



Geneva Irish Association

September 2010

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Message from the President: Trevor Wade

I hope everybody is having a great 2010 with what was a warm summer punctuated with rain latterly – just to make us all feel at home. I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome two new members to the GIA committee: Brona Simons and Afzal Ballim. Both bring significant communications and organizational skills with them and make excellent additions to the committee. The key events so far this year have been St. Patrick's day, our AGM, the wine tasting trip to the village which still remembers Irish Wolfhounds, followed by the BBQ – all confirming the inability of the Irish to avoid an opportunity to wet their whistles.

We tried a more central venue this year for St. Patrick's day celebrations at Athenée 4 in Geneva – which had its roots as a centre of Christian learning for children in the early 20th century. No doubt St. Patrick arguably would have approved of our choice to celebrate his life. A great evening, despite an unexpected rugby defeat by our Celtic cousins. A pity Fionn mac Cumhaill could not have thrown the Chloch Mhór stone back to where its origins were (geologically) reputed to have come from. Good food - where the caterer spoilt us with such culinary delights as "Estouffade de boeuf à la Guinness".. Not generally known under this name in the motherland, let alone pronounceable there (apart from Guinness) – apart perhaps by such Norman descendants as the Fitzsomethings, the Molyneaux or the Devereux . Tarte au Whiskey followed, dedicated to St. Patrick, wines a bit closer to home and traditional entertainment provided by Catherine Rhatigan and her gifted musicians. Sincere thanks to Catherine and her group who travelled from Zurich for the event. Thanks also to the impressive step dancing display from "Angela's Angels" and to having succeeded to get some spirited individuals to join in.

With respect to the above event and I regret having to raise the subject in this missive. The committee was very disappointed to discover that some 20 people who inscribed for the event neither turned up nor paid - which in turn meant that the GIA had to absorb the full and significant cost. Consequently we are now obliged to confirm inscriptions for future events - only after people have paid.

***"The GIA
committee hoped
everyone had a
great Summer
2010"***

A spirited AGM was held in the traditional sanctuary of the Romana restaurant on 6th May. Out of many items discussed, of note was the fact that membership needs to increase and the need to reach out to an estimated population of nearly 1000 Irish both in Geneva and Lausanne should be addressed this year. To initiate this campaign, a "First Thursday" (of each month) evening will be initiated from the 7th October at DaVinci's to welcome potential new members. It is hoped that our planned Lake Dinner Cruise on Saturday 2nd of October to mark the 35th anniversary of the GIA will also contribute to the campaign.

The bus trip to the "Caves Ouvertes" is proving to be an increasingly popular event with over 70 people preferring to take this mode of transport to Dardagny - rather than taking the risk of being detained at the pleasure of the Geneva Government. By all accounts, the ambiance aboard was "lively" - no doubt more so on the return trip. Happily your president was able to make his way home on Shanks' mare living within crawling distance of the majority of the caves.

The most recent event was the annual BBQ. This time we chose a spot more accessible by public transport, close to the river at the "Bout du Monde". Further consideration was the fencing between the BBQ area and the river as there is always a fear that someone may fall at the water jump rather than continuing to the final fence. Your president clearly won the latter adhering, as last year, to maritime tradition of being the last to leave the ship. His performance of the elephant walk away from the area under the cover of darkness was happily only seen by one person who was doing likewise. Our thanks go to Jim's British Mini Market who generously provided the sausages for the event - masterfully cooked by "cordon green" chefs, Jim and Tristan.

On a closing note, could I ask all of you who are members to encourage non members to join and those of you are not yet members, to join us and help the GIA to prosper and grow. There will be a prize for the person who brings in the most new members this year. Presentation to the winner will take place at our annual Christmas lunch.

I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome His Excellency Ambassador Martin Burke to Switzerland who assumed his position in Berne on the 23rd of August. Martin along with his wife will be joining us on our 35th Anniversary cruise so why not come along and meet him.

I wish you all a great end to the summer and look forward to seeing you on our Dinner Cruise.

Trevor

Email Us:
genevairish@ireland.com

Visit Us:
www.genevairishassociation.com

New Website Coming
Soon!!!

Membership 2010

For those you have yet to renew their membership for 2010 we are reminding you to please do so now. For those you are interested in joining the GIA please see details below on how to become a member. Membership fees are essential in the running of the Association and assist us in organising a full programme of events each year which as members can then participate in those events at a reduced rate.

