

COUNTY CARLOW ASSOCIATION LONDON

www.carlowassociationlondon.co.uk

carlowlondon@yahoo.co.uk



NEWSLETTER

May 2008

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

Well Spring is definitely in the air. What beautiful weather we are having and two bank holidays in one month, what more could we ask for. The luck of the Irish continues. Hope you are all well and looking forward to the months ahead. Time once again to give you an update on the fun occasions that have taken place and inform you of our upcoming events, in the hope that we may see many of you over the coming months.

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM was held recently at The Irish Centre. A small turnout unfortunately but lots of Members had responded to our Jan newsletter and were happy that we were updating our Constitution. For a lot of you a trip to Camden in the evening was a bit too far to venture and we fully appreciate that but always welcome your feedback on all things related to the Association.

Thanks to everyone who formed the committee. Our officers were voted in as follows:-

Margaret Doyle – President
Bill Schwab – Vice President
Claire Nolan Sturley – Chairperson
John Nolan – Vice Chair
Ned Dunbar – Treasurer
Catherina Clarke – Secretary
Noreen Nolan – Assistant Secretary
Christine O’Brien – PRO

Committee members:- Brenda Clarke, Jenny Schwab & Peter O’Brien, Cecilia Byrne

As discussed in our last newsletter we were also looking at proposing some amendments to our current constitution. With the latest legislation in place there was need to up date and amend our constitution in order to bring it in line and identify.

- What the CCAL does - our aims and how to achieve them
- How we govern ourselves
- How decisions are made
- Who we are accountable to

The changes were discussed in detail and finally agreed by all members present. The new Constitution for CCAL (Co Carlow Association London) can be viewed or printed from our website www.carlowassociationlondon.co.uk

We look forward to a busy and rewarding year ahead working together in order to carry on the great traditions of the Carlow Association within the London area.

Association Dance - February 2008

Carlow Emmigrants still have a spring in their step! The passion felt for Carlow was evident in South London recently when the County Carlow Association London held their Spring event. Two hundred people danced the night away to the tunes of 'Cúpla'. As the advert said 'On tour from Garryhill'. Cúpla played at popular London venues over the weekend including Crawley's 'Irish Party Night'.

But the big event of the weekend was the Association's dance at Saint Boniface, in Tooting. Carlow Association Chairperson, Claire Sturley said 'London is a very big place with Carlow people living in every Borough. In the Spring time we try to bring our event to a different area each year, to make it easier for Carlow people to get together'. It certainly worked. This year the Committee was joined by some people they have not seen in years. Claire continues 'It is a great joy to bring people together who have lost touch. It is so easy to pick up where you left off when you have something in common like your home, Carlow'.

St. Patrick's Day Parade in London - Sunday 16th March 2008 started from Hyde Park Corner at 12 noon passed Piccadilly Circus, Lower Regent Street, Trafalgar Square and finished in Whitehall. The Parade included 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. We are happy to report we had a large walking contingency from Carlow who proudly marched behind the Carlow Association Banner. The weather was typically Irish "wind and rain" but it added to the atmosphere and we were all kept on our toes (literally) trying hard to keep our new "Carlow colours" proudly flying high. The reason being that the GLA on the day made available 33 flags representing the 32 counties of Ireland plus a flag to represent all 2nd Generation Irish (London Irish Flag). Those counties that were represented at the Parade collected their flag and proudly displayed it with their own individual Banners. A great day was had by all and it was an opportunity to meet old and new friends alike. Our thanks to TJ, Margaret and Laura Kelly to who travelled over from Carlow especially to join us in the parade and to Jim O'Neill a life long member of the Association who never fails to turn up come rain or shine.

40 mile sponsorship walk in aid of Friends of Calcutta

Yes, believe it or not the Association is embarking on a sponsored walk in Pembrokeshire, Wales (no easy task, 40 miles in all) which is to take place over the Irish Bank holiday weekend 31st May/1st June 2008 and it's for an international charity set up by Bagenalstown man Michael Hopkins who was voted 'Carlow International Person of the Year 2006' for his dedication and commitment to the poor of Calcutta. Michael as you know was guest of honour at our 39th annual dinner dance in London last October and gave a very moving speech about his charity work in Calcutta, a place Mother Theresa referred to as a "city of joy".

Michael set up the Friends of Calcutta in 1994 and from a simple beginning in Bagenalstown, the group, now a fully fledged Irish registered charity <http://www.friendsofcalcutta.org> 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. He spoke of his association with Mother Theresa and how he gained great strength whilst working alongside her as she worked with the worlds poorest. The gathering at the dinner dance were so touched by his sincerity and his dedication that the idea of a fundraising project was born.

