

FREE

IRISH IN LEEDS

PUBLISHED BY LEEDS IRISH HEALTH AND HOMES



LEEDS IRISH COMMUNITY CELEBRATE START OF IRISH HERITAGE PROJECT— 'MEMORIES OF CHANGE'

Leeds Irish Health and Homes are delighted to announce that they have been successful in gaining the matched funding to run the Irish Heritage Project - 'Memories of Change'.

The two main sources of funding are being provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Government Home Office 'Positive Images' budget.

The idea for the project followed on from the successful making of a short documentary about our organisation and the Irish community in Leeds. From this video it was made apparent that there was a wider need to capture the lives of many more Irish who have experienced migration and settled with their families in Leeds.

The project aims to cover what life was like for people arriving in the UK in the 40's and 50's, up to the present day experiences of people of Irish descent. By having the expertise of a project co-ordinator the recordings of these people's faces, lives, families and experiences can be preserved to educate the generations to come and provide a lasting heritage.

The project will be the creation of a visual and oral archive for the Irish population in Leeds. Rather than just collecting photographs of people's experiences we want to make it an active archive where all generations can be involved in creating and maintaining an oral and visual history.



Different Irish counties celebrate St Patrick's Day 2003

The project will be split into the following activities:

- running a series of photography, story-telling and web design workshops with children and young people of Irish descent;
- collecting photographs and recording oral history;
- creating a series of photographic portraits (linked to the recording of older people's stories); and
- documenting Irish events, informal groups and organisations in the area.

The final archive will take the form of an exhibition, an educational CD Rom, a website and a book. It is estimated the project will take 18 months.

What we need now is a list of people who will volunteer to tell their story and contribute their experiences of migration and settlement. Just think this could be your chance for fame!

If you, or a group you are involved in would like to be part of this archive please call Anna Dunne on 0113 262 5614 or alternatively email anna@lihh.org.

Hello everyone,

Happy St Patrick's Day to you all. I hope that you all enjoy the celebrations happening in and around the city this year. See page 8 for more details about the parade on Sunday March 14th and associated events.

A big thank you to all contributors to this issue. So many people have provided me with information for this issue that I have had to extend the size, yet again, to a bumper issue of 16 pages.

I hope you find this issue interesting and remember if you are part of any Irish groups and are not utilising this community resource you are missing out. It is circulated to over 4,000 people so let them know what is happening in the community.

Please send all articles to Leeds Irish Health and Homes registered address (see back page for more details).

Hope you enjoy reading!

Anna Dunne

GREEN, WHITE AND INVISIBLE: DO YOU INCLUDE THE IRISH IN YOUR DIVERSITY STRATEGY?

The Irish community is one of the largest ethnic minority groups in Britain. In Leeds they are the 3rd largest ethnic minority. Irish people have been emigrating to Britain in significant numbers since the 1820s, with major emigration after WWII through to the 1980's. Life in Britain brought success for many, but for others life was hard.



Ant Hanlon, Director, LIHH

The colonial relationship with Britain and the effects of the war in Ulster has meant that the Irish have all too often been seen by the host community as inferior and dangerous. As with other black and minority ethnic (BME) communities, it was alright to take on the menial, unskilled work that was available, but that didn't really mean that people had a right to equality. Negative stereotypes of the Irish as sub-human, disease-ridden drunks, and terrorist sympathisers have all been perpetrated over the years leaving people without good support networks in a very vulnerable position. Who remembers the public apology by the BBC for the Eastender's portrayal of Irish people in 1998?

Irish people coming over tended to come as single people, leaving family behind. Men mainly worked in the construction industries which meant hard graft, a transient working lifestyle, poor quality accommodation and being hired, fired and paid in the pub. Women went into the service industry with many going into cleaning, hotel and hospital work. When the work was plentiful and health was with you this lifestyle could be coped with, but as the work dried up and health failed due to ineffective personal care or non-existent health and safety practice, people themselves started to go downhill fast.

This coupled with a reluctance to admit to members of your own community that times were bad meant that people drifted into crisis without knowing where to turn.

“Failed aspirations, a deep sense of shame, a lack of trust in the authorities in Britain and a feeling that bad luck was a ‘cross to bear’ in life all added to the reluctance of Irish people to seek support from agencies at a time when it was needed.”

Leeds Irish Health & Homes (LIHH) commenced its services in 1996 in response to these facts. Disproportionately higher rates of homelessness, mental and physical health difficulties and no culturally sensitive support specifically aimed at Irish people, within any statutory or voluntary sector services, meant a service was needed to fill the gap.

LIHH began primarily as a provider of supported housing to vulnerable single Irish people. As members of the community started to use our

services further needs were uncovered and our services diversified. Our housing service now supports 72 individuals and our community outreach service includes support for older people and people with health problems. We now support over 150 people on a weekly basis.

The case for Irish inclusion in equality debates was boosted in June 1997 when the Commission for Racial Equality published its first research into the Irish community in Britain. ‘Discrimination and the Irish in Britain’ highlighted the fact that although there were many examples, where the experience of emigration had provided opportunities to successfully integrate into life in Britain, there was a disproportionate number of Irish people for whom the dream had turned into a nightmare. Examples of racism, extremely poor health indicators and lack of educational and employment opportunities were cited showing that for too many Irish people, their ability to share equally in the opportunity of life in Britain didn't exist.

