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FREE

IRISH IN LEEDS

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LIHH'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS LAUNCHED WITH PRESIDENTIAL VISIT



On 13th April LIHH were honoured to host a visit to Leeds by the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese and her husband Martin.

The President was in England to mark the 160th anniversary of Michael Davitt's birth. She paid a visit to Davitt House, a small residential unit for older Irish people which LIHH owns, spending time with the tenants and presenting them with a memento of her visit.

She then went on to Hinsley Hall where she officially launched the 10th anniversary celebrations of LIHH.

LIHH Chief Executive, Ant Hanlon, warmly welcomed the President and her husband for their second visit to Leeds; Leeds was the destination for her first Presidential visit in 1996. Ant thanked her for the support received from the Irish government for LIHH's services and went on to highlight the work that had been carried out over the past 10 years.

The gathering of Leeds' dignitaries, Board members, staff, volunteers, service users and supporters of LIHH were then addressed by the President who praised the work of the organisation from its origins as a steering group to an organisation that now provides

support for over 150 people on a weekly basis with "20 staff and an army of volunteers". She thanked Irish people in Leeds for their contribution to Ireland in the form of remittances and was happy to know that there was an organisation such as LIHH to help those people in their time of need. She also thanked the Lord Mayor, Cllr William Hyde for the support that Leeds City Council had given to LIHH and the wider Irish community.

Her most poignant words however were when she said "no amount of statistics can really show the true worth of LIHH in what it does for the Irish community in Leeds".

After speaking the President then spent nearly an hour talking with people; it was repeatedly commented on how warm she was and what the visit meant to everyone who attended. This was epitomised when a client of LIHH who had struggled across town on a number of buses arrived late. Instead of being seen as an inconvenience when she was due to leave, he was sensitively greeted, teased over the current footballing ability of his County team and left with the assurance that his President had given him a lasting memory.

Editorial

Hi everyone!

We are well into our 10th anniversary year and it has been very busy and productive so far. In April the 150th anniversary of the birth of Michael Davitt was marked by a visit of the President Mary McAleese and her husband Martin. They came to Davitt house and met with the residents and were the guests of Leeds Irish Health and Homes at a function at Hinsley Hall. We also had the very successful launch of the Heritage Project *Róisín Bán*, in March at the Whitehall Waterfront exhibition centre. LIHH also hosted the Federation of Irish Societies AGM in June and we have various other events planned later in 2006. As usual we have a newsletter packed with issues of local and national interest. We have profiles of all the new staff as well as poems, recipes and historical and humorous items. I would like to remind you that we welcome any contribution from our readers, particularly anything that is relevant to the local Irish community.

Best wishes,

Eddie Mulligan,

Editor

Róisín Bán: The Irish Diaspora in Leeds

THE LAUNCH OF OUR NEW PHOTOGRAPHY BOOK AND TOURING EXHIBITION



Our new photographic book and exhibition, *Róisín Bán*, were launched in Leeds in March at the Whitehall Waterfront exhibition space. *Róisín Bán* (pron: Rosheen Bawn - Gaelic for 'white rose') explores through images and personal histories the peaks and troughs of being part of an 'invisible minority', the global Irish diaspora.

Over 400 people attended the opening night to enjoy the photographs and read the quotes - the result of the two-year heritage project co-ordinated by staff member Corinne Silva. Attendees were also treated to the musical talent of harpist Bernie Byrne as well as enjoying an Irish stew. The project has been a phenomenal success, with over a thousand people attending the exhibition over the course of a month, including dozens of local school children who took part in a series of Irish arts workshops run by LIHH staff members Eddie Mulligan and Teresa O'Driscoll.

The book and exhibition were supported by a Home Office 'Connecting Communities' grant, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Ireland Fund of Great Britain. We now hope to secure additional sponsorship to tour the exhibition to Ireland and other parts of England. Website www.roisinban.com will be launched in August 2006. Copies of the book are still available and details of how to get it are below.

Róisín Bán

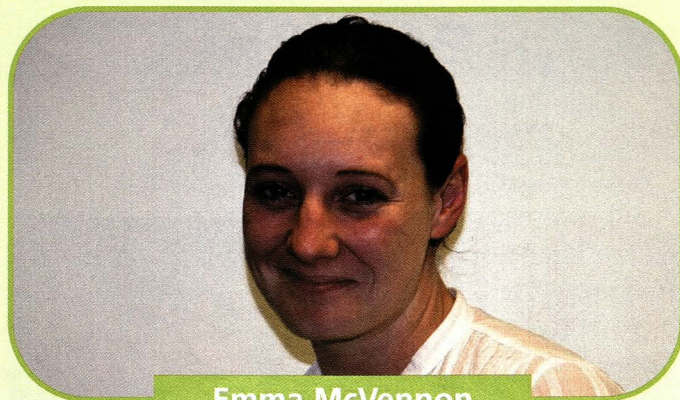
By Corinne Silva

ISBN 0-9552529-0-3

£20.00/£30.00

Publisher: Leeds Irish Health & Homes
Available to buy directly from LIHH
(phone 0113 2625614 or check our
website to download an order form),
www.amazon.co.uk and all good
bookshops





Emma McVennon

I am originally from Leeds although I am of Irish decent; both my grandparents were from Limerick. Previously I worked as a Health Care Assistant for a local hospital in Rehabilitation. I am enjoying the great atmosphere here at Leeds Irish Health & Homes, and settling in well meeting all my tenants and colleagues.



