

This was the headline in the local press in June this year, when for the first time CCAL took part in the internationally renowned Eigse Festival. Following a visit to the CCAL stand at the World Ploughing in Tullow last year the Manager of AIB in Carlow, Barry Hickey invited us to exhibit at the Bank for Eigse 2007. The CCAL's chairperson quickly accepted and it was decided to present a photographic record of the association's history and involvement in Ireland, Britain and worldwide. Noreen Nolan, our assistant secretary, undertook the task of collecting and arranging the photos which were accompanied by cover notes. She then arranged the delivery and display of the collection which was greeted with great enthusiasm by members of AIB staff and customers and those simply on the Eigse trail. One of the people impressed by our exhibition was the Curator of Carlow County Museum, Dermot Mulligan, who wrote to tell us he thought it was a 'very good idea'. Dermot also reminded us about the museum's website which contains a range of information, photographs and 3D panoramic images of Carlow's history, heritage and items from the Museum collection. Links between the CCAL and Museum websites are being arranged. www.carlowcountymuseum.com

The Photographic Display may be seen at The London Irish Centre during our Dinner Dance on 13th October—don't miss it—you never know who you might recognise. Many thanks to Noreen and well done.

Southwark Irish Festival 1st July was a great day out for CCAL. Committee members led by our President, were kept busy all day selling donations from cuddly toys to Daniel O'Donnell records to books and, holding a raffle. For some people the high point was when Richie Kavanagh visited the stall. Richie generously gave us a copy of just out "15 Carlow Songs". Web: www.richiekavanagh.ie

12th Crawley Irish Festival saw the sun shine and the Carlow Flag flying high. Building on our close association with the Festival our committee were there in strength, some even travelling back from Somerset to help. We asked for volunteers and the call was truly answered. It was great to see some new faces on the stall. We had great fun. We were all treated to Irish Stew and soda bread and fresh butter. In fact the butter was so fresh we watched it being made at Ned Dunbar's 'Past Times' stall set up next to us. Ned's stall is now a familiar sight at both Crawley and Southwark and a major attraction to young and old. Also, The County Carlow Association Challenge Trophy was presented on the day. Catch up at www.celtic-irish.co.uk

Down Memory Lane

'Nestled in sleeping nooks along the River Barrow and Slaney' was how our Secretary described our rural towns and villages in our 'May Newsletter'. We say Carlow is changing almost beyond recognition but some things never change- those precious memories - both personal and collective. Many of us were fortunate enough to visit some of those 'sleepy nooks' this summer. **Carlow's Floral Festival** week, 4th to 12th August, was a perfect time to go home. Carlow is firmly establishing itself as a new and exciting gardening destination. Carlow's range of gardens are unique and the Garden Trail featured 13 gardens, garden centres and parks with workshops, informative lectures and demonstrations by some of the top names in Irish gardening circles. Altamont Gardens and Huntington Castle have long since been an annual pilgrimage for me with coffee and apple pie and cream at The Forge on the way back. The Delta Sensory Gardens are a must- not- miss experience. It was a particular pleasure to join a tour of the revived walled gardens and wooded pleasure grounds of Duckett's Grove viewing the reinstated borders and old paths. The tour was led by Finola Reid, Historic Gardens Consultant on the Duckett's Grove restoration project now under the protection of Carlow County Council. It was great to meet some Carlow London members there also.

The festival also featured art and craft demonstrations, musical performances and street entertainment held in Bagenalstown over the final week-end. **The "Emigrants Dance"** organised by the Bagenalstown Festivals Committee, was held in the Lord Bagenal Hotel. With so many members, family and friends of the London Association attending it was a great chance to catch up. In fact, about one third of all present had a 'London Connection'. On behalf of CCAL our Chairperson and Secretary, Catherina Clarke, herself a Bagenalstown girl, made a presentation to Michaela Lakes, Secretary of Bagenalstown Festivals Committee.

Click me up to Carlow: www.carlowassociationlondon.co.uk **AND**

With more and more of us and our family going on-line, if you 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

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:

39th Annual Dinner Dance—**13th October 2007**—The London Irish Centre, Camden.

By **1st January 2008** you must be a paid up member in order to be eligible to vote at the AGM.

Membership Fee: £5 per annum . Life Membership: £25.00 for you and your family.