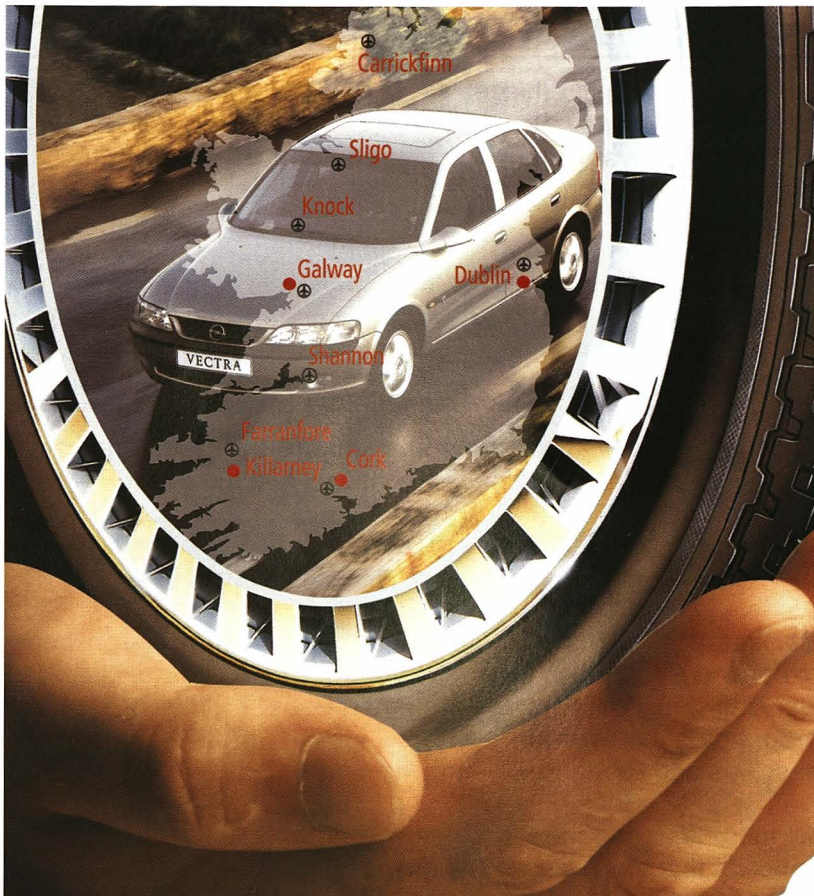
Subsequent research such as the Health Survey for England in 1999 supported the fact that too many Irish people were experiencing poor physical and mental health. A devastating statistic highlighted is that Irish men's life expectancy falls by 4 years when entering Britain and the recently published ‘Inside/Outside’ report shows Irish people have some of the highest suicide rates in the UK.

LIHH presented the findings of its health outreach project in October of 2002. ‘Diggin Deeper’, (available at www.lihh.org), showed that the Irish community in Leeds were suffering major disadvantage and inequalities in health and social care. The report had seven recommendations which included the setting up of culturally appropriate day care and drop-in services for Irish people; creation of Irish specific posts within voluntary and statutory agencies; and appropriate training for agencies on Irish need.

Having an identifiable Irish agency has meant members of our community know that when they come to see us, their culture, heritage and mores will be understood and responded to with sensitivity. For instance, the lack of literacy within an older person's history will not be judged because it is understood why this is so.

Irish need has remained ‘hidden’ for too long because ethnic monitoring of Irish people has been ineffective or non-existent. Even when monitoring has taken place, figures were often shelved, as a black/white view of ethnicity dominated. I surveyed major housing providers in Leeds in 1999 and there were only 3 for whom the Irish were part of their equal opportunities planning process and we were working with them!

The Race Relations Amendment Act (2000) requires statutory agencies to report on the impact on their services for BME communities. It is hoped that inclusion for the Irish will result from this, but our experience is one where we know our community will have to shout very loudly to be heard. Where do you stand?



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or book online @ www.avis.co.uk

PRE-1953 PENSION UPDATE

Caroline Murphy works at Leeds Irish Health and Homes as an Elders Outreach Worker. Caroline helps many of the older Irish community in Leeds in a variety of ways and in recent years has been providing advice to many about applying for the Pre-1953 pension. Caroline spoke to the Pensions office in Sligo recently and asked for an update on the situation. Their response is as follows.

“The Pre-1953 pension is a special pension for persons with social insurance contributions paid prior to 1953. It was introduced on 5 May 2000. To qualify, a person must have 260 full-rate contributions paid. The 260 can be made up solely of contributions paid prior to 1953, or, a mixture of contributions paid before and after 1953. In counting Pre-1953 contributions every 2 contributions are counted as 3 and every odd contribution as 2. The rate of payment of this pension (including increases for dependents) is half the standard rate.

So far the number of pension applications received are as follows:

2000 = 11,669 receipts
2001 = 11,450 receipts
2002 = 7,000 receipts
2003 = 4,250 receipts.

In addition 13,500 reduced rate pro-rata pension claims were reviewed and of these 8,500 qualified for payment.

As of February 2004, 44,500 cases have been examined for Pre-1953 pension and approximately 27,500 are in payment. Almost 50% of those who qualified for payment are UK residents. It is estimated that of these, some 500 live in the Leeds/Yorkshire area.

Applications for the pension from this Department by UK residents should be made through the DSS who will forward liaison papers onto the Pensions office in Sligo. It is difficult to predict processing times as there are many complications with Pre-1953 insurance records. The average processing time for claims during December 2003 was 7 weeks. The majority of cases were dealt with in under 20 weeks. Some cases took as long as 18 months where details of employment records were not readily accessible and further investigations were required.”

Each case / application depends on individual circumstances and Caroline can provide free advice and help to apply for the Pension. If you would like to discuss in more detail whether you qualify and how you should go about applying for this pension please call Caroline Murphy on 0113 262 5614.



NAME: Kathy Grogan

SCHEME NAME: S.T.O.P
(Start treating others positively)

ESTABLISHED: November 1989

WHY: Originally called Leeds Move the Group was set up to start a facilitated self help group for men who were perpetrators of domestic violence. We cover 7 areas of abuse:- physical, emotional, psychological, verbal, financial, spiritual and sexual.

HIGHLIGHTS: Development of the existing service to now include a support group for women who have or have been experiencing violence/or abuse.

FRUSTRATIONS: Funding for the project runs out in September 2004. £80,000 per year for the next three years has to be secured for the project to continue.