Laura Sims

Hi, my name is Laura Sims. I am currently training to be a social worker at Leeds Metropolitan University (but please don't let that put you off me!). I started my placement with LIHH in January this year and am working as a housing support worker. I am just coming to the end of my placement but I am very happy to say that I will be continuing to work at LIHH over the summer holiday. During my placement with LIHH I have gained some very valuable experience which I will take with me when I sadly have to leave. I am really enjoying working with the tenants I support and have learnt a great deal from them. I would like to thank them for giving me this opportunity. I am really enjoying working with such a dedicated team who have so much respect for the clients they support. Over my time at LIHH I think I have gained a good understanding of the experiences of Irish people in Leeds and the value of culturally sensitive services such as LIHH. I hope I get the chance to meet more of you over the summer!

LIHH Celebrates its 10th Anniversary

This year LIHH celebrates 10 years as an organisation. Originally set up to provide supported housing to some of the most vulnerable Irish people in Leeds, we also now provide a range of support services to Irish people to try and help alleviate ill-health, isolation, distress and homelessness.

Our achievements over the past 10 years have been, amongst others:

- Providing housing with support to over 500 tenants
- Providing outreach support to over 1,000 clients covering a range of issues
- Successfully claimed over £600,000 in benefits for clients
- Growing from a staff team of 1 to 20
- A continuously growing pool of volunteers
- Having a highly qualified Board of Management
- Moving to modern accessible offices
- Being recognised as a national model of good practice
- Winning the Irish Post National Community Award 2004
- Achieving the Community Legal Service Quality Mark
- Producing the high quality quarterly newsletter 'The Irish in Leeds'
- Successfully reviewed website www.lihh.org
- Launched Róisín Bán project and book and commissioned to show at European Parliament

We thank all those who have provided financial, moral and emotional support and encouragement to us during this time and we look forward to continuing to support our community over the next 10 years.





Geraldine Ryan

My name is Geraldine Ryan I joined LIHH in April 2006 as the Director of Operations. My parents came to England from Ireland in the 1940's and their experiences and stories are very similar to many of yours. This is a great opportunity for me to work with the Irish community and keep in touch with my roots.

I was born in Bradford and still live there, so although I thought I knew Leeds reasonably well I have found some new and interesting routes to get to work and my map reading skills are being tested!

I have worked for various Housing Associations over the past 20 years both as a front line worker and a senior manager with experience of working with all sections of the community.

LIHH is a vibrant organisation. I am very pleased to be a part of the team, contributing to the development and delivery of services to meet the needs of the Irish community here in Leeds. My role is to build on the success LIHH has had over the past ten years. There are still a large proportion of Irish people out there who are not aware of us and who I am sure would benefit from our services. Also it is becoming more apparent there are needs which are not being met or are becoming greater particularly for older people and I hope that I can help to develop our service to meet those needs.

I have had the pleasure of meeting and visiting some of you but hope in the coming months I will get to know you all. Your views are important and I am happy to talk with you about any concerns or ideas you might have about the services we offer.

There are many challenges ahead but with the great staff team we have here at LIHH and your feedback and support I am sure LIHH will go from strength to strength.

Róisín Bán: Workshops



During the recent Róisín Bán exhibition a number of workshops were held for school children led by Corinne de Silva, Teresa O'Driscoll and Eddie Mulligan. These consisted of a tour of the exhibition, a discussion about languages (in particular the Ogham or Tree Alphabet) and a look at some short Irish films.

Ogham stones are the remains of the first written Irish language and there is evidence of them in many places in Ireland, most notably Kerry and Cork, with some fine examples now housed within the museum at Cork University. The language consists of strokes used in various formations and each had the name of a tree, hence the Tree Alphabet. In Irish this was known as Beth, Luis, Nion which relate to the Birch, Rowan and Ash.

Teresa had the children make their own Ogham stones, using the first letter of their names, painting the end produce and making into a pendant. There was even a song, complete with sign language and an impromptu Irish dance by the children from Our Lady of Good Counsel, some of whom are pictured here.



A Day in the Life: Outreach Worker

The Outreach Team provides support for Irish people and people of Irish descent throughout Leeds. The support we offer takes many forms and is tailored specifically to the individuals needs. We work with a variety of clients, some of whom are socially isolated and require support in accessing appropriate services. Individuals may need help with re-housing, or be experiencing mental or physical health problems. Similarly, clients may have problems related to drug or alcohol misuse. Although we work directly with clients to address the necessary issues, we also spend a lot of time liaising with other professionals and agencies to access appropriate services and support for the individual. The clients we work with and the issues we address are extremely diverse, which makes for a varied, interesting and challenging day. Here is one such day.....

My day starts with a visit to a man I have recently helped to move into sheltered accommodation. He was referred to our organisation by a hospital social worker who was concerned about his living conditions and ability to maintain his property in light of his physical health problems. He had lived in his flat for over twenty years but recently found it hard to cope with daily tasks. As a result his flat was seriously neglected and in disrepair. I worked, alongside his social worker, to secure more appropriate accommodation. This involved a referral to the medical re-housing team who awarded him Priority Extra with Leeds City Council, which ensured a quicker move. Once he was offered a property I assisted him with the practical side of moving, including securing furniture, transporting his belongings and transferring utilities. I also provided emotional support during a period of great upheaval. Now that he is in a more appropriate property, my main focus is to help him to maintain this accommodation. I am asking statutory and community resources provide the necessary package of care and support to facilitate this. It is important to be

aware of the services other groups and organisations offer throughout the city and to create working relationships, which will in turn benefit the client.

