

COUNTY CARLOW ASSOCIATION LONDON

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NEWSLETTER

Summer 2009

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

Time once again to give you an update and inform you of our upcoming events, in the hope that we may see many of you over the coming months.

A very warm welcome back to our President, Margaret Doyle, after a long illness. We are delighted to see her looking so well. Credit goes to Margaret's family who looked after her with such dedication.

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM was held earlier in the year at The Irish Centre. While lots of Members had responded to our notification of our AGM, unfortunately, the turn out on the night was small. We appreciate that for a lot of you a trip to Camden in the evening is not practical but we always welcome your feedback on all things related to the Association. If you have any ideas for the development of the Association we would love to hear from you.

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

Christine O'Brien – Treasurer

Catherina Clarke – Secretary

Noreen Nolan – Assistant Secretary

Committee members: Brenda Clarke, Jenny Schwab & Peter O'Brien, Cecilia Byrne, Ned Dunbar, Jim Kehoe.

We are delighted to welcome Jim onto the Committee. Jim is a long standing Life Member and well known to many of you. It's great to see that resurgence of interest.

CCAL needs new people to join our Committee. If we are to continue to be an active meaningful Association we need young people to join us in what we do. We need their energy and vision to help bring our CCAL forward. The future of the Carlow Association belongs to young first and second generation Carlow Londoners. We all need to get that message across to the younger members of our families. With so many more young Irish now expected to be coming to London they need to know we are here for them. The Carlow Association has served Carlow people very well over the last 40 plus years. Times have certainly moved on, expectations and needs have changed utterly. But one thing remains the same; the comfort that comes from any little bit of contact with Home.

The Carlow Association welcomes young people. We are happy for them to join us; we are happy to help them make it their own.

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

St. Patrick's Day Parade in London – (Sunday 15th March 2009) started from Hyde Park Corner at 12 noon and passed Piccadilly Circus and Trafalgar Square. Thousands lined the streets to watch and cheer on this colourful spectacle. We had our very own float this year (thanks to John and Noreen Nolan) which meant we marched with even more pride behind the Carlow Association Banner. While

the theme of the `Float` was Celtic Carlow, the centre piece was indeed St. Patrick. That is, our very own home grown version, Jim Kehoe. While the occasion allows for some fun Jim proved to be as reverend a St. Patrick as I have ever seen. Indeed he was so popular on route (that regal-like wave went down a treat) that he was inundated with requests to pose for photos. Thanks to Jim and everyone who formed the Carlow Contingent. Special thanks to Jim O'Neill a life long member of the Association who never fails to turn up come rain or shine. It was great to see you.

Indeed this year CCAL achieved the `Hat Trick`. That `Follow me up to Carlow` banner made it to The Brent Parade on St. Patrick's Day and to Crawley St. Patrick's Parade on 22nd March.

This was the first time Carlow joined the parade in Willesden. It was great to see so many old friends and to be joined by some of the Carlow faithful. That Banner is so familiar in Crawley now that hardly anyone asks `Where is Carlow`?

CO. CARLOW ASSOCIATION LONDON 41st ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

The big event of the year will be CCAL's 41st Annual Dinner Dance on the 17th October 2009 at the London Irish Centre. The Committee expects to be joined by members, friends and supporters for a great evening of fayre and fun. Invitations are already out to special guests. Music is by Mary and New Counties. Tickets cost £30.00. All are welcome to join us. Why not book a table and get family, friends or work colleagues together for a great Irish night out. Our Chairperson assures us, as in line with comparable jobs she will take an 80% pay cut and cut her after dinner speech by same percentage. With any luck that means she will speak only for 6 minutes.

UPCOMING IRISH FESTIVALS

Southwark will be celebrating their 21st Anniversary this year (Sunday, 5th July 2009) 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 be there as usual, just look for the Red, Green and Yellow Banner. Ned Dunbar will be leaving his ever popular collection of `Memorabilia` at home and taking a well deserved rest this year, enjoying the music. On the Irish World Stage they will have special guests including Martin Ruddy, Shaun Loughrey, Thomas Mc Guire & Fiona Ennis and Sean Wilson. Not forgetting events that will take place in the Marquee, to name but a few- Celtic Colleens, McCarthy School of Irish Dancing, Tanya Dirrane School of Irish Dance, Westliners Line Dance Group, SICAD Band, etc., with lots of county stalls, food marquees, bar, fun fair, arts and crafts, story telling, tug of war and much more. Admission is Free. For more information, check out the website www.southwarkirish.com

`CCAL PICNIC IN THE PARK`

We invite you all to join us for a picnic by the Carlow stall. Look out for us sitting on rugs enjoying the music and hopefully the weather at about 1pm. Bring your own packed lunch or share ours. We would love your company, a relaxed atmosphere and a chance to catch up.

