

A large, stylized Celtic knotwork border runs diagonally across the page. It features intricate swirling patterns, triangles, and interlocking lines in a dark, textured style.

**The  
London  
Irish Womens  
Centre**

All women welcome to  
join us in a celebration  
at the

**Grand Opening  
of the  
London  
Irish  
Womens  
Centre**

Come and see the  
resources of the centre,  
enjoy the entertainment  
on the day and find out  
what's there for you and  
your children

**Opening Ceremony  
1pm  
with  
Nell McCafferty**

Author of 'A Woman to Blame'  
and other titles.

**Saturday 1st February 1986**

**59 Church St. Stoke Newington**

Buses 73, 106, 253

**British Rail Station Stoke Newington**

**Facilities:** childcare ♦ signer ♦ refreshments ♦  
Ord. Floor wheelchair accessible incl. toilet. For  
information on access code and help with  
transport phone 249 7318

**Entertainment:** Videos ♦ exhibitions ♦ live  
traditional music ♦ exhibition dancing ♦ stalls ♦  
prose and poetry readings ♦ special guests!?



The latest on the premises is that we have moved in! And all the decorating is just completed. WEBB trainees did one room and the rest of the building was completed by a group of determined and very competent women who wish to remain nameless and who worked very hard to complete the job in the short time available. Many thanks to them. All that remains is to get the whole building carpeted, completely furnished and stocked with equipment ready for THE OPEN DAY ON FEB 1st!

As can be seen from the cover, Nell Mc Cafferty will open the Centre at 1pm and at different times during the day she will also be signing copies of her latest book and reading extracts from her work. There will be an exhibition, videos, stalls, food and refreshments, live Irish music, singing and dancing and it promises to be a very exciting occasion and the culmination of a lot of hard work for the countless number of women who have been involved over the years in getting a Centre for Irish women in London funded and established. And remember the Open Day is not confined to Irish women only - we want all women to be able to share in our day of celebration - so bring friends and spread the word. And of course, we can all continue the celebration in the evening at IWASOG's Benefit in Islington Town Hall for the Well Woman and Open Line Clinics, which promises to be a fun night from the GUEST STARS.

There are a lot of classes/courses starting soon at the centre (see inside) but in addition to the usual ones we will be launching an ARTS/resource Section and Studio for Irish women at the Centre. As soon as the funding comes through. A temporary Arts/Cultural worker, Iris Lyle, has just begun work on this. Facilities and training will be available on Radio Production; Video Recording; Dark Room; Photographic Equipment; Sound Recording; and operating a PA System.

The Radio Studio will train women how to design, narrate and present a programme, conduct interviews, develop editing skills - to broadcast on radio. This resource means that Irish women will be able to fully participate in the latest developments in community radio whereby the Home Office will soon issue broadcast licenses to community radio stations. The Irish Radio Group, now known as Glór Gael, was originally set up last March by the Irish Womens Centre, and now operates from the offices of the Irish Women in Islington Group (Olga on 609 8916 and 609 6573). Glór Gael is attached to Spectrum Radio based at Interchange in Kentish Town, which has applied for the forthcoming North London License.

Training will be available in how to operate a PA system and sound recording. Women are warmly welcomed and encouraged to record themselves, either individually or as groups, playing music, singing, drama productions for radio, reading poetry or prose, to experiment with and explore their potential in this area.

Video equipment will include both VHS and U matic production facilities and VHS editing facilities. The dark Room Training will include how to take photographs, develop your own prints and mount photographic exhibitions.

See inside under ARTS/resource section & Studio for more details of classes and courses.

This is a smaller mailing than usual because we wanted to get details of the Open Day out quickly and some other important dates too, like the events around International Womens Week and the Open Meeting at the Centre on March 20 for all women and groups interested in using the centre and/or having a say in how it should be run and its facilities used. So come along and have your say. There will probably not be another mailing before then so put the date in your diary now. Again another important date is June 25 when we will have an ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING where the audited accounts will be presented (if ready then) and where the Management members and Officers (ie. Secretary, Chair and Treasurer) are elected. Anyone wishing to put themselves or any other woman forward for election must send in any nominations before May 31st.