My next visit is with a young woman who suffers from depression and anxiety. She was unwilling to engage with mental health services but was keen to work with our organisation due to the culturally sensitive support we offer. I have been visiting this woman for two months now and I have encouraged her to have a psychiatric assessment to which I will accompany her next week.

Following these visits, I returned to the office to check my emails and write up client records. It is crucial that these notes are kept up to date to ensure that our work and intervention with an individual is recorded. I also used this time to call a number of my clients. I keep in touch with my clients by telephone in between visits, which allows me to maintain good working relationships with individuals and also address any issues and crises should they arise.

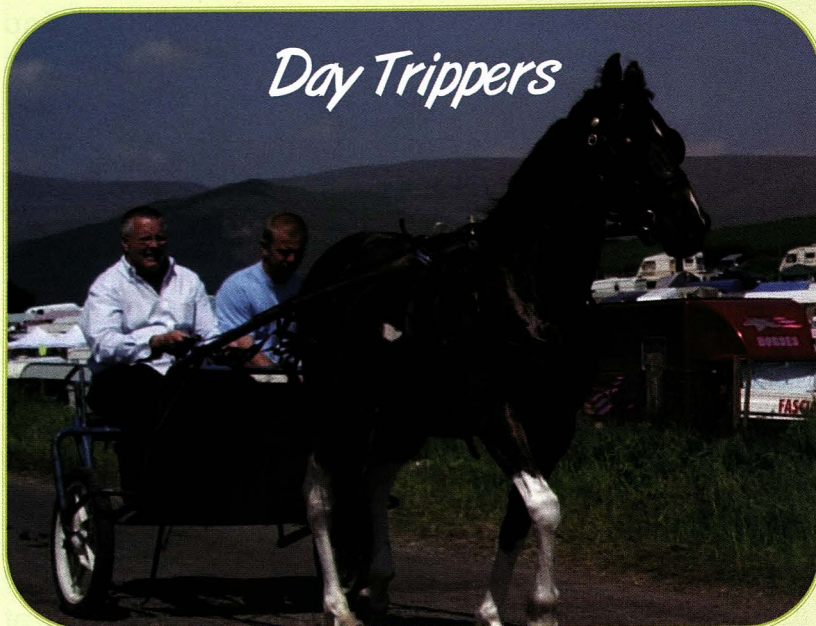
After lunch I attend an Outreach Team Meeting to talk about any issues affecting the team and the organisation as a whole. These meetings give us the opportunity to come together as a team, which can sometimes be difficult due to the amount of visits we do daily.

Later in the afternoon I accompanied a client on a visit to Lawnswood Medical Centre for a benefits assessment. He would have had his benefit stopped if he did not go. He did not have the confidence to go on his own, so I went along to provide moral support. Quite often people can get intimidated by 'official' appointments. I sat with him while the doctor assessed him and also spoke on his behalf. My presence reassured him and ensured that he was fully aware of what was going on.

At the end of the day I phone the office to let them know that I have finished for the day and will be heading straight home as it is five o'clock. I go home to recharge my batteries so that I'm ready for the next day and whatever events it may hold.

Laura Hutchman

Day Trippers



A party of thirteen LIHH tenants and staff met on a sunny June morning at Leeds train station. They boarded the famous Leeds-Settle-Carlisle train for a 1.5 hour journey through the Yorkshire Dales as far as Appleby-in-Westmorland.

The town of Appleby has hosted a gypsy horse fair every year since 1685 under the protection of a Royal Charter granted by James II. As you can imagine it is a loud, noisy and colourful spectacle and we enjoyed spending a few hours roaming the town and nearby Fair Hill where all the caravans were parked.

The most interesting sights were the young people washing their horses in the River Eden and the horse-trotting along Flashing Lane.

We didn't buy any horses this time, but returned to Leeds in the afternoon laden with knick-knacks bought from stalls at the fair...including a brass pineapple??!!



Learning Irish

They tried to teach me Irish:
those dull, provincial men
with dull, provincial minds,
who lacked imagination or love.

Men whose minds were closed
to beauty; who showed little
or no affinity with the language
or the teaching of it.

One can, perhaps, understand
the dreamy aspirations of a
fledgling state;
the desire for cultural purity,
the driving need for it.

But one cannot be bullied
into love, and love was missing.
Instead, I grew to hate
what should have been a blessing.

Thus it was; yet now,
in the calmer uplands of maturity,
I long to learn my native tongue,
to taste the sweetness of it.

But can the years undo
the damage that was done;
can time erase the memories,
and the bitterness of it?

Cinnnte, is féidir a dhéaneamh é,
tá mé sásta a rá.

Go maire an teanga,
agus go maire an lá!

Certainly, it can be done,
I'm happy to say.
Long live the language,
and long live the day!



Pauline Dore
Finance Officer

I am a Yorkshire lass from Doncaster but my great grandmother is from Mayo. I came to work at LIHH on a temporary basis as finance officer in

February 2006 and have enjoyed every minute of it. I love the friendly atmosphere and the camaraderie in the place. I feel very much at home here and will miss it when I leave.

Kathy Cooke
Administration worker

I am originally from Belfast and came to England in 1969. After raising a family I returned to study and started a career working with the homeless. I worked in hostels for 15 years before joining LIHH in April 2006. I really enjoy working for LIHH, it is great fun and all the staff are so friendly and caring.



Philippa Dowson
Outreach Team

Hello there! My name is Philippa Dowson and I started work with LIHH in April 2006 as part of the outreach team. Prior to this, I worked for St Anne's Community

Services as a hostel worker with single homeless men.

