

Leeds Mind Mental Health Drop In and Outreach budget recently awarded £450 to each of the following LIHH



groups: Women's Group, Over 55's Irish Day Club and the LIHH Activities group.

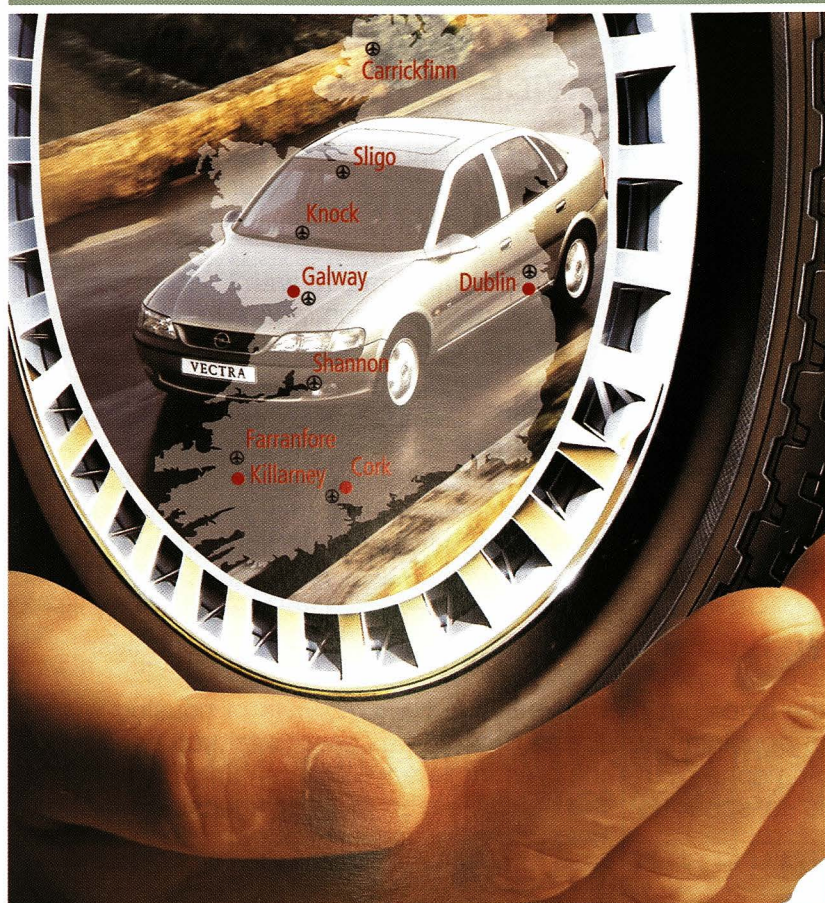
A big thank you to Mr J. Aherne for his recent donation of £100. This will be put towards organising tenants activities.

We are a non-profit organisation and so do rely heavily on funding to continue to provide all the services currently available to the Irish community.

If you would like to make a donation to Leeds Irish Health and Homes please make your cheques payable to:

Leeds Irish Health and Homes and send them to:  
335 Roundhay Road  
Leeds LS8 4HT





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## APPEAL FOR CAMOGIE PLAYERS IN BRITAIN

Erin go Bragh GAA and Camogie Club Project have recently received funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to develop a project to celebrate the Centenary of Camogie, the women's version of hurling in 2004.

The project workers would like to speak to people who have played Camogie in Britain or have been involved in the game in any other way and gather together people's memories about this unique Gaelic sport.

The experiences will be used to produce a book and an exhibition which will tour Irish venues and schools throughout the country.

They also need volunteer researchers and interviewers. The project will provide training for those interested in helping to interview.

For more information please call Helena Duignan on 0121 605 3465. Mobile: 07989560922. Alternatively email Helena on [helena.duignan@virgin.net](mailto:helena.duignan@virgin.net).

You can also get information from the website at [www.camogieinbritain.net](http://www.camogieinbritain.net).



Camogie being played at Pairc na h'eireann, Birmingham, in the 1990s.



"Caitlin ni hUllachain" Gaelic League Team of 1935 which won the 1916 Memorial Cup (Liverpool).



## SPOTLIGHT ON LEEDS IRISH HEALTH AND HOMES HOUSING SERVICE

### Introduction

One of LIHH's key services is that of supported housing. We gain tenancies from housing providers, such as Leeds City Council which we then furnish and decorate and manage on behalf of the housing providers. Our support is offered to people who have housing and/or health needs and who benefit from support. Our aim is to ensure that people can maintain their independence in their own homes.

You can be referred to our organisation by:

- yourself ;
- your doctor;
- a relation;
- a friend; or a
- a social worker.

We are happy for you to come into the office but it would be best if you call to make an appointment so we can ensure that there is someone with housing advice experience available to speak to you.

### What happens at the appointment?

The appointment will be an informal chat about your current housing situation and a chance to assess the level of support that you require. We will talk about the type of housing you would like and the area you would prefer to live in. We can't promise to re-house in the area



Before and after shots of one of our properties during re-decoration.



that you request but we can let you know if we have any housing available and how long the waiting list will be.