HOPES FOR THE FUTURE: To continue to be an anti-violence, anti-abuse agency that helps people who are perpetrators of a variety of abuse to overcome their abuse

CONTACT DETAILS:

Suite 14, Munro House, Duke Street,
Leeds LS9 8AG

Phone:
0113 244 6007

Web:
www.stop-project.org.uk

Email:
help@stop-projectfreeserve.co.uk

Does your organisation have a service that you think the Irish community should know about? If so please email your answers to the questions above to Anna Dunne at anna@lihh.org.

JOE MOONEY SUMMER SCHOOL 2003

Every summer in the third week of July, Drumshanbo plays host to the Joe Mooney Summer School. This is a week - long traditional festival of music, song and dance, named after the man who did much to promote the cause of Leitrim and his beloved town.

This is one of the most interesting of all summer schools in Ireland, because, though small and personal, it attracts absolutely first-class tutors, many of whom enjoy international recognition.

I attended the summer school from July 16-23rd 2003 and came away with a great view of this educational and fun event.

As ever, the 2003 school was a great success with more people than before participating in the classes and events.

Classes were open to people of all ages with some previous experience, although beginners were welcome to the Set Dancing, Tin Whistle and Bodhran classes. There was a full programme of evening concerts, and a range of impromptu sessions and set dances during the workshop week.

All musicians had the opportunity of taking part in the top class concerts that took place in the evenings.

The workshops involved a range of players, a great tutor and a lot of enjoyment. They also encouraged sharing talents and learning new tunes.

People could participate in workshops on the Button Accordion, Flute, Fiddle, Harp and many more. Classes were graded by the ability of the player to make learning easier. They took place from 10am -1pm throughout the week.

The impromptu music sessions, the national beauty of the Drumshanbo area and the traditional 'cead mile failte' hospitality of County Leitrim provided an unforgettable week for all those who participated in the classes and also for those who visited the town to be part of the experience.

I would definitely consider attending the summer school again in 2004 and would encourage other Irish musicians to join me in this fantastic learning experience!

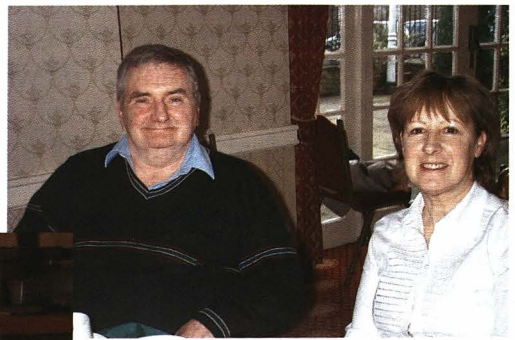
More details about the summer school can be found on the Ireland Online website:
www.iol.ie/~nwoods

Laura McPartlan,
Irish Music Project, Leeds



Laura McPartlan playing the accordion

MISTLETOE AND WINE CREATE CHRISTMAS CRAIC!



LEEDS IRISH HEALTH AND HOMES MEN'S GROUP



John Reape on our allotment last year

Happy New Year from L.I.H.H. Men's Group. To get the ball rolling our group decided to have our first meeting of 2004 in The New Roscoe.

There was a great turn-out, (our best so far). The main item on the agenda was our proposed trip to the Lake District which will now take place at the end of February 2004.

We are also in the process of purchasing some fishing rods and tackle which will be kept in the L.I.H.H office and will be available to be used by our members (weather permitting). There was also a discussion about trying to get a slot on a local radio station to promote the

Irish community within Leeds. Anna, from Leeds Irish Health and Homes, will be trying to pursue this issue over the coming months.

Items up for discussion at the next meeting include the re-development of the allotment. With the recent departure of John Reape (above) who has moved on to a very big allotment, (namely Australia), Gerry Gallagher will be taking over and is eagerly awaiting support from volunteers old and new to get the allotment prepared for this season.

We will also be starting up a card group for all tenants - anyone interested please call the L.I.H.H office on 0113 262 5614 and give them your details so they can call you when the first card game gets started. It has been agreed that the card games will not involve money.

We have a light lunch at all our meetings, so please come along as a new member, and we promise you will enjoy it!

L.Lynch (Tenant L.I.H.H.)

SPOTLIGHT ON MOUNT ST MARY'S SCHOOL

Mount St Mary's School and Church is a historical institution indelibly linked to the Irish community in Leeds. Many of us will know about the hard work currently taking place to save the Church and it's history from being lost to ruin or developers. In this edition of 'Irish in Leeds' 2 members of the Irish community speak about their experiences and involvement with Mount St Mary's.

Rena Cosgrove taught at the school for nearly 30 years and gives us a brief insight to the establishment of the school in Leeds and it's recent 150th birthday celebrations. Helen Kennally has been a long-time campaigner, along with her husband, in trying to preserve the rich cultural heritage associated with the church and school. Helen recently launched her book about Mount St Mary's and gives us a brief synopsis of it on the following page.

EDUCATION ON 'THE MOUNT' by RENA COSGROVE



Rena Cosgrove

On Saturday 5th July 2003 Mount St. Mary's High School, Richmond Hill celebrated 150 years of education.

Rena Cosgrove had the privilege of teaching at this school for almost 30 years and provides us with an account of this special celebration.

"The day started with mass being celebrated by the Rt. Rev. Arthur Roche and Coadjutor Bishop of Leeds. It was attended by many Sisters who had travelled long distances to be at Mount St. Mary's for this special occasion. Past and present staff and pupils also attended. Many were surprised and delighted with the changes that had taken place over time and also pleased that Catholic education for young people was still thriving on "The Mount". After the mass a buffet was provided and many old friends met to chat and reminisce.

The establishment of Mount St Mary's began on 14th February 1853 when 4 sisters arrived in Leeds from L'Osier, France. They had been sent to help the Oblate Fathers of Mary Immaculate (OMI) to build up a community amongst the vast numbers of Irish emigrants eking out a subsistence in the district known as "The Bank".