Plans for a sponsored walk were put into place along the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path. Why there and why 40 miles you might ask. Well it's sort of half way between Carlow and London. Also because of the County Carlow/Pembrokeshire Cultural X Change already in place. Added to this it's a great place for walking with some fantastic scenic views along the route. Our next dinner dance is also our 40th so why not celebrate it with a 40 mile walk. Members of the Association are just happy it's not the 50th Anniversary this year. Responses from both Carlow and Pembrokeshire have been very positive. Carlow Council is very supportive, in fact Sheamus de Faoite based at the town clerk's office was up for the walk only to learn it clashed with a close friend's wedding in Connemara.

Sheamus has in fact pledged to contribute €5 for every pint he drinks at the wedding. We can report now he's on a strict training regime on the build up to it! Bob Monaghan leads a delegation over from Bagenalstown for the walk. Special thanks goes to Owen Roberts of the Pembroke Museum for his contacts in the area, who happened to pass on details of an Irish theme bar in Haverford West called 'Blaney's Pub' No doubt we will seek some inspiration there prior to the walk.

We hope to be there on Friday night for the inaugural launch get-together. Michael Hopkins founder of the Friends of Calcutta hopes to join us for the launch but as he has just returned from a trip to Calcutta, confirmation of times and dates when he may be able to join us over the weekend were not available prior to release. However, be assured that Michael will do all he can to be with us and he is extremely happy that the Association have honoured their commitment.

The walkers up for the 40 miler are Claire Nolan Sturley Carlow Town, Garry Sturley London, Ned Dunbar Ardrison, Anne Nolan Carlow Town, Bob Monaghan Bagenalstown, Peter O'Brien Cloughna and John Nolan Bagenalstown. For more detailed information please see the attached letter and sponsorship form as help is needed to make the event a success no matter how little is pledged from individuals or companies.

Guided Tour

Looking at 14th June for this event to take place. What do members think? Would you be interested in joining us? It's the long promised, Guided Walking Tour of London Irish literary Sights. Tony McDonald, a Blue Badge Guide with special interest in `Irish Walks`, will lead us. 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.

CO. CARLOW ASSOCIATION (LONDON) 40TH ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

The big event of the year will be CCAL's 40th Annual Dinner Dance on the 11th October 2008 at the London Irish Centre. The Committee expects to be joined by a large crowd of members, friends and supporters to celebrate all the good work done throughout those forty years, by proud Carlow people for Carlow people. Plans are already well under way to make this a fabulous occasion. All are welcome to join us. More information available in our Summer newsletter.

UPCOMING IRISH FESTIVALS

Southwark will be celebrating their 20th Anniversary this year (Sunday, 6th July 2008) and we are very pleased to be part of this celebration. The festival will officially start with Mass at 11.00 a.m. in the Peckham Rye Park. Our Co. Carlow stall will have pride of place and Ned Dunbar our Treasurer will be there with his extensive collection of tools and instruments of bygone years. Why not visit and take a "trip down memory lane". His stall is back by popular demand and a big crowd pleaser and you will also be able to see Ned and his brother Christy making butter – yes just like we did in good ole days! Ned will be next to the Co. Carlow tent. On the Irish World Stage they will have special guests Mary Rose, Paddy O'Brien, Declan Nerney and John McNicholl, not forgetting, events that will take place in the Marquee, to name but a few, Celtic Colleens, Kane School of Irish Dancing, Inis Cathaigh Dance Group, Gosport Step Dancers, SICAD Band, etc., with lots of county stalls, food marquees, bar, fun fair, arts and crafts, story telling, tug of war and much more. Why not join us. Please make yourself known to our Members who will be running the Carlow Stall. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Admission is Free. For more information, check out the website www.southwarkirish.com

London Irish Festival (Roundwood) will be held on 27th July 2008 in Roundwood Park. The event is to be headlined by the undisputed king of Irish Country, Big Tom and the Mainliners. This is the second year of this music festival and the organisers, a group of Irish business men believe this year's event will be bigger and better than last. Ticket prices for the day will be Adults £25 and children under 14 are free. www.londonirishfestival.co.uk

The Crawley Irish Festival – August 24th 2008. Come and visit us at the **Carlow stall**. We have always had 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 Festival is featuring heavily on the younger element of the community with a special children's entertainment marquee involving games, song and story with particular emphasis on Irish traditions and folklore.