### How long will I have to wait?

This will depend upon your current situation. There is a waiting list for our accommodation as we only have a limited number of properties but your wait will depend on a number of things.

- The severity of your current housing situation.
- The availability of housing in an area compatible to your request.
- The current waiting list for that area.
- Our capacity to secure properties.

Presently we have 72 units of housing which are all filled. If we cannot offer you housing at the present time we can certainly point you in the right direction of other agencies who can help.

### How do I furnish the flat?

We will furnish and decorate the flat for you but it is a condition of your tenancy that it is kept up to a clean standard. You will be provided with a bed, sofa, TV, cutlery etc.

### How do I pay my rent?

If you are receiving benefits, most, if not all of you rent will be paid by your housing benefit. We will let you know if you will have to pay any additional amounts. As with any other accommodation you will be responsible for paying for your gas, electric, water and living expenses.

### Are there any other things I should know about?

When you accept your tenancy it is a condition of the Tenancy Agreement that you receive support from our organisation. This will include regular visits from our Housing Support Workers. They can help you with a variety of issues such as:

- Organising hospital appointments,
- Practical support such as form-filling, connection to gas/electricity,
- Advice about the types of benefits you are entitled to,
- Support in accessing other support services, and
- Help in organising repairs to your tenancy.

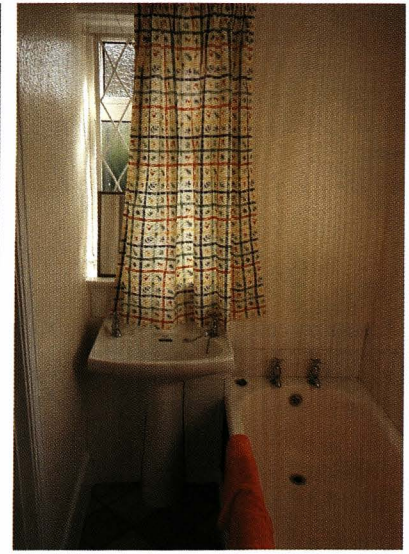


**How long does this support last?**

We support you for as long as you feel you need it. As you become more independent you may not require as much support. You then have the option of becoming the tenant of the housing association or council who we manage the accommodation for.

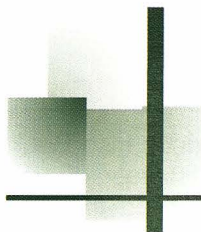
**What if I have my own accommodation but would like some help or advice from an Irish organisation?**

You are welcome to access our other outreach services. We currently have an Elders Outreach Worker who can visit over 55's in their home and advise on pension and home adaptations for example. We also have a Health Outreach Worker who can help people who may have a mental or physical health difficulty. Again he can visit you in your own home to provide advice and support.



Before and after shots of one of our properties during re-decoration

**For further information on any of these services please contact the office on 0113 240 1130.**



## **LEEDS IRISH HEALTH AND HOMES**

### **OVER 55'S ACCOMMODATION 2 ROOMS AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY IN DAVITT HOUSE, HEADINGLEY LANE**

Davitt House is a mixed residential house with 6 individual bed sits, a communal dining room and large garden. There are currently 2 rooms available for Irish people over 55 who would like to move into this accommodation. Individuals must be able to live independently but also have support needs.

**If you are interested in finding out more about this accommodation or would like to refer yourself or a client please contact Mary Baillie, Support Services Manager on**

Phone: 0113 240 1130 Fax: 0113 240 1340 Email: [mary@lihh.org](mailto:mary@lihh.org)



**NAME:**

Des Hurley

**ORGANISATION:**

Irish Music Project Leeds

**ESTABLISHED:** 1994  
(Charitable Status obtained in 1998)

**WHY:** To raise wider community awareness and participation in traditional Irish music and cultural activities.

**HIGHLIGHTS:** I come from a family who have all continued and developed the musical traditions passed down by my parents. Establishing and working with the project has given us the opportunity to pass on this tradition and make more people, not necessarily 1st, 2nd or 3rd generation Irish, more respectful of traditional Irish music in its many forms and environments.

**FRUSTRATIONS:** Lack of recognition from funding bodies to fully appreciate the cultural differences and needs for the Irish community to enable voluntary sector Irish cultural and welfare organisations to develop to their full capacity.

**HOPES FOR THE FUTURE:** That the organisation continues to develop.

**CONTACT DETAILS:**

**Des Hurley**  
170 Roundhay Road  
Leeds  
LS8 5PL

**PHONE:** 0113 217 0841

**EMAIL:**

des@hurley1.demon.co.uk

## Leeds Irish Festival

The Leeds Irish Festival takes place once more, at the South Leeds Stadium on **Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd August 2003.**

As always there will be a full programme of family and childrens' entertainment on both Saturday and Sunday, as well the 'Craic Under the Canvas' on the Saturday evening extended to 2am, due to popular demand.