Membership rates:

- Family (living under same roof): CHF 75
- Retired couples: CHF 50
- Individual: CHF 50
- Retiree/student/au pair: CHF 25

Payment can be made via e-banking or PTT to The Geneva Irish Association, 1200 Genève. Account No: 12-10220-4. Please ensure you include your full name, address/email if new member; and mark the word "Membership 2010" in the "Purpose for payment". For further details, please contact any committee member or email: geneva.irish@ireland.com

Banging the Bodhráns

Do you have a service or business in the Geneva area that you would like to promote to the Irish community? Do you know someone else who has?

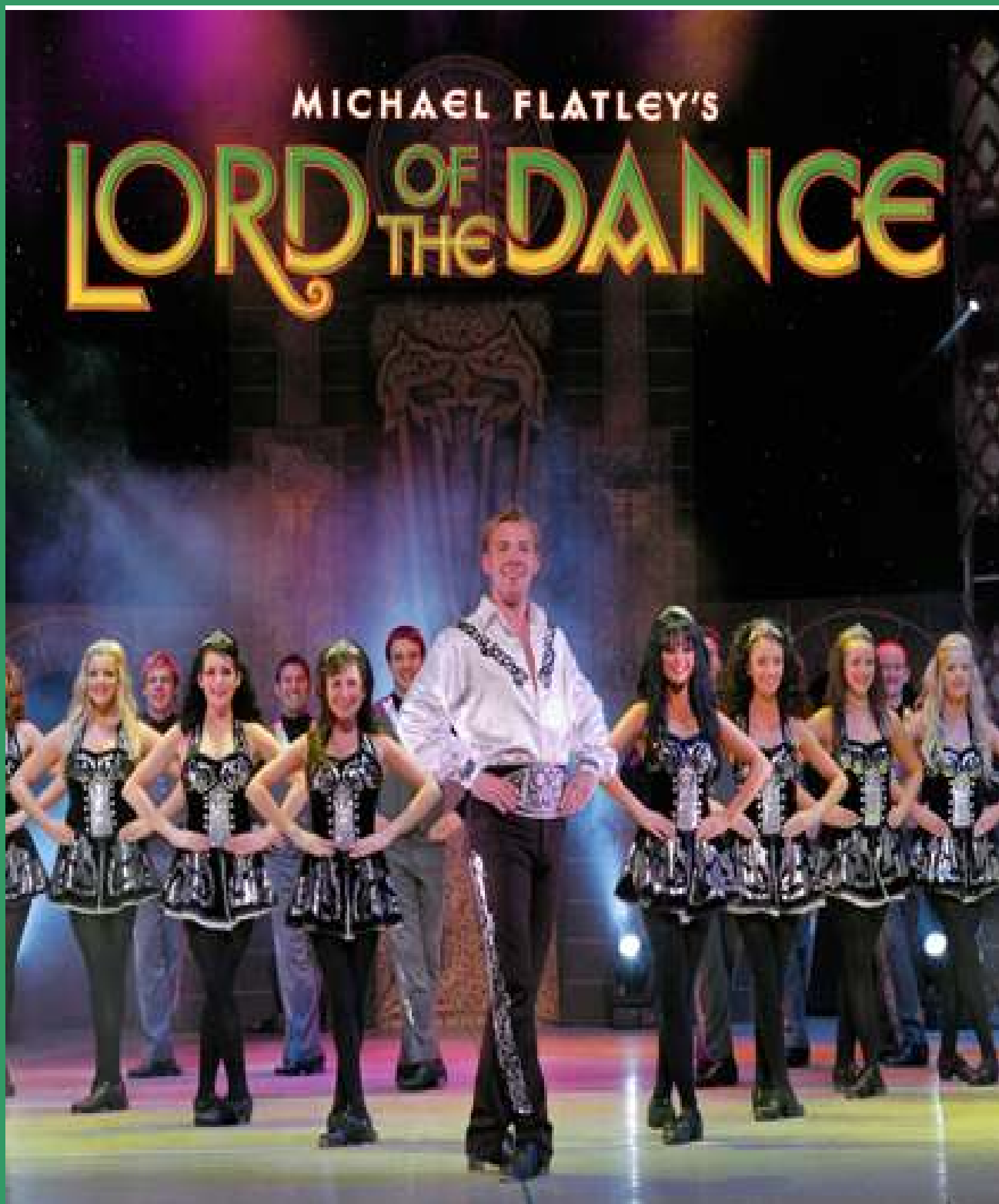
We all like to see a friendly face when we go to the doctor, dentist or physiotherapist. Getting a handyman in to do home improvements, sort out the garden or build that conservatory is so much easier when you hear a lilting Irish voice while they are working. Doing your tax, sorting out your will or making plans for your pension could even be fun if the advice comes from someone who understands the Irish needs. Even a hair or beauty treatment can be more pleasurable when you can have a good chat along the way.