They found extreme poverty everywhere. Children, especially girls, were uneducated either because they had to stay at home to look after the rest of the family whilst parents worked in the surrounding mills, or because the children themselves, worked in the mills. Poor housing and lack of sanitation led to disease and resulted in a high rate of mortality amongst the young.

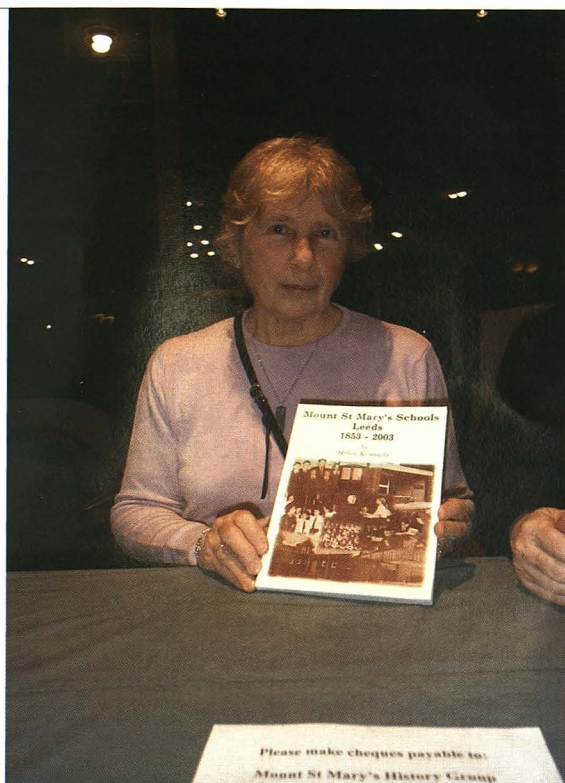
The Sisters realised that the only way they could improve the situation was through education. They created night schools for girls working in the mills and in 1854 day schools were opened. The Sisters began to seek alms to build a church, schools, a convent and an orphanage. This building programme was vast and was completed in 1868 forming a landmark which was visible for miles around. This complex became known as Mount St Mary's.

The Sisters continued with their role as educators over the ensuing years and many girls received an education to be proud of. As time went on society became more affluent and this change affected religious life too.

In 1974 with the introduction of Comprehensive education, the school which the Sisters had set up was handed over to the Diocesan authorities and the Sisters moved out to smaller houses. Some remained on the staff of Mount St Mary's until they retired.

No sisters remain there now but they have left a legacy second to none.

MOUNT ST MARY'S SCHOOLS, LEEDS 1853 -2003 by Helen Kennally



Helen Kennally was born in Leeds and grew up in Middleton. She received her education at Cockburn High School and then trained as a teacher at Bingley Training College from 1953-55. Apart from one year in London she taught in Leeds schools until retirement in 1991. Since retirement much of her time has been devoted to researching the history of the Irish community in Leeds, particularly the families who settled in the district known as 'The Bank'. Along with her husband Danny she has been involved in the campaign for the preservation of Mount St Mary's Church. Helen is currently the secretary of the Leeds Irish Historical and Cultural Society.

Helen has recently published a new book in conjunction with Mount St Mary's History Group. "Mount St Mary's Schools, Leeds 1853-2003" was written to mark the 150th anniversary of the school's foundation.

Based on school records and contemporary accounts the book describes the struggles and successes of the teachers, children and their families, living in what was one of the poorest areas of the city. Also included are

interviews and personal memories of past and present pupils and head teachers. Anyone who has a connection with Mount St Mary's or the Bank, or has an interest in education will find it informative, at times sad and at other times amusing, but always very thought-provoking.

As Rena noted in the previous discourse on Mount St Mary's four sisters of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate arrived in Leeds in 1853 to work at the recently established Mount St Mary's Chapel in Richmond Street. This area called the Bank, was a district largely inhabited by Irish families who had fled from the Great Hunger in Ireland.

From their temporary convent in Cross Green Lane, the sisters began their work. In July 1853 the first school of the new Mount St Mary's Parish was formed in the convent cellar, which was used as a wash house during the day and converted, into a schoolroom at night.

From this very humble beginning there evolved a remarkable story. The sisters had a strong conviction that education would provide a way out of the poverty that they witnessed amongst the Irish families on the Bank. Out of this conviction grew a unique complex of buildings on the summit of Richmond Hill

A new convent was built along with elementary schools for boys and girls, an orphanage, which was the first one to be established in the Leeds Diocese, and in 1896, St Mary's College, which was the first catholic secondary school for girls in Leeds. All these were clustered around the cathedral sized Mount St Mary's Church which still stands as proud today.

The book is obtainable from all good bookshops or directly from Mount St Mary's History Group, c/o 15, Gledhow Wood Grove, Leeds LS8 1NZ .

Price £10.00
plus £2.60 p&p.

288pp.
46 photographs.



ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS IN LEEDS



I can hardly believe that St Patrick's Day is coming around so soon. In 2003 I was packing my bags to head off to New York to celebrate this special Irish day American style.

This year however my base is in Leeds. The St Patrick's Day Committee have been busy again this year trying to

organise a weekend of events for the community to participate in.

This year is the 5th year of the parade and the Committee deserve a big congratulations for their continued dedication and commitment to the parade. All their work is voluntary and done out of a desire to ensure the Irish community celebrate this day in style. I am sure they will agree that the way the Irish community can thank them is by attending and supporting as many of the organised events as possible.

If you would like to partake in the parade in any way call Cinta Culkin on 0113 277 4767. The theme for this years parade is 'Care in the Community' so please call, particularly if you are involved in any caring role in the city.

Details of the weekend events are below.