Also don't forget the Benefot for the Dunnes Stores Strikers at Claudes on Feb 19. They need your support.

SEE YOU ON FEB 1st. AT THE OPENING



ON January 14 Maire O'Shea's trial started in London.  
Campaign are asking people to leaflet as follows: at London Tube stations:

TUESDAY : Brixton  
WEDNESDAY : Archway  
THURSDAY : Camden Town  
FRIDAY : Kilburn (Jubilee Line)

The Dr Maire O'Shea Support Campaign is at 448 Stratford Rd Birmingham, and the London Support Campaign at c/o IBRG, Box 3, 136 Kingsland High St London E8.

IRISH PLAYS CURRENTLY ON :

" Ourselves Alone " by Anne Devlin at the Royal Court Theatre Upstairs Sloane Square. Tel 730 1745 £5 and £3 matinees.

Flann O'Brien's "Hard Life" at the Tricycle Theatre 269 Kilburn High Rd Nw6 Tel 328 8626 . £4.50, performance at 8pm.

JAN 25 8pm to late : disco at South London Womens Centre. Food, refreshments, £1.50 and £1 unwaged. At 55, Acre Lane SW9. Disabled access. Also, South London Irish Womens Group meet the last Monday of the month at South London Irish Womens Centre. Details - Igloina 274 7215.

From FEB 1st : At the London Irish Womens Centre : photo history of the Centre. FEB 1st is of course the Grand Opening.  
Also on SAT FEB 1st IWASC Benefit at Islington Town Hall, 8-12pm.  
(See enclosed leaflet).

SUNDAY Feb 2nd : Bloody Sunday Demonstration. The LIWC banner will be there, meet at corner Oxford St and Edgware Rd outside Virgin Records at 12.30.

WED FEB 5 Public meeting organised by the Irish Prisoners Appeal Group in the evening at a venue yet to be confirmed (ring LIWC for details) to explore the following issues :

- 1 The policing of the Black and Irish communities here. Speaker - Linda Bellos.
- 2 The judicial system in the North of Ireland. Speaker - a lawyer yet to be confirmed.
- 3 The PTA. Speaker from IBRG.
- 4 The harassment and strip searching of Irish Prisoners in particular the case of the 2 women being continually harassed and strip searched in Brixton Prison now - Ella O'Dwyer and Martina Anderson. Speaker - Nell McCafferty to be confirmed and relatives of the 2 women. There will also



\*\*\*\*\*CLASSES \*\*\*\*\*CLASSES \*\*\*\*\*CLASSES\*\*\*

There are three new classes starting up this term:

IRISH LITERATURE AND DRAMA CLASS FOR WOMEN : this will be taught in both Irish and English. Every Tuesday 6.30 - 8. 30pm.

VENUE : Highbury Roundhouse, Ronalds Rd N5

TRANSPORT: Near Holloway Rd and Highbury & Islington tubes.

FOR MORE DETAILS : ring Tutor Sabina Sharkey - 609 8916 or ring Irish Womens Centre - 249 7318.

ACCESS: this class is on 2nd floor, no wheelchair access.

WOMEN IN IRISH HISTORY CLASS: Tutor Jean Cross. Every Wednesday 7-9.

VENUE & TRANSPORT : as above.

For more details ring tutor on 523 1749 or LIWC 249 7318.

LANGUAGE CLASS FOR CHILDREN : We hope to start a class soon, so if you know of any children who would be interested in attending, please contact us at the LIWC as soon as possible to book their place.

The other classes are continuing:

CEILI CLASSES : every Thursday 7-9 at Whittington Pk Community Centre, Yerbury Rd N19. Beginners welcome. Fully accessible.

For more details ring Imelda on 249 7318.

IRISH TRADITIONAL MUSIC CLASSES : every Monday 6.30-8.30. Teacher - Siobhon O'Donnell. Flute and tin whistle. Beginners welcome.