If you are Irish or you have Irish friends who provide any of the above, or any other services, we want to hear from you. Write to us via our email link geneva.irish@ireland.com and tell us your business offering and your address, phone number, e-mail id, website address plus any other relevant information you would like to add.

In the coming newsletters we will put the spotlight on some Irish run businesses or services that operate in this region. Plus in the next few months we will have the facility to add links to your information from our website. **It's FREE publicity** but if you would like to offer a discount to your compatriots this gesture will be very welcome in these more constrained economic times.

Let's support Irish entrepreneurs in Lac Lemman – bang the Bodhráns and spread the news – make our famous Irish "everyone knows everyone" network work for us all.

Regards
The GIA Committee



**GENEVA ARENA FRIDAY 10th DECEMBER
20h30**

Bloomsday 2010

This year, Paul Conneally and Donal O'Neill came up with the idea of hosting a Bloomsday event in DaVinci's with readings from Joyce's works and history and background of Bloomsday and Joyce. Denis McClean was our MC for the evening, providing an interesting note that Joyce spent a day in Geneva during his short time in Switzerland. Paul Conneally provided a wonderfully animated reading of Molly Bloom's Soliloquy, it's a pity that we had no video cameras! Ruth Creamer recited "The Twilight Turns" and Sarah Browne gave us the history of Bloomsday and of Joyce himself. Denis read an extract from Ulysses "Barney Kiernan's pub" and finished the evening with a rousing rendition of "Monto (Take Her Up To Monto)" It was a very enjoyable evening, and we hope to make this event even bigger next year. Thanks to Donal and Paul for organising.



Bloomsday is a commemoration observed annually on June 16th in Dublin and elsewhere to celebrate the life of Irish writer James Joyce and relive the events in his novel Ulysses, all of which took place on the same day in Dublin in 1904. Joyce chose the date because his first outing with his wife-to-be, Nora Barnacle happened on that day, when they walked to the Dublin urban village of Ringsend. The name derives from Leopold Bloom, the protagonist of Ulysses.

GIA GOLF TOURNAMENT 2010

Our annual Golf outing will take place at St. Jean de Gonville Golf Club on Saturday October 23rd, 2010 with tee-times as of 9 a.m

As usual the format will be Stableford with maximum handicaps of 36. We are targeting the following pricing :

GIA Members golf + lunch - EUR 65.-
Non Members golf + lunch - EUR 75.-
Lunch only for members and/or spouses - Eur 25.-

We can take up to a max of 36 players ...so let us know soonest if you don't want to miss out on a great golfing day ! So beat the rush and advise the following info

- i) Your handicap/index
- ii) Member of which club(if any)
- iii) Additional Lunchers

Keep swinging in preparation,

Your organizing team (Mick & Sarah Browne, Jim Forrest)

French Classes for GIA members

Nadia Donnelly is a qualified (FSEA) and an experienced French mother-tongue Teacher, holding a bachelor's in French and a Brevet fédéral. Nadia has a good knowledge of the English language (Proficiency level). She also teaches at a prestigious Genevese Bank and at an international company. Nadia's students, including some committee members, are very happy with her classes. Nadia will prepare an individual program tailored to each students needs. Nadia is now looking for extra teaching hours or part-time teaching. Her prices are competitive as there is a special price for GIA members.

For more information, please contact Nadia via e-mail: ndonnelly@bluewin.ch or telephone: (022)839 20 15 or (079)333 36 69.

First Thursday of every month. Da Vinci's Bar

The GIA in association with Da Vinci's pub is organising a get together on the first thursday of every month in order to help GIA members and friends to get to know each other and make contacts and have some craic over a few socialable drinks. A member of the committee will be in attendance if anyone has any questions or suggestions about the running of the association.