I love the variety that comes with being part of the outreach team; no two days are the same. It's great being able to get out and meet members of the Irish community, everyone I've met so far has been really

friendly and welcoming. It's very rewarding to know that you've made a difference to someone's life, however small, and that they appreciate the care and support you give them. Every person is an individual with different and varying needs. We respond to this accordingly by being flexible and working out the best plan of action for that person, whatever difficulties they may be facing.

The outreach team are constantly trying to promote our services and will be running a stall in Leeds market as part of the 'All being well' promotion. Everyone in the team has been working really hard to get everything organised, so lets hope our efforts pay off! Outreach are also responsible for running a carers group, a knitting project and the Friday lunch club, which is always a good craic!

LIHH is a great place to work, with a fabulous staff team who are very supportive. I am looking forward to getting out there and meeting more members of the community and feel honoured to have this opportunity.

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The 1916 Uprising

This year is the ninetieth anniversary of the Easter rebellion in Dublin 1916. The Irish government marked the event with an official commemoration and parade in the city attended by the president and representatives of all the political parties. Below is a copy of the Proclamation and pictures of the seven men who signed it along with their own death warrants. At the present time it is hard to see why this event produced such a vicious response from the government of the day. No modern right thinking democrat would disagree with the sentiments expressed in this document.

"If you strike at, imprison, or kill us, out of our prisons or graves we will still evoke a spirit that will thwart you, and perhaps, raise a force that will destroy you! We defy you! Do your worst!!"

- James Connolly

POBLACHT NA H EIREANN
THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT
OF THE
IRISH REPUBLIC
TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN: In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people

and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty; six times during the last three hundred years they have asserted it to arms. Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and all of its parts, cherishing all of the children of the nation equally and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God. Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, in humanity, or rapine. In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.

Signed on Behalf of the Provisional Government.

Thomas J. Clarke,
Sean Mac Diarmada, Thomas MacDonagh,
P. H. Pearse, Eamonn Ceannt,
James Connolly, Joseph Plunkett



The seven signatories of the Irish Proclamation (from left):

Padraig Pearse, James Connolly, Thomas Clarke, Thomas MacDonagh, Sean MacDermott, Joseph Plunkett & Eamonn Ceannt
All of the above men were executed by the British Government for their efforts in trying to secure a free Ireland!

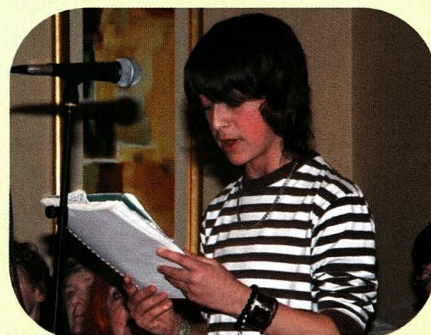
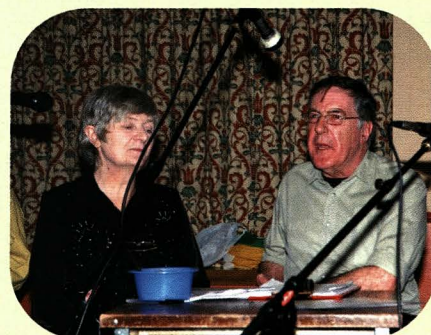
Night of Poetry and Music

The evening of Thursday 23rd of March this year, marked the launch of a new collection of Irish poetry, by the members of Lucht Focail Irish Writers Group, at the Leeds Irish Centre. The occasion was celebrated by a large audience and among the many notables present was Amanda Bane, representative of Daithí o Cheallaigh, the Irish Ambassador to Britain, who praised the book, saying it was "An important addition to the cultural and literary life of the Irish Diaspora."

Apart from the fine poetry, there was an excellent display of dancing skills from the Joyce O'Donnell School of Irish Dancing and also some great music from Des Hurley and friends in conjunction with Comhaltas Ceolteorí Eireann. The combination of poetry, music and dance was a winner and the evening was a resounding success. Many thanks are due to the staff, and particularly the manager, Tommy McLaughlin, of the Irish Centre, for ensuring that the occasion was a memorable one. Thanks also to Corinne Silva, of LIHH who captured the flavour of the evening with some fine photographs.

Anyone wishing to purchase a copy of The Fifth Province may do so by contacting either Bill Fitzsimons on 0113 2429765 or Annie O'Donnell on 0113 2497076. £7 per copy.

We are also looking for new members for our Writers Group. If anyone is interested (no experience required), we meet every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at the Irish Centre. Please contact Bill Fitzsimons (telephone as above) for details.



Placeless in America

(Ultan Cowley, author of *The Men who built Britain: A History of the Irish Navvy*, is researching a new book on the experience of emigration as exile.

Placeless People: The Price of Exile

'We are finding deep wells of sadness in ordinary human lives', Sister Teresa Gallagher, Director of Irish Counselling and Psychotherapy, London.

There is, of course, some degree of sadness in every human life but the lives to which Teresa Gallagher was referring are those of elderly Irish emigrants in Britain.

Half a million Irish emigrated to Britain in the nineteen fifties. Eighty two percent of emigrants in 1960 had left school before the age of fifteen. They received no pre-emigration training or advice. In the words of one female emigrant: 'They taught us to hate England - and then they sent us over here!'

Many returned to settle in Ireland but the majority did not. Living often in close proximity to their own, they tended to mix sparingly with the British, and harboured the belief that they would inevitably return to Ireland 'some day' even while their children progressed through the British education system, often to third level, and into the workplace.