In addition, sport and cultural identity are each featured prominently with GAA Tug-a-war, a funfair, various food and craft stalls and displays with the added attraction of a licensed beer tent. 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. Following on from the festival's success in 2007 the Society now organise Irish Language classes and from the success of the recent Crawley Fleadh, GAA coaching is now being introduced into both primary and secondary schools in the town. Plans are also being put in place for musical workshops and talks on various aspects of our Irish Culture at various venues over the coming 12 months. 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 out more on www.celtic-irish.co.uk

John Nolan from Bagenalstown, Vice Chair of the Carlow Association is Chairman of the Celtic & Irish Cultural Society the organisation that runs the Festival and various events throughout the year in and around the Crawley area. In order to meet a certain amount of these costs the Society has set up a shop on the website. John has asked that we help publicise their webshop <http://www.celtic-irish.co.uk/shop>

John says

"We try and minimise the cost of these events so that as many people as possible can take part. We can all work together to help this out, just by doing what we all do, and that is shop! At the CICS Community Shop <http://www.celtic-irish.co.uk/shop> you can get all your shopping done with us, delivered to your door. You can purchase almost anything online: computers, television, CDs, DVDs, broadband, digital television or even change your energy supplier. Every time you buy, you will be donating to the CICS and won't pay a penny more than you would at the Internet stores directly. The stores are some of the best online: Amazon, HMV, Dell, Currys, WH Smith and Tesco. You can even buy Car and Home insurance online from a selection of suppliers. Just log on via the shop and then click on the store you are using. So the next time you want to purchase a Richie Kavanagh CD and normally go via Amazon, think first, go via our shop <http://www.celtic-irish.co.uk/shop> and then click on the Amazon logo. You will be helping to promote our Irish Culture by making it accessible to all"

Carlow Floral Festival and Bagenalstown Emigrants Dance - Festivals and events will take place throughout the county starting in Carlow on 2nd August and culminating with the weekend Festival at Bagenalstown on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th August. No more information is available at present as the Floral Festival website has yet to be updated. We will bring you more information as soon as we have it. If you have time why not check out their website. <http://www.carlowfloralfestival.com>

CCAL Website - www.carlowassociationlondon.co.uk 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. Some of you have commented on a recent "short story" we put on the website about "picking blackberries back home". This seems to have been very popular and many of you who do not have access to a computer are keen to read it. We will endeavour to enclose the story as part of the next newsletter. 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.

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 PRO Christine O'Brien or email her to peterobrien35@tiscali.co.uk. If you think you can get others to join, let her know and she will send you a card to complete.

London based Carlow man wins International Song of Peace April 26th

24 year old Derek Ryan originally from Garryhill and a regular at our get-togethers in and around London was a hugely popular winner of the Tipperary International Song Of Peace with his song 'You Give Me Peace' on 26th April. There was just two points separating the top three songs at the end, with an American entry being runner-up and Paddy Sharkey from Dublin taking the 3rd spot. Contest Secretary, Martin Quinn, presented Derek with the Tipperary Crystal Trophy and a cheque for €1,500. There were 10 finalists in the Contest with entries from Ireland, England, the Netherlands and the U.S.A. making it to the final.

Derek recently hit the headlines with his rendition of the new Carlow anthem 'Red Yellow and Green'. He is a keen songwriter having had huge success to date with boy band D-Side. He moved to London 7 years ago to work full time in the music business and recently signed a production and publishing deal in Nashville, where he plans to relocate this summer. Coming from a very musical family he is son of Pat Ryan of Cúpla fame who will be playing at our 40th Annual dinner dance on October 11th. I'm sure you will all join us in wishing him the best in his future career. If you want to hear Derek singing 'You give me Peace' tune into www.myspace.com/derekryanmusic

Sr Paschal Richardson RIP

It is with deep regret that we announce the death on 1st May after a short illness at St James' and St Vincent's Hospital Dublin of Sr. Pascal Richardson of the Brigidine Convent Tullow. Sr. Paschal (Alice) originally from Togher, Co. Cork was instrumental in producing the Carlow Association Banner that is carried at the London St Patrick's Parade every year and is on display at our dinner dances and other events. The burial took place in the Convent Cemetery, Tullow on Saturday 3rd May. **'Go raibh solas na bhflaitheas uirthi, mar gheall ag an obair a roinne sí e ngairdín an Tiarna'**.

Dates to Remember for your Diary:

40 mile walk in aid of Friends of Calcutta Charity	31 st May and 1 st June 2008
Southwark Irish Festival (Peckham Rye)	Sunday 6 th July 2008
Roundwood London Irish Festival	Sunday, 27 th July 2008
Crawley Irish Festival	Sunday 24 th August, 2008
Carlow County Floral Festival	2 nd August to 10 th August inclusive
Bagenalstown Emigrants Dance	August 2008 (More info to follow)
CCAL 40 th Annual Dinner Dance	11 th October 2008

Guím go mbeidh Samhradh iontach agaibh go léir.

Ag súil go bhfeicidh mé sibh go luath.

Slán anois

County Carlow Association of London