Or just visit and make yourself known to our Members who will be running the Carlow Stall, maybe help out. See you on The Rye or we will want to know why (not).

The Crawley Irish Festival – August 30th 2009 -- Come and visit us at the **Carlow stall**. As we continue to build on our relationship with Crawley, Carlow will be there again this year. Even in these difficult times The CICS is forging ahead with plans for a memorable festival. We can look forward to live music stages, an Irish Dance Stage, Set-Dancing and Cheili, free children's entertainment, song and story with particular emphasis on Irish traditions and folklore, GAA sports, Tug-a-war, a funfair, various food and craft stalls and displays with the added attraction of a licensed beer tent. Great craic for all the family! 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>

Carlow Floral Festival and Bagenalstown Emigrants Dance 2009 - No information is available at present as the Floral Festival website has yet to be update. We should have some news soon, if any one is interested, give us a call. If you have time why not check out their website. <http://www.carlowfloralfestival.com>

CCAL Website - www.carlowassociationlondon.co.uk 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. Many thanks to David Nolan for setting up and continuing to update the site for us.

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. **This site is highly recommended.** Much appreciation and admiration for Michael Brennan who runs the site. Regular contributors include an old friend of CCAL, Michael Purcell. I don't know anyone who knows more about Carlow and its people: and Roger Nolan of Canada, a prominent member of The Nolan Clan and a regular visitor to Carlow.

We send our condolences to all members who suffered bereavements during the year especially to family and friends of **the late Paddy Geoghegan RIP.**

Death of 2005's International Carlow Person of the Year

CARLOW recently suffered the loss of Paddy Geoghegan, on 5 March 2009, A native of Carlow, originally from the Staplestown Road, Paddy left for England in 1948, He joined the Royal Air Force in 1951 and served in Egypt for five years, in 1957, Paddy relocated to Manchester, where he decided to settle and make his home. He joined the Labour Party in 1982 and was duly elected as councillor for the Stretford area. In 1991, he was elected onto the committee of the Irish World Heritage Association. He served on this committee for many years, where he was committed to supporting the heritage and values of Ireland. During this time, he became involved with Manchester Irish Radio, and his voice was often heard over the air conducting interviews with Irish people both local and global, paying tributes to those both living and passed, and always supporting Irish music.

Shortly afterwards, Paddy, with the support and encouragement of wife Marcella, became the founding member of the Carlow Association in Manchester. They identified the need to create and maintain links between all Carlovians living in Manchester, the rest of Britain, and Ireland itself. Thus the Carlow Association Manchester was created. This association supported numerous Manchester and Carlow charities over the years, including Delta Centre Carlow, Heart Foundation Manchester, Irish Community Care and Children's Hospice Manchester. In addition, monies raised in many charity events were used to support Carlow people living in Manchester who had prolonged illness or suffered bereavement.

Paddy and Marcella were regular attendees at Birmingham and London Carlow Association functions, In 2000, Paddy showed the initial signs of his illness and he was eventually diagnosed with heart failure. Despite this diagnosis, Paddy continued his commitment to the association and travelled to Carlow with Marcella on many occasions.

In 2005, Paddy was honoured in Carlow as 'International Carlow Person of the Year'. This was a most prestigious honour to be bestowed on him and one he treasured greatly. At his funeral in St Johns Church, High Lane, Stockport, Tony Lloyd MP paid a moving tribute to Paddy and the many elements of his commitment to his constituency. His cousin Eileen Brophy also paid a personal tribute on behalf of his family and recognised the respect and high esteem in which Paddy was held by Carlow Town Council and the fact that three members of Carlow local councils were attending the funeral to officially pay their respects: Cllrs Tom O'Neill and Loraine Hynes of Carlow Town Council and Cllr Des Hurley of Carlow County Council.

Paddy Geoghegan was a people person, loved by so many, and his everlasting sense of friendship, his gift of caring and sharing, his recognition that everyone has a right to be heard and his willingness to listen, and his pure pride in everything Irish, especially everything Carlovian. will be sadly missed.

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Source: Michael Purcell

Representatives of CCAL attended the funeral in Manchester and expressed our sincere sympathy to Paddy`s wife Marcella and family.

Dates to Remember for your Diary:

Southwark Irish Festival (Peckham Rye)	Sunday 5th July 2009
Crawley Irish Festival	Sunday 30th August, 2009
Carlow County Floral Festival	August 2009
Bagenalstown Emigrants Dance	August 2009
CCAL 41 st Annual Dinner Dance	17 th October 2009

Guím go mbeidh Samhradh iontach agaibh go léir.

Ag súil go bhfeicidh mé sibh go luath.

**Slán anois
County Carlow Association of London**