

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR IRISH STUDIES

Annual General Meeting of 23rd. November, 1991.

REPORT FROM CONVENOR OF ADULT EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE

(1) In general terms the situation of adult education seems to have stabilised in that the positive gains of the last 4 years or so seem to have been maintained. Specifically, the range of courses on offer in terms of both type and location seems to have been maintained around the country, notwithstanding the pressures on education in general and on adult education in particular.

It is probably the case that programmes running in FE and AE institutes are finding it easier to survive than those which run in community college type situations. The latter can experience problems because of the onset of LMS (local management of schools) and the severe financial repercussions of this development. e.g. hidden subsidies are now disappearing, and the full economic cost of reprographics, premises, etc. are now having to be met.

(2) BAIS initiatives:

(i) the SURVEY was successfully completed, with over 20 returns being made. (see appended list). These are encouraging in that a nationwide network of provision exists; it is the case that there are some initiatives not represented in the survey as these may either have started only this academic year, or are beyond the range of BAIS contacts.

(ii) an attempt was made to organise a second in-service day for Ad Ed Irish Studies teachers which would have catered specifically for the needs of the BAID Ad Ed Sub-Committee. Unfortunately, this did not materialise, partly because of the closeness of the proposed date to the summer holiday, but also because a significant number of Sub-Committee members failed to make any response at all. In these circumstances the Convenor cancelled the meeting and has since been unable to set another date.

(3) the OPEN COLLEGE NETWORK; this still appears to be an attractive modus operandi for Irish Studies programmes; a new course has started in London (Thameside Inst.) and Leicestershire LEA is keen to support the Irish Studies Workshop in launching a wide range of new modules. (Unfortunately, the Convenor has found that his existing full-time timetable has actually been expanded, which has made it difficult to run the existing Irish Studies programme, let alone expand.)

(4) The convenor held a useful meeting with Brendan O'Caolai, an attache at the Irish Embassy, re: the EC LINGUA project.

(5) The convenor advised on and/or assisted with the launch and delivery of the new Irish Studies courses in Birmingham and Nottingham.

(6) The 9th Annual National Conference on Irish Dimensions in British Education is set to take place in Leicester on Sat. 8th. February 1992.

RETURNS MADE TO BAIS ADULT EDUCATION SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

Brackenbury Centre, London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

Mary Boon School, London, Community Education

Bournville College of FE, Birmingham

Knowsley Community College, Liverpool

Liverpool University, Dept Extension Studies

Wirral Metropolitan College

Irish Studies Workshop, Soar Valley CC, leicester

Liverpool University, Dept Continuing Educ.

Bilston Community College, Wolverhampton

Birmingham Univ. Dept Ad Ed via B'ham Libraries

City College, Liverpool

Newham Community Education, London

Working Mens College, London

Manchester Irish Education Group

Kensington & Chelsea Ad Ed Centre, London

Barnfield College (South) Luton

Centre for Continuing Educ., Newcastle University

Newark Sherwood FE College, Notts.

Kilburn College, FE, London

Birkbeck College, University of London

Ch. J. J. J.

23rd. November 1991.