

the **IRISH** centre

**CEAD MILE
FÁILTE**

Newsletter

52 Camden Square · London N.W. 1

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D I A R Y

Irish Centre

February 1972

3rd	Benefit Dance
5th	St. Aloysius Parish - Bacon & Cabbage dinner
6th	Mayo Association - Children's Party.
9th	Comhaltas
10th	Newmarket (Co. Cork) Parish Reunion
12th	Irish Centre Social Club - Dinner & Dance.
15th	Crean School - Card Drive.
17th	Benefit Dance.
19th	Waterford Association
22nd	Michael Molloy Trophy
23rd	Comhaltas
24th	Church of Our Lady - Dance.
26th	<u>2 p.m. IRISH CENTRE JUMBLE SALE</u>
"	Galway Association
27th	Concert - State Theatre Kilburn
29th	Dance
"	Michael Molloy Trophy - Singing Contest

Bingo - Every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday evenings.

Ballad Sessions - Every Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Monday.

Traditional Irish dancing - Every Sunday night 9 - 11 p.m.

And, if you don't know how - we will
teach you !

NEWSLETTER

THE IRISH CENTRE

FEBRUARY 1972

I had a couple of friends to see me after Christmas. They were in London for a week. Naturally I was anxious to give them as good a time as was within my means. I wanted to show them the sights. One evening in the West End I had to find parking space for the car and the only available spot was in a car park. All I knew was that I was around Piccadilly somewhere. We went off for a ramble through a few side streets. What a place ! It was club after club. The on-&-off lights; the multi-coloured bulbs; the blaring and the dull colours — all this with the hundred different pop records, all hammering away together, made it a crazy place. It certainly was no place for meditation. This was my first time ever to Soho and, to be honest, I have no longing to go back. But for many this is "Swinging London." I just thought to myself - "how can we win ?"

Thank God I can enjoy a session of music in the Douglas Hyde lounge. Thank God we have people like Tommy Maguire and Tom McCarthy, who can instil such an interest and love of Irish traditional music into their own children and into other people's children. Thank God indeed for such a place as the Irish Centre, with all our faults. I would rather spend the rest of my life trying to rectify one fault of the Irish Centre than to have to wander round swinging London for five boring minutes. Those of us who have this Centre should give everything we can to make it one of the most attractive and wonderful places in London. We should do all in our power to prevent young people from getting entangled in "Swinging London." The old proverb says "better light a candle than sit there cursing the dark." If we can be a shining light and show the way to the newcomer, then we are in a privileged position. We are privileged to be asked to put someone on the right road to real happiness.

The Authorities at the Centre are, at present, reviewing the whole system here. There is money available from the National collection. There is property available next door. They don't intend to waste either money or property. Instead, they intend, with God's guidance, to make the best use of both. What we do now is so vital for those who come after us. All our individual ideas are being thrown into the melting pot. The ones that can stand up to the heat are the ones that will go into operation; the others will just disintegrate and be thrown out with the water.

In the meantime, however, the show must go on. The next event of importance is the Club dinner. Last year was the first of these dinners for quite a long time. It was such a wonderful social success that everyone asked to be reminded of it when it was on again. Well, now I am reminding you. The date is Saturday, 12th February at the Irish Centre. Tickets £1.50. Music by the Exiles Ceili Band.

Also, on 27th February, is a big show at the State Theatre, Kilburn, by the Aer Lingus Musical Society called "Wings of Song". This show has been performed in all the big cities of Europe, Canada and U.S. All the write-ups on it have been in superlatives. "Wings of Song" has never been staged in London. Now is your chance to see this wonderful show. We at the Centre as well as Aer Lingus, would like to be associated with this wonderful show. "Wings of Song" is a great show. I can guarantee you will love it. Book now through 624 8081 or 340 0972.

The Club Committee here with some helpers did a magnificent job for the senior citizens of Camden. This old-age pensioners' party was wonderful. If they were the wealthiest & most influential people of London, they could not have been looked after better. We thank the Club Committee most sincerely.

I think I mentioned in the last Newsletter about our idea of a weekly pool. Some years ago, we tried this but it didn't work too well. However, we believe a weekly pool can be made to work. I say that because, having seen the scene over a five-year span, I can see that the Irish Centre has many great friends.

What we are doing is this. There are a few people who invite in a few friends. One of the Priests from here will go along to the house meeting and explain all about the financial set-up of the Centre. Some of the people in their turn will invite a few people to their houses - and so it goes on. If we can work this kind of chain, we would hope to work up a good pool by next September. Can you help us. If you can, ring or write and one of the Priests will go along.

The Committee are again organising a Jumble Sale. Date- 26th FEBRUARY - at 2 p.m. - at The Irish Centre. All assistance will be heartily welcome.

God Bless All

Rev. P. Sheridan, O.M.I.