Friday 12th March 2004

**Dinner & Dance at Leeds Irish Centre
featuring Sean O'Se and John White
Tickets £20 each available from
Cinta 0113 2774767 or
Glennis 01924 870295**

Saturday 13th March 2004

**Traditional Irish music
by Leeds Branch of C.C.E. Davitt Bar,
Leeds Irish Centre
All day sessions**

Sunday 14th March St Patrick's Parade

Starting at 11.30 from St Peter's St, (Old Quarry Hill site)

**The Parade will go across the city centre to Millennium Square
where there will be Irish music and dancing displays.**

The parade will be led by the famous ARTANE BOYS BAND from Dublin.

Mass will be celebrated at 1:00 pm in St Anne's Cathedral for those wishing to attend.

MASS TO CELEBRATE INVOLVEMENT OF IRISH IN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass will also be taking place on Tuesday 16th March 2004 at St. Anne's Cathedral, Leeds at 7pm. The mass will be a celebration of the centenary of St. Anne's Cathedral and will be dedicated to the Irish community in respect of their financial, physical and emotional contributions to the Catholic church in Leeds over the last 100 years. It is hoped that many people from the Irish community will be able to attend this special mass.



THOMAS RUSSELL—A BRIEF HISTORY

October 2003 was the bicentenary of the death of Thomas Russell, one of the greatest figures of the 1798 Irish rebellion.

Originally from the village of Drumhane in the Barony of Mounseabbey near Mallow, County Cork, Russell was the good friend and devoted comrade of Wolfe Tone and Robert Emmet. He first arrived in Belfast as a junior officer in the British Army after serving in India. After a short time he became involved with the city's leading radicals and joined the Whig Club. Russell was greatly inspired by the French Revolution and became instrumental in spreading the idea of uniting Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter. One way he tried to pursue this ideal was by helping to establish the Society of United Irishmen in 1791. Like Tone and the other leaders, Russell believed that only the "men of no property" could be relied upon to establish an independent, democratic Irish Republic. He stated that "when the majority feel themselves slaves they will resist."

Russell started to organise support in County Down

for the United Irishmen in 1795. One night he entered an inn/tavern in either Killyleagh or Loughinisland, where a number of local men were gathered. They were United Irishmen, but Russell didn't know it, and they didn't know him or why he was there. One of them, long years after, tells of that night, and where and under what circumstances he saw Russell again. Florence Wilson's ballad, imaginatively outlines Thomas Russell's activity from 1795 to 1803.

Russell was arrested for his activities in the autumn of 1796 and so was not involved in the 1798 rebellion itself. After it was crushed he was allowed to go into exile but he had not given up his beliefs and so returned to organise the North in Emmet's rebellion of 1803. He was captured attempting to rescue Emmet from Dublin. At his trial, he highlighted that he had received his radical principles from some of those who were now trying him for treason. Thomas Russell was hanged on 21st October 1803 at the Gaol house in Downpatrick and is buried in the nearby Church of Ireland graveyard.

SHEFFIELD IRISH SURVIVORS OUTREACH SERVICE (SISOS)

The Sheffield Irish Survivors Outreach Service (SISOS) works within Cara – Yorkshire in Sheffield. Cara – Yorkshire is the regional advice and support service of Cara Irish Housing Association. SISOS provides help and support to people who feel they were victims of abuse whilst in care in institutions in the Republic of Ireland.

The Irish Government apologised to survivors of abuse whilst in institutions in Ireland in 1999. Since that time a Redress Board has been set up which people can apply to for compensation for the abuse they suffered. SISOS can provide assistance to people wishing to pursue a claim for redress and can help with other issues which survivors may have such as the need for counselling, family tracing and other support.

SISOS is currently arranging a meeting which will take place in Leeds in May of this year.

Representatives of the Redress Board will be visiting the area and leading this meeting to provide information to survivors whether they have already put in for Redress or not. The representatives will not be able to give information about individual cases but can provide information and answer questions generally about the process of redress.

SISOS wants to find out the number of people who would be interested in attending this meeting so if you want to book a place or want to be kept updated about details of this meeting then please get in touch with SISOS via the contact details below.

If you want any help in applying for redress or general information about the SISOS service then please contact us.

**Eileen Burn or Julie Butcher
SISOS**

**Cara – Yorkshire
The Workstation
15 Paternoster Row
Sheffield
S1 2BX
Tel: 0114 221 0481
Email: cara-yorkshire@workstation.org.uk**

FUNDING RECEIVED



Leeds Irish Health and Homes are pleased to announce that they have received the following funding for the project.

£1,030 for Leeds Irish Carers Group from the Carers Special grant funded by Leeds Social services Department.

£6,561 one off payment from Dion Fund.

£2,850 from the Voluntary Sector Grants budget to run the LIHH Over 55's Friday Club.

Various donations towards funding for LIHH Christmas party for our clients received from Ms Peatfield, M. Langstaff, Cllr's Hall, McGowan and Harper (University Ward), Cllr's Lowe, Harper and McKenna (Armley Ward), Cllr's Moxon and Taggart of Chapel Allerton Ward.

£498 from Help the Aged towards our Older People's Project.

L.I.H.H STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS FUNDRAISING EFFORTS



Esporta
health clubs

Leeds Irish Health and Homes staff showed their commitment in December 2003 when some of them decided partake fundraising events for LIHH. The task was to raise enough funds to provide a Christmas party for our clients to remember.

So, Paula (Administration), Ant (Director) and Mary (Support Services Manager) seen below took to the water to do a marathon 4 miles between them. Paula was the hero of the day successfully completing 2 miles herself.

Michelle Bradley (volunteer), Gerry (Housing Support Worker), opposite and myself took a more relaxed pace and did a 4 mile walk around Roundhay Park on a very wet Saturday morning. Unfortunately Michelle's dog Bob decided he was not wet enough and took a bit of a dip in the Lake!



Altogether these sponsored events raised over £400 towards giving our clients a small piece of Christmas spirit.