The experience of novelist and navvy Domhnall MacAuligh, who emigrated to England in 1951, is typical. His successful Irish-language memoir, *Dialann Deorai* (Diary of an Exile) was published in 1964 and translated into English under the title, *An Irish Navvy*. MacAuligh continued to write articles for newspapers and magazines while working full-time in construction.

MacAuligh, although happily married, never reconciled himself to life in England. Asked by an Irish journalist in 1966 what bothered him most, he responded:

'Bringing up a family in Northampton; the children speaking with Northampton accents...apart from that, I've never felt settled in this place. I still feel like an outsider -that I don't belong.'

There was a free-ness about expatriation once; you told yourself it would be over sooner or later...But that's no longer true; all that's ahead of you is the time you have left on Earth - spend it here in loneliness and desolation. I came here in 1951 and I've never felt at home here in all that time'.

Clearly it was no accident that MacAuligh, a fluent Gaelic speaker, should have chosen the word *Deorai* for his title. The Irish for exile, *Deorai* translates literally as Placelessness and Banishment. Placelessness - not belonging, traumatises many Irish people for whom community is everything, while the sense of banishment carries implications for those at home as well as those abroad which have yet to be faced up to fully.

I have encountered this perception amongst many emigrants in Britain but I regarded the emigrant experience in the United States as vastly different. In that country in the 20th century Irish emigrants seemed well regarded while those at home seemed to take a pride in them not often shown towards those in Britain.

Consequently I made a sharp distinction between 'emigration', as typified by the American experience, and 'exile' as defining the experience of many of the Irish in Britain. I have however been surprised to learn in recent times that there are many Irish in America who also share this sense of placelessness and banishment. Not least are former members of religious orders. Some have been disowned by their families in Ireland for renouncing their vocations - 'What will the neighbours think?'

I believe these issues need to be explored. This book is intended to provide a forum where such spiritual exiles, wherever they may live abroad, can express the lifelong hurt which is their legacy of emigration. It is my hope that it may broaden understanding and bring healing in its wake.

Readers who would like to contribute can contact me at:

The Potter's Yard, Rathangan, Duncormick, Co. Wexford Email: ultan.cowley@gmail.com

Let's Knit

Let's Knit is a group set up earlier this year. It is facilitated by Teresa O'Driscoll (Outreach Worker) and takes place at 2 Kingston Terrace, off Woodhouse Lane, Hyde Park on Thursday 1.30-3.30 p.m.

The aim of the group is to bring together people of all ages, background and culture and create something beautiful. If you haven't knit for 40 years you will be in good company and if you've never knit, now is the time to learn and enjoy yourself at the same time.

Bringing it all back home:

Bringing it all back home is the working title for the main project. This consists of knitted squares (approx 9"x 9") and a theme around the idea of Irishness. You can draw inspiration from the landscape and seascape (peat bogs, hedgerows, hills, beaches), sky (blue, grey, cloudy), folklore and mythology (Cuchulainn, Fionn Mac Cumhail, Diarmuid and Grainne), symbolism (harp, shamrock, Celtic designs, birds, Brigid's cross – someone has already knit a tricolor). In fact anything that for you represents Ireland - and you don't have to be Irish to be involved. The pieces will be put together to form a beautiful textile piece of art and displayed at a later date.

To knit your square;

The basic pattern is 40 stitches using double yarn on No. 8 needles. Use any stitches you want; garter, stocking, moss, rib or any combination of these.

After knitting the basic square then decorate in any fashion you want and using any material to give you your desired effect. If you want any ideas or inspiration or help in getting started, contact me (01132176566 or teresa@lihh.org) or come to one of the Thursday groups. Also check out our website www.lihh.co.uk for updates on the knitting group.

If there's anybody out there who has knitting needles, wool or handmade woolies or bit of interesting material (tweed, silk, satin, beads, ribbons) they no longer need, please donate to the project and we will recycle them. Thanks for your help.

I look forward to meeting lots more knitters in the future.

Slán anois.

Teresa

Book Review: Irish Flames, John Walker

Irish Flames is a remarkable book in that it is based upon a personal recollection of the "Black and Tans" role in Ireland from 1919 until the treaty in December 1921. Following the death of his brother Peter in 1990, John Waller found among his personal belongings, a partially written manuscript. It was the story of Peter's childhood memories of the period which John used as a basis for this book. The result is an intriguing read that is timely in that it coincides with the release of Ken Loach's film "The Wind that Shakes the Barley", which has received so much vitriol from those elements in the media who wish to remain in denial of Britain's imperial history. Despite the fact that about 50,000 Irish died in the First World War, fought ostensibly to free small nations, at the Paris peace Conference Britain refused to allow the Conference to debate the case of Ireland's freedom. This is not only a rattling good read but it makes a significant contribution to the body of knowledge about the history of Britain and Ireland during the period that shaped the modern Irish state. It is published by Yiannis Books and is good value at £8.99.



Anti-Terrorism Laws: The Experiences of the Irish and Muslim Communities in the UK

This event was hosted jointly by the Commission for Racial Equality's Safe Communities Initiative (SCI) and the University of Birmingham and was attended by 50 people. The aim was to initiate a dialogue and to tease out the commonalities and differences between the Irish and Muslim communities' experiences and responses to anti-terrorism legislation. This was the first time that the CRE and the University of Birmingham, or indeed any organisation, had hosted such a joint event. It was an exploratory exercise intended to listen to the views of the two communities.

The purpose of the seminar was to raise awareness of anti-terrorism issues and to explore analytical, conceptual and empirical linkages between the Irish and Muslim experiences in relation to anti-terrorism legislation. It was anticipated that the learning from the seminar would help to shape or influence public policy.