VENUE : Caxton House, 129 St Johns Way N19. For more details ring 249 7318

\*\*\*\*\*COURSES \*\*\*\*\*COURSES \*\*\*\*\*COURSES\*\*\*\*

COURSES\*\*\*\*\*

FRESH START COURSE FOR WOMEN

This course will run one day a week for seven weeks starting on Friday February 14. The course will run from 10am to 3pm. This course is intended to give women who have been out of paid employment or have never had paid work, advice and information on career planning, applying for jobs, interview techniques etc. There are still a few places left so ring soon to book your place.

VENUE : London Irish Womens Centre. ACCESSABLE for wheelchairs.

CHILD CARE FACILITIES available throughout the course.

WORKING WITH IRISH CHILDREN COURSE

This is a one day course for women who work with children. It is to give information on how to introduce Irish culture into work with children. The course is for both Irish and non Irish women.

VENUE : Large Meeting Room, Wesley House, 70 Gt Queen St WC2. DATE : Feb.12

ACCESS : Fully accessible and there is parking outside. To book your place and for more info ring 249 7318,



BABY AND TODDLER CLUB GROUPS : at the London Irish Womens Centre.

Every Tuesday and Thursday morning 10 12 noon. This is a new group starting at LIWC - 59 Stoke Newington Church St N 16.

RELAXATION & SELF HEALING COURSE

Every Thursday lunchtime 1pm at the London Irish Womens Centre.  
Creche available.

WELFARE RIGHTS ADVICE SESSIONS : At the London Irish Womens Centre every Tuesday morning and every Thursday afternoon. Creche available.

ARTS/RESOURCES SECTION & IRISH WOMENS STUDIO

The following courses will be taking place at the London Irish Womens Centre in the near future - as soon as funding comes through. Some will run at weekends.

- 1 SOUND RECORDING (evening)
- 2 USING PA EQUIPMENT (evening)
- 3 VIDEO (weekend)
- 4 PHOTOGRAPHY (weekend)
- 5 RADIO PRODUCTION (weekend)

There will only be a limited number of places available so ring to book your place as soon as possible. CRECHE available at all above courses. Please notify the workers at the centre if you require the use of the creche or for the course venue to be accessible to wheelchairs. Minimal charge - £1 approx.

STOP THE STRIP SEARCHES - INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY DELEGATION TO ARMAGH March 7-10 1986

Since the 1979 International Womens Day picket outside Armagh Womens Prison, when Irish women were violently attacked by the RUC, we have organised a delegation from this country. This years delegation is being organised by the Women and Ireland Network. Each year the focus of the delegation has reflected what is happening in the jail. Armagh prison will soon be closed down and the women moved to a new prison at Maghaberry. The date of the move has not been announced, but if the women have been moved by March, the picket will take place at the new site.

That the government reserves its worst for Irish political prisoners is proven by the harsh regime in Brixton where two Irish women awaiting trial are strip searched as often as 50 times a month; regardless of whether they leave prison or not. In recent years, strip-searching has been extended to other politically motivated prisoners in Britain. It is almost as though the governments response to protest at the harshness of Armagh has been to worsen the situation for all prisoners. It has never been more important that strip searching be opposed.

THE DELEGATION IS OPEN TO ALL WOMEN. The approx cost will be £80 to cover travel by train and ferry, for transport, food and accommodation and our administration costs. We ask groups or individuals who are better off to either sponsor someone so they can go or give a donation towards travel costs. So if you have low funds or no funds don't be put off. Last date for registration is February 7.

DETAILS AND APPLICATION FORMS FROM :

London Irish Womens Centre, 59 Stoke Newington Church St N16 Tel. 249 7318.

Or from the Brighton Women and Ireland Group, Prior House, Tilbury Place BRIGHTON DN 22 6Y



be a prominent politician like Ken Livingstone or Tony Benn.