Prior to the main event, there will be a Welcome Dinner at the Leeds Irish Centre on Friday 1st August - tickets are priced at £17 each.

In the build up to the Leeds Irish Festival 2003, there will be a number of events taking place, these include:

The Film Festival at Ster Century Cinema, Leeds on the 27th and 28th July.

The Lord Mayor's Event - 23rd July.

Leeds on Water Festival - from the 18th - 20th July.

If you want more details about the individual events please contact Caroline Kelly on 07793 615 394.

### LEEDS IRISH HEALTH AND HOMES 5-ASIDE HEROES



The Leeds Irish Health and Homes 5-aside team battled their way through to the semi-finals of the recent NHS Football Tournament.

John Reape and Sean Fallon gave inspiring performances by securing the majority of the goals.

Sean McGrath provided a great defence but unfortunately they were pipped to the post for the final by the eventual winners.

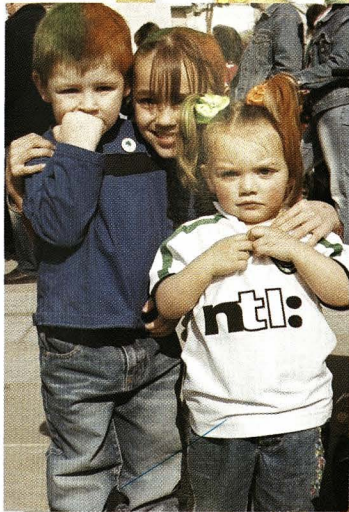
Back: Des Hurley, Sean Fallon, John O'Dwyer, Sean McGrath, John Reape

Front: Kevin Hurley, Alex Seabright, Ant Hanlon

If any organisations/ individuals are interested in organising some more 5-aside games please contact Ant Hanlon on 0113 240 1130.



## St Patrick's day celebrations in Leeds



All the photos above were taken by Corinne Silva, a local community photographer. If you would like to contact Corinne with regards to other community photography projects please call her on 07816 072132.



Please note that due to a double booking at the Irish Centre the venue for the set dancing classes has been changed to:

The Immaculate Heart Church,  
Harrogate Road, Moortown.

Classes will recommence on Tuesday  
12<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30pm

Develop an Irish Men's Group aimed at improving the health and well-being of Irish men in Leeds.

We started the project by renting an allotment which is open to clients to use. With the commitment of a few dedicated men

### HOMES MEN'S GROUP

has been successful with vegetables doing well. The next Irish Men's Group will be held on Thursday 7th August at St Augustine's Church, Harehills Lane.

If you would like to attend the next meeting please contact Anna Dunne. Refreshments are provided at all meetings so



come along and enjoy a chat with some other Irish men.

## FREE SET DANCING CLASSES GO DOWN A STORM



The first FREE Irish set dancing classes for women started on Thursday 26th June at Leeds Irish Centre. The classes will continue every Thursday for the next 20 weeks. The classes start at 7.30pm and go on until approximately 9pm. Refreshments are available. All age groups are welcome. Do not worry if you have never had a go at Irish set dancing before. Just come along to enjoy yourselves.

A special thank you from Leeds Irish Health and Homes to Leeds Irish Centre for providing the venue for these classes. Also a thank you to Susanna Wallace of the Tierney School of Dancing for providing the tuition and Pat Mundy and Resourcing the Community for their support.

If you would like more information about these classes please contact Karen Mallon on 0113 240 1130.

## More information from the Irish Community requested

As I write each issue it becomes more and more apparent that there are a variety of great projects, achievements and stories happening within the Irish community. Unfortunately people seem to forget that this newsletter is for the community.

A lot of the information in this newsletter is about Leeds Irish Health and Homes but that is because of the lack of information we receive from the wider community about events, sporting/musical achievements, announcements of marriages/births/deaths/special birthdays.

We have the capacity to make this a much bigger newsletter but this can only happen with the support of the community and by you calling us to let us know about issues important to you.

Generally issues are circulated in July, October, January and March so please think ahead when organising an event or writing a poem etc. and send it in to us at LIHH, 335 Roundhay Road, Leeds, LS8 4HT. Alternatively email us at [anna@lihh.org](mailto:anna@lihh.org).

## Where to find us

LEEDS IRISH HEALTH AND HOMES  
335 ROUNDHAY ROAD  
LEEDS  
LS8 4HT

### DIRECTIONS:

On Roundhay Road we are very close to the Fforde Green Pub. It is a small office located above Binson Bearings Company so don't miss the bright red door to the left of the shop.

Please do remember that if you have any mobility problems we can organise a home visit as there are some stairs leading up to the office. For more detailed directions please call: 0113 240 1130

All contents of this newsletter are solely the responsibility of the individuals contributing them and the management committee and staff of Leeds Irish Health & Homes disclaim responsibility for all statements not made directly by themselves and for any resulting consequences.