A special thanks to Esporta Health Centre at Cookridge for free use of their facilities for the sponsored swim. Also to all those friends and family members who donated to these events.

We hope to organise even bigger and better sponsored events next year so give us a call if you want more details about the sponsored swim, walk and run. We do rely on donations from the community to run these 'extras' as part of our service but they make such a difference to the lives of many people. If you would like to make a donation please send your cheques payable to:

Leeds Irish Health and Homes,
Unit 5 , Gemini Park, Sheepscar Way, Leeds, LS7 3JB.

Even the smallest amount helps us to help the Irish community.

LICF GATHERING RECOGNITION IN THE COMMUNITY

Leeds Irish Community Forum continues to go from strength to strength. The last meeting in January 2004 was attended by over 15 people. Many of these people were representing groups such as Yorkshire Irish Elders Forum, The Tuesday Club and the St. Patrick's Day parade. Others came along in an individual capacity eager to get involved in one of Leeds Irish communities' most dynamic and developing Forums.

The Forum works on the basis that each individual representative has an equal say and involvement in forwarding the aims of the Forum for the benefit of the Irish community in Leeds. There is no elected committee.

Key discussions at the last meeting included:

St James Partnership: Anna Dunne and Eddie Mulligan from Leeds Irish Health and Homes organised an open meeting at St Augustine's Church for the Irish community in the regeneration area to have a say about future developments. 4 members of the Irish community turned up. They raised key issues such as problems with crime, rubbish on the street, empty properties. The responses of the attendees have been compiled into a 2-page report and forwarded to the St James Partnership Board.

St Patrick's Day Parade Committee: 3 representatives joined us to inform the Forum about the details of the parade weekend.

Market research: The Forum proposed that a questionnaire should be devised and circulated throughout the Irish community in Leeds. It is hoped this questionnaire will give us a variety of information about what the Irish community want ranging from developments at the Irish centre through to welfare and cultural needs of



Irish groups and individuals in the city.

Tuesday Club: Una Martin, Chair of Tuesday Club highlighted an on-going problem with funding for transport to and from the Club. Una has made various funding applications and is waiting for responses to these.

Annual Irish Ball/Fundraising

Anna brought the idea of an Annual Irish Ball to the discussion. This ball could be organised and come under the banner of Leeds Irish Community Forum. The idea is that all groups involved with LICF would split any funds raised equally. It is hoped that other fundraising initiatives will be developed under the umbrella of LICF.

Irish Radio Station:

Anna told the Forum that some of the clients at LIHH had expressed an interest in lobbying local radio to run an Irish radio slot once a week. Anna has written to Radio Leeds highlighting that there used to be such a programme in the 70's and 80's and asking what steps we need to take to try and get this up and running. Anna is currently researching this proposal on behalf of LICF and LIHH tenants.

Showing of RTE Primetime documentary:

John Fenton brought up the recent documentary shown on December 23rd on RTE in Ireland. This programme highlighted the bad experiences of men who have emigrated to Britain and the awful situations they now live in. LICF is hoping to organise 3 free showings of this film at the Irish Centre. Dates and times will be publicised once they are confirmed

Next meeting

Thursday 29th April 2004 7.30pm

Venue to be confirmed

New faces welcome - support your community!



IRISH MUSIC ROUNDUP

Danu'

Wednesday 12th May 2004

at

The Venue, Leeds College of Music,
Quarry Hill, Leeds

One of the hottest traditional Irish bands who have performed at many of the major festivals around the world. Their talent has been recognised in awards including -"The Best Overall Traditional Act 1999" and "Best Live Act 2000" by the Irish Music Magazine, as well as BBC Radio 2's "Best Live Band" in 2001.

North Cregg

Thursday 17th June 2004

at

The Venue, Leeds College of Music,
Quarry Hill, Leeds

Voted "Best Traditional Newcomers" at the Irish Music Magazine Awards 2000. Greatly acknowledging their innovative approach to the music – in particular that of the Sliabh Luachra region of Cork & Kerry. The songs of Fiona Kelleher make the whole experience complete!

Tickets and further information available from the
Box Office: 0113 222 3434 after 17th March

DON'T FORGET THOSE REGULAR SESSIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.....

Thursday nights: 10pm onwards

Traditional music session with Kevin, Des Hurley & Friends
The Pointers, Sheepscar interchange

First Saturday of every month: 9pm onwards

Traditional music session & Ceili, Leeds Irish Centre, Games Room
Families and younger musicians particularly welcome

St Patrick's Day events

Saturday 13th March	9pm onwards	Chapel Allerton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club
Sunday 14th March	5pm-11pm	The Arc & The Box, Headingley
Saturday 20th March	8.30 onwards	David Lloyd Sports Centre

Contact venues for more information.

Dear Editor

We, the residents of Davitt House, were wondering, could you, through your lovely paper thank the House Manager Richard Conway and his lovely wife Betty for the most wonderful Christmas and New Year they laid on for us as residents. It was truly a great deal of hard work and their time. Wishing all the readers of your lovely paper a very Happy New Year.

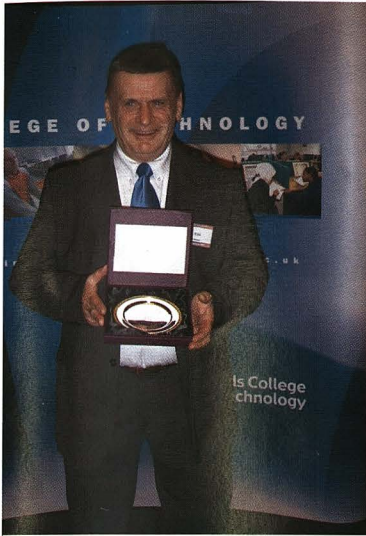
Yours truly

The Residents
Sheila, Kitty, Bernard, Tommy, Roger, Kath

LETTER FROM DAVITT HOUSE



LIHH VOLUNTEER GETS EDUCATIONAL RECOGNITION



Ken Ellis has been volunteering with LIHH for over a year now and in conjunction with his voluntary commitments Ken has also been attending college. He has completed a number of N . V . Q

assessments and was recognised at a recent award ceremony at Leeds Civic Hall for his outstanding achievements. Congratulations to you Ken and we wish you lots of luck in your continuing studies!