IRISH RADIO - GIOR GAEL Benefit - to take place sometime in February - venue and date not yet finalised. The last benefit in December was a huge success. Many more members have become involved, but more needed. Information on the group will be available at the Open Day of LIWC. Please ring OLGA 609 8916 get involved in the Irish Radio Project. Olga has details of future meetings etc.

SAT Feb 8 at 12 noon : Women only gathering to collect food and materials from shoppers outside Sainsburys on Liverpool Rd N1 for Black Women and their families in South Africa. This has been called by Jewish Lesbians Against Racism and supported by Women in Solidity with Dunnes Stores Strikers Group. All women are welcome to join us. Bring cardboard boxes and friends.

TUES Feb 11 7pm : Next meeting of Women in Solidity with the Dunnes Stores Strikers at the London Irish Womens Centre. This group is open to all women and is concerned with supporting the strikers and campaigning against apartheid in South Africa and fighting racism here.

WED FEB 19 : Women only BENEFIT FOR THE DUNNES STORES STRIKERS IN 'Claudes' at the Entertainer Pub, Balls Pond Rd N1. From 8pm to midnight. Waged £2, unwaged £1. Near Dalston Junction, nearest tube is Highbury and Islington. Buses 30,38. The club is on one level inside but the toilet is not wheelchair accessible and there is one step at entrance ut help available.

The workers, who were on strike for 18 months for refusing to sell South African goods have reluctantly returned to work pending an inquiry by the Irish Government which promises to ban all South African goods if "the allegations against the regime are substantiated." The workers will continue to strike if the inquiry does not have this outcome quickly. Meanwhile they are still desperate for funds after such a long time on strike and need your support.

#### INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY MARCH 1986

SAT MARCH 8 ; Unfortunately due to the abolition of the GLC, no funding is available for events during IWD week. Therefore the Centre hasn't got the resources to coordinate a range of varied events along with the other Irish Womens Groups in London, such as happened last March.

However the good news is that a Womens Ceili Band called SHEILA-NA-GIG have formed with the support of the Centre, with 15 members playing a range of instruments- fiddles, flutes, bodhran, concertina, accordion and includes 4 singers. The band will make its debut at Caxton House 129 St Johns Way N19 on Sat 8 March (IWD Day) 8pm -11pm.

The evening will take the form of a CONCERT / CEILI  
Full disabled access and toilet.

On the same night (on behalf of IWD) the HAIRY MARYS will do a 20 minute performance. For those who don't know who the Hairy Marys are, they are a Irish Womens Drama/Dance Group, who combine a very imaginative mixture of traditional Irish with modern dance.

Don't miss this rare opportunity to celebrate IWD with the first Womens Ceili Band in London (with a lineup of fine singers and first class musicians. ) And the Hairy Marys.

MARCH 12 Wed 8pm to midnight ; THE IRISH WOMEN IN ISLINGTON GROUP IN

conjunction with the LIWC are planning an evening of performances and talks by Irish writers painters and poets at the London Irish Womens Centre 59 Stoke Newington Church St N16. IN CELEBRATION OF IWD. The artists can't be advertised until funding secure so ring 609 8916 or 249 7318 for details.



MARCH 15/16 : at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn. A cultural evening to celebrate Int Womens Day with women artists from Chile, Iran El Salvador and Ireland. Women artists, musicians (possibly Sheila-na-gig) We're not sure if its the 15 or 16 March, more details from City Limits Irish Post or if we have another mailing.

The Centre would like more events for Irish women throughout London, especially South London. We have tried to book the Albany Empire for Sheila-Na-Gig but due to the large size of the venue, the management wanted us to have a BIG ATTRACTION NAME ON THE BILL as well. Unfortunaeely this would not be possible without bring artists over from Ireland, which we can't afford.

If any women wish to get involved in organising more events for IWD please come to a meeting at the Centre on Tuesday Feb 4 at 7.30. Full disabled access and toilet. Childminding allowance.

THURS MARCH 20 at 7.30 : OPEN MEETING for all womem Centre users to discuss running of the centre and use of resources.

WED JUNE 25 AGM of the London Irish Womens Centre - to present the Annual Report and elect the new management group.