

COUNTY CARLOW ASSOCIATION LONDON

www.carlowassociationlondon.co.uk

carlowlondon@yahoo.co.uk



NEWSLETTER

September 2008

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

Autumn days are here already or is it Summer at last. Whatever, we must make the most of it and those of us fortunate enough to be able to get out and about, do so. That's just what we've been doing.

CCAL was again out in force at Southwark Irish Festival. **Southwark was celebrating their 20th Anniversary** and we were very pleased to be part of this celebration. It was great to meet and have a chat with so many CCAL members and friends. They must have spotted the banner, **`Follow me up to Carlow`** at our stall. Or was it Ned and Christy Dunbar making the butter that got their attention? This Dunbar Attraction is in danger of becoming the **Main Event** !

Thanks to John Nolan and his team for the very warm welcome extended to CCAL at the **13th Annual Crawley Irish Festival**. As usual we had a fantastic day. Find out more on www.celtic-irish.co.uk

Carlow Floral Festival and Bagenalstown Emigrants Dance - Festivals and events took 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. The Emigrants Dance, now an annual event, was held in the Estoria in Bagenalstown on the Saturday night and was enjoyed by all who attended. For more information check out their website. <http://www.carlowfloralfestival.com>

County Carlow Association London proudly presents our

40th Annual Dinner Dance.

To be held at
The London Irish Centre, 50-52 Camden Square, London NW1 9XB

On Saturday 11th October, 2008

Music by **CUPLA** – on tour from Carlow

Special invited guests include:

His Grace, Bishop Jim Moriarity, Bishop of Kildare and Loughlin

Ambassador of Ireland, HE David Cooney

Representatives from Carlow Town and County Councils

Representatives from Carlow County Manager's Office and Carlow Town Council

Founding and early serving Officers of Carlow Association Committee.

7.00p.m. for 7.30 sit down (sharp)

Dancing till 1am

Tickets: £30

For tickets and further information phone : Claire: 020 7609 4650 ; Ned: 020 8653 5923;
Margaret: 020 7720 2812; Catherina: 07789226734.

The late Patsy O'Brien R.I.P.

One of Carlow's finest ambassadors sadly passed away in Birmingham at the end of April, 2008.

Patsy O'Brien, as many of you know lost her battle with cancer earlier this year, leaving behind her loving daughter, Patsy Collins, and grandson, Matthew. "There's been a hole left in the Community by Patsy's death and it is one that won't be easily filled. She was only four-foot nothing and she packed more into that small frame than anyone else ever could" was just one of the many tributes paid to Patsy at her memorial service.

CCAL too, wants to pay tribute to this "feisty, warm hearted.....spirited woman" who was a well known figure at Carlow London Dinner Dances. President of our Association, Margaret Doyle, says "I knew Patsy from going up to Birmingham and Manchester Dinner Dances and Patsy coming to London. She was always great fun. The heart and soul of the party".

Patsy last came to our Dinner Dance in 2006. Determined to support us and maintain the great links between the Associations, Patsy travelled the round trip by coach over-night. Jim Kehoe, Chairman of the Birmingham Carlow Association still recalls how he and Patsy ran through the streets to catch their coach home.

Patsy was in Birmingham at the time of the pub bombings and her greatest wish was to see the whole community of Birmingham come together. "She played an integral part in bringing the St. Patrick's Day parade back to Birmingham in 1996 after almost 20 years. (Carlow Nationalist, 14 May, 2008) Under her care and guidance, the Parade is now one of the largest in the world and her picture even advertised the event this year. (B`ham Mail, 30th April, 2008).

Patsy raised tens of thousands of pounds for charities over the years....supporting Acorns, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, in Edgbaston and Macmillan Cancer Support (B`ham Mail, 30th April, 2008)

Patsy's legacy is her enormous contribution to the Carlow Association in Birmingham of which she was President. Born in Bagenalstown, with which she maintained strong links, Patsy came to Birmingham in 1958 and worked at the Lucas factory, where she was also a shop steward.

Friends paid their last respects at St. Annes Church, Digbeth following a procession led by a piper and dancers, before Patsy was finally taken home to Bagenalstown.

Representatives of CCAL travelled to Birmingham to bid a fond farewell. Patsy will be sadly missed by loving family and friends.

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. 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**

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.

40 mile sponsorship walk in aid of Friends of Calcutta

Yes, the Association embarked on a sponsored walk in Pembrokeshire, Wales (no easy task, 40 miles in all) which took 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. The walk was a great success in terms of the money raised for the Charity and as a fun, team building exercise for all those 'well fit' CCAL members. Can't wait for next year. Will it be Ben Nevis or Killeeshin?