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MATCH REPORT ST. BENEDICTS HARPS 1-6 BROS.PEARSE 0-7

Willy Mullan provides this editions match report covering a recent win for St. Benedicts Harps in the Pennine League Final.

“Revenge was indeed sweet for St. Benedicts Harps at Halton on Sunday, November 16 2003 as they overcame a tough Bros. Pearse by two points in the Pennine League final.

Conditions were bright and calm as Damien Kerr threw in the ball at 1.00pm. Bros Pearse scored two points before Gerard Rodgers (St. Benedicts), pointed his first free. John Keegan in the Benedicts goal brought off a wonderful penalty save midway through the first half before Bros. Pearse took a 3 points to 1 lead.

St. Benedicts recovered to level the game at half-time through two further points from Gerard Rodgers. The second half saw Bros. Pearse take the lead with the first of two consecutive points before Rodgers reduced the deficit as St. Benedicts refused to lie down in the face of stern opposition. A further point from Bros. Pearse saw them increase their lead to two again before Rodgers, with his fifth point of the game, and Adam Jastak levelled the scores at six points each going into the last ten minutes. Both sides missed chances to take the lead, including another missed penalty from Bros. Pearse, before Adam Jastak rose to punch the ball into the Bros. Pearse net following a high ball in

from the right.

Things began to get very tense with Bros. Pearse pouring on the pressure and they managed to reduce the deficit to two points with a well-taken point.

The last few minutes seemed to take an age to complete as St. Benedicts refused to wilt and when the referee blew the whistle, it signalled the start of long celebrations, as St. Benedicts gained revenge for their defeat by Bros. Pearse in the Senior Championship final a few weeks before.

The victory is a marvellous achievement for such a young club and great credit goes to all the players for their commitment throughout the year and to their manager Liam O'Hara.



REVIVAL OF IRISH LANGUAGE IN LEEDS AT CARDINAL HEENAN HIGH SCHOOL

In September 2003 Cardinal Heenan was awarded Language College status by the Department of Education and Skills. This means that the school now offers classes in French, Spanish, German, Italian and Japanese. A new course in the Irish language, Gaelic, is also a big hit. 22 adults have signed up for the Irish evening classes at Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School, Meanwood.



Their teacher Maíre Ni Ghrifin hails from the Irish speaking Corca Dhuíbhne Gaeltacht area of County Kerry. Maire is a science graduate from the Dublin Institute of Technology, University of Dublin, and has taught Mathematics and Science in a Dublin school where all subjects were taught in the Irish language. During the day she teaches Science at Cardinal Heenan.

Maíre is impressed with the language skills of her new students as she highlighted, "Several people in the class already speak Irish quite well. The course is designed for absolute beginners but some have more than a smattering of Irish. Some of the students have just left school, others are in their seventies. The class is also using multi-media computer software and the Internet to improve their Irish speaking and writing skills."

The new Irish classes take place every Thursday evening during term time at Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School in Tongue Lane, Meanwood. Classes start at 7 pm and are free of charge.

Further details are available from Eunice King
Telephone: 0113 294 1166

" I have many relations who were born and still live in Conemara. It is nice to be able to understand and speak to them in their language." Mary Folan—Student

" I started this course to supplement my knowledge gained at the Leeds Metropolitan course on Irish language. It is brilliant to see this free service being provided by Cardinal Heenan. Jim Caswell—Student



Sean Sweeney is a student at Cardinal Heenan High School.

However Sean does not need to attend the Gaelic classes as at the young age of 14 he is already fluent in the Gaelic language. Sean was born in Leeds and moved with his family to Donegal when he was about 7 years old. His dad, who was born in Donegal, started to speak Gaelic to him in the home environment and of course he was learning it at school as well. Sean and his family have now moved back to Leeds but he still speaks Gaelic when he returns to Donegal on holiday. Sean has written a few words in Gaelic for our readers.

"Dia duit. Seán is ainm dom. Ta mé abalta labhairt gaeilge. Thagann m'athair from Dun-nangall. Bhi ma teaghlach in a chonai i Loch-An-lúir ar feadh 6 bliana agus seo an ait a thosaigh ma labhairt gaeilge. Slán go foill"



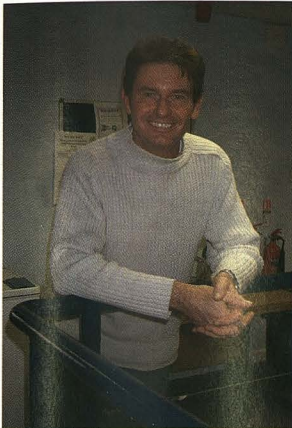
Students from Cardinal Heenan at the After-School Gaelic classes

Young and old have taken up the opportunity to learn Gaelic. These 6 students from Cardinal Heenan were partaking in the after-school classes now available to them. The class normally has over 15 students but due to football practice and play rehearsal when I visited the numbers were a little less than normal. However the classroom was buzzing with enthusiasm as their teacher Ms Ni Ghrifin took them through the basics.

INTRODUCING.....

Outreach services. We have now recruited 2 new workers who commenced work in November. We have also had a few new additions to the team and would like to introduce them to you below

In the last issue we told you about new funding that had been gained to develop our Community Outreach services. We have now recruited 2 new workers who commenced work in November. We have also had a few new additions to the team and would like to introduce them to you below



Gerry Gallagher

Started in late October 2003 and still laughing! Dad is from Attymachugh, Foxford and Mum was from Dooagh, Achill Island. Spend every holiday in Ireland with wife and two kids and working at LIHH is the next best thing to being at home. The people are wonderful, both clients and workmates, and I consider my last career at Leeds United (through the David O'Leary era) as no comparison to the rewards and fulfilment at LIHH. Looking forward to the trip to the Lake District with the Men's group and getting stuck in to the allotment in the Spring!