The event was held at the University of Birmingham. Birmingham has had both a strong Irish and Muslim community presence in the post-war era. In 1974, the city was the target of IRA bombings as well as the arrests that were made in Small Heath in 2005 which were related to the failed 21 July bombings.

Birmingham University has a strong research tradition and the Centre for the Study of Ethnicity and Culture, which co-hosted the event, has academic expertise in Islamic political radicalism.

The seminar was also co-hosted by the Safe Communities Initiative (SCI). SCI, a three-year project which began in March 2003, was established to provide information and advice on promoting good community relations and to help prevent and resolve disputes or tensions as early as possible. SCI's work has centred on developing and supporting good practice in five British cities.

One of the CRE's aims in setting up the initiative is to encourage people to acknowledge, discuss and appreciate their differences and also to build on commonalities to prevent relations between communities and individuals being harmed by ignorance, prejudice or fear. The focus of the event was to examine Irish and Muslim experiences primarily from a community perspective, the delegates who attended where representatives from: Race equality councils, Irish cultural and community organisations, Muslim organisations, Universities and Voluntary sector organisations

Legislation passed by the British Government between 1922 and 1998, specifically the passing of numerous revisions of the Prevention of Terrorism Act from 1974 – 1998 has caused major concerns for minority groups. Impact on the streets (stop and search powers, exclusion and proscription orders) as well as in the courts (restrictions on bail, abolition of trial by jury and the right to silence, shift in the burden of proof, etc.) were of particular concern. It was originally rushed through Parliament giving Ministers control of judicial process rather than the judiciary, with huge implications for the future.

The anti-terrorism laws alienated the very communities with which the authorities needed to work in order to contain the threat. It corrupted the criminal system, placed the security services above the law and sustained and extended political violence rather than prevented it. It was politics that ended political violence in the north of Ireland, not legislation.

Parallels between the Irish and Muslim communities are obvious. During the '70's and '80's the term 'Irish suspect' was common. This has been replaced by 'Muslim suspect', inferring the criminalisation of entire communities. There is a Rise in Islamophobia, isolation and disaffection and criminalisation of Muslims and non-cooperation between Muslims and the authorities. Police powers are being strengthened and there is a need for discourse to show that this legislation is counter-productive. The Government approach to tackling terrorism does not address the root causes of terrorism but rather targets the Muslim community. Terrorism can only be defeated by political action.

What is the way forward? The consensus was that the government should:

- **Hold a public inquiry into the events of July 2005**
- **Stop attempting to moderate Islam and start targeting criminals**
- **Proactive engagement and partnership between the authorities and the Muslim community which should be transparent and open**

Film Review

Film-maker Ken Loach hit back at British press criticism of his award-winning film on the War of Independence. The 69-year-old director said some of the criticism had been of an "amazingly vitriolic and personal nature". He said it had been motivated by a "deep-seated imperialist guilt" over the partition of Ireland and the subsequent years of conflict that had resulted. 'The Wind That Shakes the Barley' won the prestigious Palme d'Or award at the Cannes film festival at the beginning of June but was attacked by several tabloid newspapers. Mr. Loach, an Englishman, was accused of being anti-British. The film depicts events during the guerrilla campaign against British rule during the 1920s. It stars Cillian Murphy as an Irish medical student who takes up arms against a reign of terror by the Black and Tans, the notorious auxiliary force sent in to suppress the movement for independence.

A series of attacks on the director by several right-wing tabloids followed. The Sun said the film had a plot "designed to drag the reputation of our nation through the mud". "It portrays British soldiers as trigger-happy mercenaries hooked on torture, burning cottages for kicks and using pliers to rip out the toenails of innocent Irish victims. "At the same time, cold-blooded republican butchers star as figures of heroic bravery," wrote columnist Harry MacAdam.

The Independent said the film's depiction of the Black and Tans had "come across like a recruiting campaign for the IRA". Ruth Dudley Edwards, in the Daily Mail, accused the director of contriving to portray the "British as sadists and the Irish as romantic, idealistic resistance fighters" to suit a political agenda.

Mr. Loach said none of the criticisms had challenged the veracity of the film. "Not one of the criticisms directly challenge the script's content. It was instead based on personal attacks and inaccuracies," the director said. He said the press coverage had been a "knee-jerk reaction" by those incapable of facing Britain's colonial past and who felt threatened by being confronted with aspects of their own history. He added that Ireland held a special place among the colonies because society was still living with the legacy of colonialism and this also accounted for the media reaction. Some of our staff and clients went to see the film which is only on limited release and enjoyed it very much. This is a film that the general public should see.

Market Stall

The Outreach Team were beaver away at Leeds Market a couple of weeks ago. We did two days on the 'All Being Well' stall which is situated on Row 2 of Leeds market, between Game and Fish Row. The event was focused around healthy eating and we had Teresa providing an opportunity for people to get knitting. Between the knitting and the free food on offer we soon pulled in the crowds.

The knitting group provided a chance for people to sit down, chill out and knit a few stitches. As you would expect, the market attracts a diverse range of people from all walks of life who were all willing to join in and give it a go. Lots of people got involved, from occasional 'hobby' knitters to those knitting almost 'full time' for charity, to complete beginners. As well as opportunities to eat and knit, the market stall also has lots of information about healthy lifestyles. All the information is in easy to read leaflet form and can be taken away from the stall to read at home.



The next market stall event will be held on August the 22nd and 23rd and everyone is welcome to pop down, say hello and join in. The knitting will be taking place on the Wednesday morning (23rd August) and the 22nd will be an 'open day' – which means we haven't decided what to do as yet!