Well in excess of 3,000 Euros have been raised to date.

Michael Hopkins on behalf of Friends of Calcutta extends their thanks to us all for our very generous support. He will give us a breakdown on how the monies will be spent on his return from India. We can look forward to more information in our next newsletter.

Following is the CCAL press release.....

CARLOW ASSOCIATION'S FRIENDS OF CALCUTTA WALK 'A GREAT SUCCESS'

The County Carlow Association of London celebrated their upcoming 40th anniversary by organising a 40-mile sponsored walk in Pembrokeshire, South Wales, over the Irish Bank Holiday Weekend of 31st May / 1st June for The Friends of Calcutta charity.

When poised with the question, 'What has Carlow, London, Pembrokeshire and Calcutta got in common' one would be allowed a certain amount of slack to figure it out, but the Carlow Association connected all together and let their feet do the work as they completed a 40 mile trek in Pembrokeshire for the poor of Calcutta.

Team Leader for the weekend was Ned Dunbar, the Association Treasurer who acted as logistics officer for the project in plotting the route and tackling the accommodation problem for the caravans and vehicles that made their way from London and Carlow for the weekend.

Ned commented:

"It was tough going at times and the walkers were pushed to their limits, younger and older alike but the scenery was more than enough to keep us going. The weather was marvellous and some of us were often mistaken for thinking we were not in Wales at all. The changing views with the blue lagoons and hidden beaches with white water would bring you to believe, you were lost on a Caribbean island."

After the launch party in Haverfordwest on the Friday where members of Pembrokeshire Council greeted the walkers, the stage was set for a 24 miler on Saturday with 16 miles on the Sunday. The walkers taking part were Chairperson of the Association: Claire Nolan-Sturley (Carlow Town), Ned Dunbar (Ardriston), Cecelia Byrne (Garryhill), Anne Nolan (Carlow Town), Bob Monaghan (Bagenalstown), and John Nolan (Bagenalstown). Margaret Doyle, Margaret Monaghan and Noreen Nolan provided the back up support

All monies raised is being pledged to the Friends of Calcutta, the humanitarian charity, founded in 1994 that educates over 1800 children in some of the poorest areas of India. The founder of the charity, Michael Hopkins became Carlow's 2006 International Person of the Year for his dedication and commitment to the poor of Calcutta.

Claire Nolan-Sturley, chair of the Association, explains all:

"At our Dinner Dance last year Michael was our guest of honour. We were so touched by the picture he painted of life in Calcutta it was decided to help Michael's charity by taking on the walk. I must say it is very heart warming to have so much support in London and back at home for the Friends of Calcutta charity. We cannot thank everybody enough for their generous sponsorship.

We opted for a 40-mile walk to coincide with our 40th Annual Dinner Dance on Saturday 11th October. We haven't as yet decided what we'll do next year but I can assure you we'll have something special for our 50th!"

Association President Margaret Doyle summed up the weekend:

'As a great experience, and I'd like to thank all the walkers and supporters that helped make it a huge success. It's great to be part of an organisation that cares for those less fortunate than ourselves'

The County Carlow Association of London welcomes anyone that would like to support the cause to visit www.carlowassociationlondon.co.uk or e-mail carlowlondon@yahoo.co.uk for more information. Alternatively, call the secretary Catherina Clarke on 0208 354 8501 or 07789 226734. You can contact the charity directly on www.friendsofcalcutta.org

Council of Irish County Associations Heritage Project

The Council of Irish County Associations have been successful in their application to the Dion Fund under the criteria for cultural and heritage projects. The aim of the CICA project is to try and recover the records of the County Associations and house them in the Archive of the Irish in Britain at London Metropolitan University. The records will be sorted, catalogued, cleaned and re-housed in acid free materials to ensure their long-term preservation. The information compiled will be available for public access at the Archives.

CICA asks all County Associations to provide information on the history of their Association, e.g. minutes, brochures, old menu cards, newspaper cuttings and of course photos. The first meeting with the staff from the London Metropolitan University will be Tuesday 21st October, at the London Irish Centre, Camden. All are invited to attend. If you want to discuss the project contact John Connolly, Chairman, CICA. Phone: 020 84526077 or email: johnpc38@yahoo.co.uk

CCAL asks you all to submit any relevant material you have. For further information... phone Claire on 020 76094650 or 07958978486, or contact any member of our committee. We can arrange collection if necessary.

CCAL Officers:

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

Ag súil go bhfeicidh mé sibh go luath.

Slán anois

County Carlow Association of London

Comhairle Cheatharlach i Londain

Tarim`dhiaidh suas go Ceatharlach

