

COUNTY CARLOW ASSOCIATION LONDON

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NEWSLETTER

January 2008

Dia Dhuibh a chairde go leir,
Ta súil agam go bhfuil sibh go maith,

Hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and the New Year has brought with it lots of happiness for you and your families. With Spring upon us already, it's a very busy time for the Committee as we prepare for the months ahead. But before we can reveal all that, since our last newsletter we have enjoyed our.....

39th Annual Dinner Dance

The month of October is always looked upon as a special time of year for the Carlovians in London and Saturday 13th didn't disappoint as we held out 39th Annual Dinner Dance at the Irish Centre in Camden Town. On welcoming everybody to the Dinner our Chairperson Clare Nolan-Sturley was delighted with the attendance especially at the amount of younger generation at the 'do' and is looking forward to an even greater turnout at the 40th Annual Dinner Dance this year. The Committee and Association Members were joined by family and friends including many members of the Council of Irish County Associations. Guests including representatives from Carlow County and Town Councils, County Manager and Town Clerk's office were joined by well known writer and producer John Dunne (Laois), and Artist, Jenny Carpenter. A warm welcome was extended to Michael Maher from the Manchester Association and the many Carlow residents who had travelled over to London for the weekend.

Main guest of the evening was Michael Hopkins (Bagenalstown) who was awarded 'Carlow International Person of the Year' for his dedication and commitment to the people of Calcutta. Michael had originally visited the 'city of joy' some years previous but was so touched by the hardship enduring by families living there that he formed the Friends of Calcutta in 1994, his charity has become one of the leading lights in the field of humanitarian aid and today the organisation funds 8 schools educating 1800 children. The schools are located in 5 of the most disadvantaged areas of the city. In his after dinner speech he spoke of his work with Mother Theresa and how he gained great strength in her company as she worked with the world's poorest. Check out more on Michael's work on the website www.friendsofcalcutta.org. Ann Nolan a previous 'Carlow Person of the Year' some 12 years earlier and sister of our Chairperson and an experienced hill walker was so touched by Michael's words she pledged to do an endurance walk along the coast of Pembrokeshire to raise funds for Michael's cause in India. Details on how you can sponsor Ann are available on our website. Special guest was Marie Coady, Vice-Captain of County Carlow Junior Camogie Team who recently won the All Ireland Camogie title. Marie hails from Rathgerran and plays Camogie with Mount Leinster Rangers, she came with her sister Ann who was also on the victorious team and brought the winning trophy with her and it done the rounds more than once.

Representing the chairman of the Carlow County Council was Leighlinbridge based Cllr. and County Vice – Chairman Michael Doran, who praised the London Association for their work over the years and acknowledged the close links that is still shared with the home county. He went on to say how "Carlow people came to London in search of work and sent home money to help the family when times were difficult. And in more recent years the role has reversed with people moving back and bringing back their skills and knowledge that has contributed to the success that Ireland enjoys today". The Town Council was represented by Tomas O'Neill, who extended a warm welcome to all and said he looked forward to seeing everyone when they visited Carlow again. Michael Brennan who runs the Carlow website for 'Ireland Genealogy Projects' was on hand to give people advice on tracing their family and lots of interest was shown. www.rootsweb.com/~irlcar2. MC for the night was Ardriston's Ned Dunbar who was joined by his sisters Rita and Lizzy and his brother in law Pat Dalton. Also over was Graigcullen's Cllr. Des Hurley and Seamus de Faoite who gave us the winner of this years Champion Hurdle. **As the night of the 39th Annual Dinner Dance came to a close it was very reassuring to think that our 40th will be the best yet! We are looking forward to seeing you all this coming October for our 40th Anniversary. More details to follow in our next newsletter.**

Our Annual General Meeting (2008)

Our AGM will be held on **Tuesday 26th February at 8pm** at The Irish Centre, 50-52 Camden Sq. London NW1. Holding our AGM on a weekday evening proved convenient last year and we thought we would try it again rather than the traditional Sunday afternoon meeting. We look forward to seeing as many members as possible. As well as the main business of the AGM, we propose to make some amendments to our current constitution. A copy of the new proposed constitution together with the amendments (additions and/or deletions) are marked in ***bold italics and underlined*** and are enclosed with this newsletter.

Guided Tour

We are about to set a date for the long promised, Guided Walking Tour of London Irish literary Sights. We will be led by Tony McDonald, a Blue Badge Guide with special interest in 'Irish Walks'. We are particularly interested in George Bernard Shaw, not least because of his connection with Carlow but Carlow County Council intend to call their new multi-million euro Arts Centre after Shaw. If you are interested in knowing more please phone or email Claire Nolan-Sturley.