The Car Accident

There is an automobile accident one day involving an Irish priest and a Rabbi. They both get out of their car and stumble over to the side of the road.

The Rabbi says, "what a wreck!"

The priest asks him, "Are you all right, Rabbi?"

The Rabbi responds, "Yes, but I'm trembling all over." The priest takes a flask of whiskey

from his coat and says,

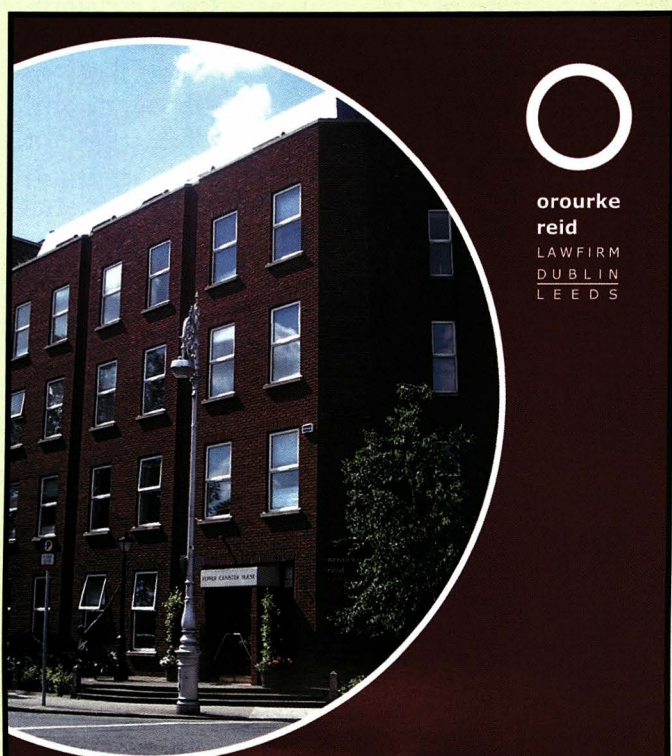
"Here, drink some of this. It will calm your nerves."

The Rabbi takes the flask and drinks it all down.

"Well, says the Rabbi, what are we going to tell the police?"

"Indeed," says the priest, "I don't know what you're going to be telling' them.

But I'll be telling' them I wasn't the one drinking'."



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LIHH Over 55's Luncheon Club

Calling all over 55's... looking for something to do on a Friday afternoon?

Want to meet new people of a similar age & background? Then come along to Leeds Irish Health and Homes Luncheon Club to enjoy great food, a game of bingo, raffles and lots of laughs. We also have day trips to various places; our last trip was to Millstones Restaurant where our members enjoyed a lovely meal and live entertainment.

So simply come along and join the fun! New members are always made welcome.

The fun starts at 12pm, every Friday at Montague Burton Resource Centre, Banstead Street West (off Roundhay Road) Leeds 8.

For further information call Caroline or Eileen on 2625614.