Gerry, Tony and Dustine have joined the Housing Support Team. Eddie and Eileen are now part of a four-strong team in the Outreach section of Leeds Irish Health and Homes.

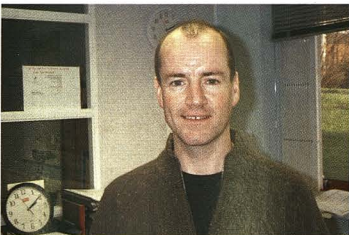
If you would like to speak to any of them please call them on 0113 262 5614.



Dustine Ranson

I was, shall we say, a late starter on the education front. Having left school with very little, it took some 4 years of full-time college and evening school to finally make it to university. I am proud to say that I

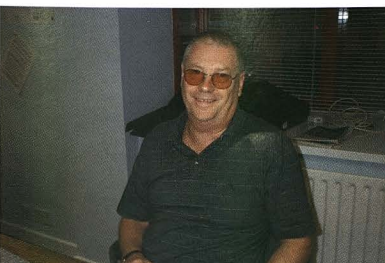
graduated with both a degree and masters degree in social work. My previous role was working with Barnardo's and the homeless and outreach team. I then married and we decided to start our new life together in Leeds. I also took the opportunity to try various temp roles working in child protection and with the adult team (who help older people to move from hospital into other accommodation). I have spent the last 2 years raising our baby full-time. It has only been 3 weeks since I started this job, but I am pleased to have been made so welcome. I am still a little shaky on my feet but appreciate how helpful all friends of LIHH have been.



Tony Mone

I guess there must be some gypsy blood in me because I have roamed through many places over the past decade. But I'm back in my hometown of Leeds and delighted

to have 'got the start' with L.I.H.H. I was brought up in an Irish family so working within the Leeds Irish community feels like being back amongst my own.



Eddie Mulligan

I was appointed as a Community Development worker at the beginning of November 2003. My role involves contacting as many individuals and organisations involved

with the Irish community in an attempt to identify their concerns and needs with regard to public health issues, community development and regeneration. I work closely with the East Leeds Primary Care Trust (PCT) to identify areas where the Irish community are disadvantaged and work to correct this. I will provide the PCT with evidence based reports and statistics to help address the problems faced by the Irish in the area.



Eileen Igoe

I started in my position as Community Outreach Worker in October 2003. I am working with the Tuesday club at the Irish Centre where my job is to consult with the members.

The information I gather is being used to compile a report on the unrecognised needs of the Irish in Leeds. I am co-ordinator of the various social groups based within LIHH and have organised meetings and activities for all the groups. I also help to run the Over 55's Friday club where people get together to enjoy a chat and a game of bingo but most importantly Caroline Murphy's cooking!

SPORTS LIFE

Leeds Irish Ladies Golfing Society

Leeds Irish Ladies Golfing Society was formed in Leeds in 1974 and is still going strong today. The Group meets on a monthly basis at the Irish Centre, York Road on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 8pm. If you are interested in joining the Ladies Golfing Society please come along to the next meeting. New members are welcome. Alternatively please call Sally Hyland on 0113 265 4246 or Agnes Mone on 0113 268 2564 for more information.

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GAA CONTACTS

There is a lively football scene in Leeds and Huddersfield both for adults and minors. The clubs are now emerging from their winter hibernations for training sessions and challenge games. The 2004 season will kick off properly in April. If you would like more information about training, playing or watching a match then contact one of the following people to find out more.

Hugh O'Neills (Leeds)
Gerry Enright 0113 248 4332

St. Anthony's (Leeds)
John Kehoe 0113 228 1307

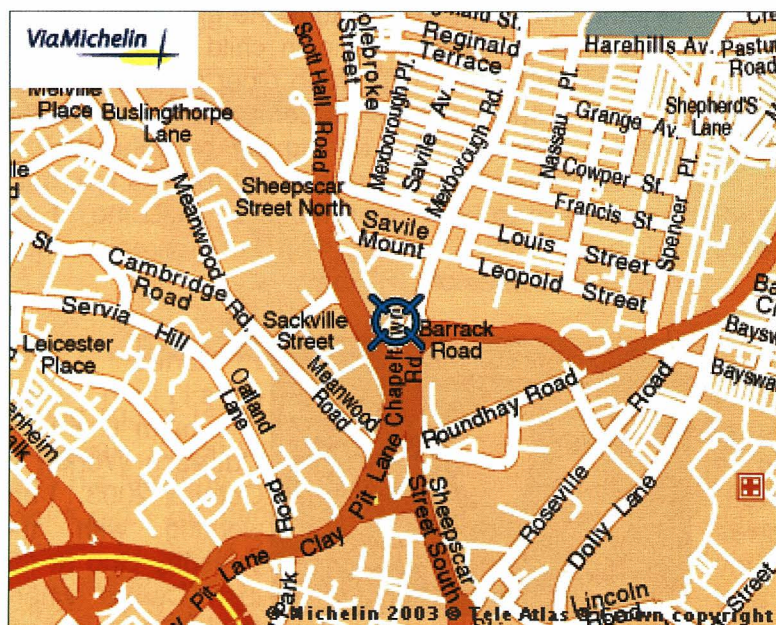
Young Irelands (Leeds)
Jimmy Houghton 07940 302541

St Brendans (Leeds)
Liam O'Hara 0113 256 7627

John F. Kennedy (Leeds)
Pat Kane 0113 265 8345

Bros. Pearse (Huddersfield)
Ollie Walsh 01484 536 945

Ladies Gaelic Football
Claire Mahoney 07834 687968



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