Carlow Association (London) Dance - February 2008

Put on your dancing shoes and join us on

Friday, 29th Feb 2008 at St Bonifaces Social Club, 185 Mitcham Road, Tooting, London, SW17 9PG

Cupla are on tour from Garryhill, Co. Carlow and will be providing the music. All are welcome. Tickets £5 in advance or on the door:

Available from Ned 020 86535923 or Margaret 020 77202812

CCAL Website

You may recall this was launched officially in the Autumn. Many of you have "checked out the website" and the feedback to date is very positive. The website as you know is a "work in progress" and we welcome contributions and ideas. If you have not already seen it (or logged on) why not ask a friend or family member to check it out for you, it makes very interesting reading: www.carlowassociationlondon.co.uk If you are lucky enough to have access to a computer, why not email us and we can then send you our E-Newsletter. (saving us some time and money). Email the Chairperson, Claire Nolan Sturley at carlowlondon@yahoo.co.uk

Other websites that also may be of interest, especially to Carlovians living abroad are:- www.carlowcountymuseum.com Carlow County Museum website which contains a wide range of information about the town and county, photographs and 3D panoramic images of Carlow's history, heritage and items from the Museum collection. www.rootsweb.com/~irlcar2 This website forms part of the Carlow County "Ireland Genealogical Project" and the aim of this website is to inform all Carlovian's about the County of Carlow, its people and its history, provide historical information about records and events within the county, in the hope that it will assist people trace their ancestors and enlighten people, young and old, about how great the Irish County of Carlow is.

Annual St. Patrick's Banquet - Saturday 8th March 2008 in the London Irish Centre, Camden. Reception: 7.30pm for 8pm late bar with music by the band Final Touch. Tickets @ £35.00 each or a table of 10 for £350.00. Contact our Association Chair (Claire Nolan Sturley) if interested.

St. Patrick's Day Parade in London - Sunday 16th March 2008 starting from Hyde Park Corner at 12 noon passing by Piccadilly Circus, Lower Regent Street, Trafalgar Square and finishing in Whitehall. The Parade includes approx 4,000 participants made up of marching bands colourful costumes, community groups, Irish dancing schools, pageantry and floats with Irish music, costumes and characters. Thousands line the streets to watch and cheer on this colourful spectacle. The Aim is to have all 32 Counties represented in the parade. **St. Patrick's Day Mass takes place this year at 10:15am at Hyde Park Corner.**

Irish Festivals - Summer 2008

Members will be attending the **Southwark Irish Festival (Peckham Rye) in July 2008** - More information will be available in our Spring Newsletter)

The Crawley Irish Festival – August 24th 2008. Come and visit us at the **Carlow stall** in Crawley. We have always has a close relationship with Crawley and this year's event will be the 13th Annual Festival and is planned as the biggest one yet with two live music stages, an Irish Dance Stage, Set-Dancing and Ceili Marquee, GAA sports, free children's entertainment and great craic for the family. The Crawley Irish Festival is the most diverse event of its kind in the UK with content that will appeal to all. All proceeds will enhance future events and promote culture. Entry just £5 for adults and children go free. Get set to paint the town green and enjoy the craic at Crawley. The festival attracts some 8,000 people for the Sunday of the August Bank Holiday. Find our more on www.celtic-irish.co.uk

100+ Club

We are still running our 100+ club. We now have 11 monthly draws for just £1 per month or £10.00 if paid in advance. 50% of takings go in prizes and 50% goes to our Welfare Fund. You can join at anytime. Just contact our Secretary, Catherina or if you think you can get others to join, let her know and she will send you a card to complete.

Dates to Remember for your Diary:

Fans of Carlow GAA will be glad to know that London and Carlow play each other in the National Football League (Division 4) and National Hurling League (Division 2B) this year. Both matches are being played in Ruislip. Football is 19th February and Hurling is 9th March. So come along and cheer the lads in the Red Yellow & Green to victory

AGM	26 TH February 2008 at 8.00 pm. (London Irish Centre, Camden)
Carlow Association Dance	29 th February 2008 (St Bonifaces Social Club, Tooting)
St. Patrick's Banquet	8 th March 2008 (London Irish Centre, Camden)
St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival	16 th March leaving Hyde Park Corner at 12.00 noon

Lots of you have asked if we are going to continue with our "trip down memory lane" with extracts taken from the Carlow Guide, courtesy of Carlow Tourist Office. This we can assure you will continue, so look out for an extended update in our next newsletter.