Hawthorne Garden Services *planned maintenance and landscaping*

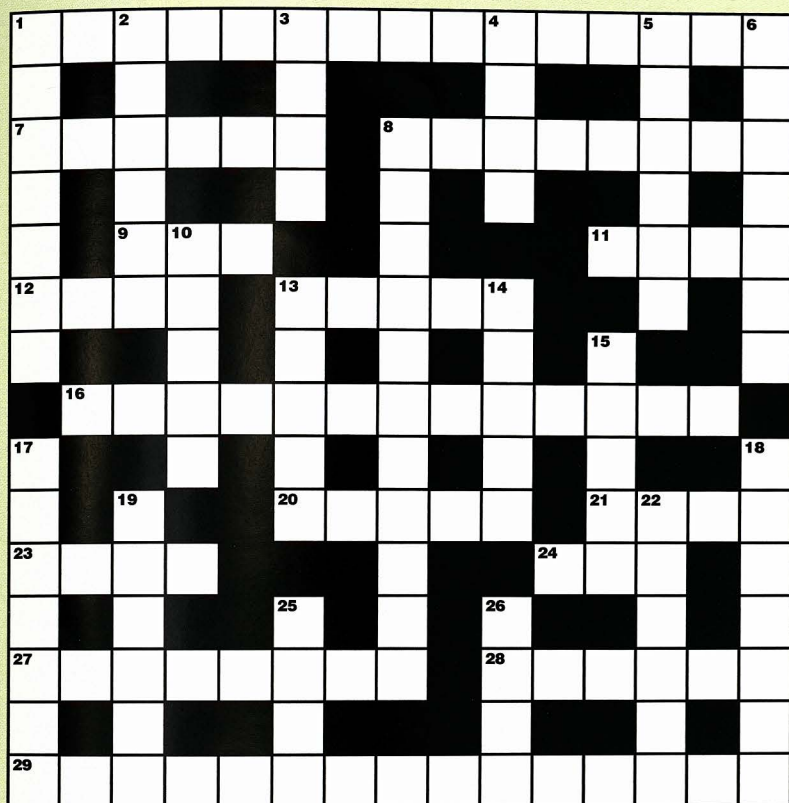
Mr Ray O'Donnell

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Ireland In Crosswords



ACROSS

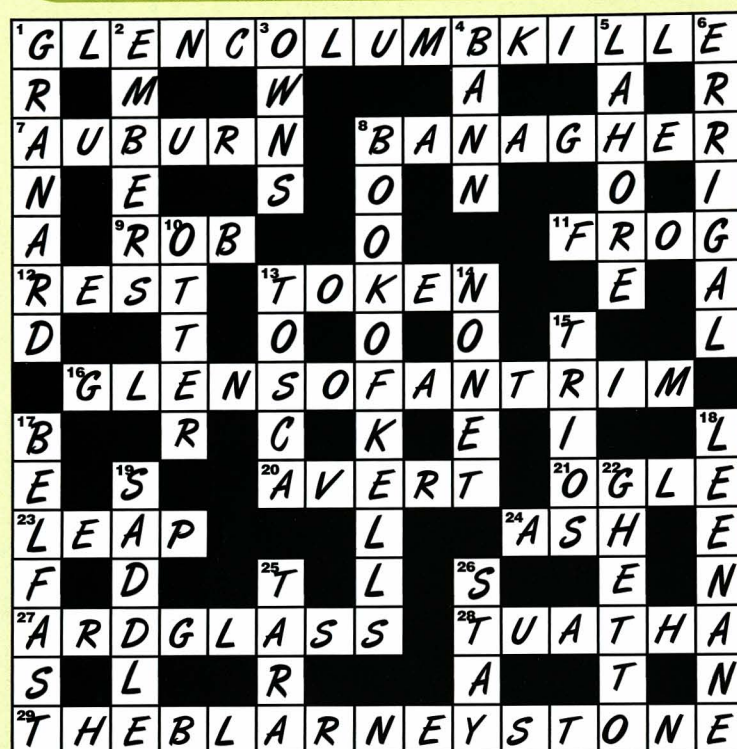
1. Long milk bell cue. (anag.) Donegal valley settlement near the Glengesh pass. (15)
7. Gold starts to ignite for redhead in Westmeath home of Oliver Goldsmith. (6)
8. Hear bang (anag.) Offaly market town noted for fishing in Rivers Shannon and Brosna. (8)
9. Mr. Roy MacGregor the Scots rebel seen to steal in further observation. (3)
11. You will find a hopper in Glengarriff, Roger. (4)
12. The remainder take a break in Glenure street. (4)
13. Net O.K., but broken up to give a keepsake. (5)
16. Form in tangles unravelled in Northern Ireland area where 9 beautiful valleys open to the sea. (5,2,6)
20. Turn away coming back in Ballyraggett revaluation. (5)
21. Glance amorously in Mayo Glen. (4)
23. Pale revision in pretty West Cork village. (4)

24. Irish sporting wood will be found in Pallas, hopefully. (3)
27. Grass, lad. (anag.) Pleasant Co. Down fishing village famous for herrings. (8)
28. At a hut in ruins is reference to ancient Irish petty kingdoms. (6)
29. Enable honest try. (anag.) Make osculatory contact with this for the gift of the gab! (3,7,5)

DOWN

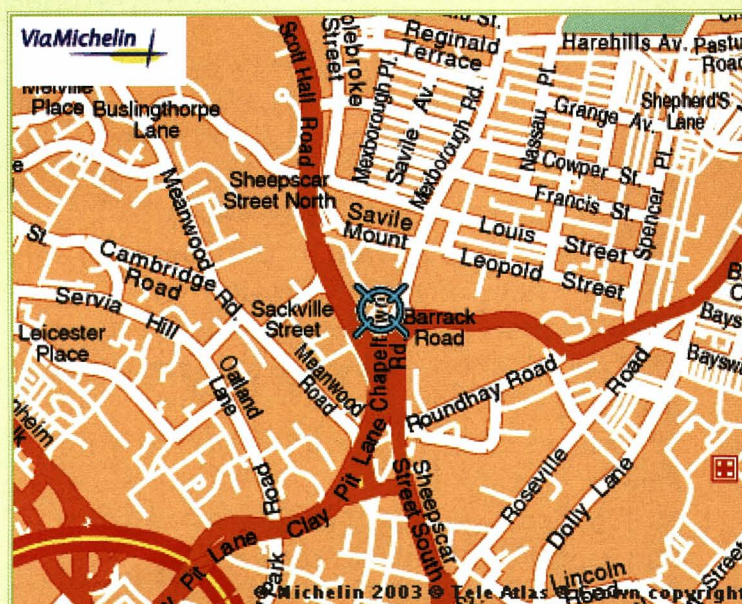
1. Darn rag torn in busy Longford market town and angling centre, sacked by Edward Bruce in 1315. (7)
2. Those who belong fail to start grandly and end in the ashes. (6)
3. Has snow dispersed? (4)
4. Apparently put a stop to famous salmon river entering sea 5 miles from Coleraine. (4)
5. Oh, real mixup in Pakistan city, capital of Sikh empire. (6)
6. Rail, Reg going up highest mountain in Donegal with twin summits. (7)
8. Be folk's look. (anag.) Illuminated in Trinity College Dublin? (4,2,5)
10. Williamson's Tarka. (5)
13. A Scot gets agitated at the opera. (5)
14. They have one over the eight in Ballyshannon ethos. (5)
15. I sort out three of these to make up a 14 down. (5)
17. Spread fable before good person in Antrim city. (7)
18. Nee Lane, but now in Galway angling and mountain climbing centre. (7)
19. Led sad agitation on horseback. (6)
22. Get hot about mono-ethnic quarters. (6)
25. Pitch article on the pre-Christian Irish monarchy of the 6th century. (4)
26. Remain in support. (4)

Crosswords Solutions



GAA Fixtures 2006

The football season shuts down for the most of August, and restarts in September. The Yorkshire Senior championship semi-final between St. Benedicts and Bros. Pearse (Huddersfield) is at Beeston at 1.00 on Sunday Sept 24 with the final on Oct 1 also in Beeston.



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