The first event will take place **Thursday 2nd October.**

National Day of Commemoration: Ireland and the United Nations

Around 1,000 people are reported to have attended Ireland's **National Day of Commemoration** held in Dublin on Sunday, 11 July 2010 in the grounds of the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham. Led by the President, Mary McAleese, and Taoiseach, Brian Cowen, the ceremony is held each year to remember all Irish people who died in past wars or on service with the United Nations.

It is attended by government ministers, members of the Council of State, the Diplomatic Corps, the Dail and Seanad and the Judiciary, relatives of the leaders of the 1916 Uprising, representatives from Northern Ireland, next of kin to those lost and representatives of ex-service associations. Conducted as a religious and military ceremony, the President and Taoiseach laid wreaths at a multi-denominational prayer service. Following a minute's silence the Last Post and Reveille were sounded. The ceremony ended with a fly past by the Air Corps.

The ceremony is open to the public who can simply turn up on the day to participate. Held on the Sunday nearest 11 July, it marks the date in 1921 when the Truce was signed ending the Irish War of Independence, also called the Anglo-Irish War (1919-21).

Ireland and United Nations

In July 2010 up to 1,500 army veterans and their families gathered at Casement Aerodrome in Baldonnel to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the deployment of Irish troops to Congo (July 1960 - June 1964). It was the first UN mission to which Ireland contributed military units. During the four year period over 6,000 Irish soldiers participated of which twenty-six lost their lives.

The Republic of Ireland became a member of the United Nations in 1955. Three years later, in 1958, its Defence Forces provided troops in the form of unarmed observers to their first United Nations mission, UNOGIL, in Lebanon. Since then the Defence Forces have had a continuous presence on UN peacekeeping missions.

The main missions to which Ireland has contributed are ONUC (Congo 1960-64), UNFICYP (Cyprus 1964-) and UNIFIL (Lebanon 1978-2001). During the 1990s Defence Forces peacekeepers served in many parts of the world. Since 1980 Defence Forces personnel have served in Central America (Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua), Bosnia, Kosovo, Cambodia, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Namibia, Western Sahara, Somalia, Haiti and East Timor.

In 1993 a UN Training School was established as one of the constituent schools of the Military College to conduct courses and seminars on peacekeeping drawing on experience gained by Irish peacekeeping soldiers in various parts of the world. It also holds courses for students from foreign armies.

An extensive Irish participation in peacekeeping is regarded very positively by the Government and Defence Forces so much so that in September 1993, when the Government restated the roles of the Defence Forces, it defined one of them ...**'to participate in United Nations missions in the cause of international peace'**. The Defence Forces have provided a number of commanders of UN peacekeeping forces.

Continued from Page 7.....

Irish UN Veteran's Association

Founded in 1989 for Irish citizens adversely affected physically or psychologically by UN service, it is a registered charity that aims to provide advice and counselling and to encourage and assist research into members' problems and treatment. It also maintains a memorial to overseas dead.

Note: Acknowledgement is given to all sources used in preparation of this text. It follows published articles **United Nations and Ireland: Prophetic image** (2004), **Ireland and United Nations: Sixtieth anniversary** (2005) by Ita Marguet.

Your GIA Committee Member Profiles

So that you can get to know us a wee bit better. Over the next few newsletters we are introducing your GIA committee members. This edition will feature Afzal Ballim, Aoife de Burca and Trevor Wade.

Afzal Ballim

Afzal was born and raised in Dublin, sometime in the last century. After attending Terenure College and UCD, he followed the advice of, then Irish President, Paddy Hillery given to graduating students, and joined the Irish diaspora in the US. Returning to Europe, he settled in Geneva in 1989 for an intended six months. However, as many know, six months in Geneva has a tendency to become more. So, over 20 years on he's now Irish and Swiss, with family and children in tow. He is a lover of the written word and photography (where he endeavors to prove that 1 photo is not always worth a 1000 words, it may be much more or much less), as well as listening to and telling long tales. Although not adverse to the odd pint of Guinness, he believes that the only place to really get the full taste is with a very small radius of St. James Gate (about 100 yards). Consequently, if you're interested in getting his attention, then a drop of fuisce would always go down well.

On a slightly more formal note, Afzal has 28 years experience in Information Technology, as the owner of a software company, a research scientist and lecturer, independent consultant, and IT director. I think we can safely say that he brings significant skills to the committee and we are delighted to have him on board.

Aoife de Burca

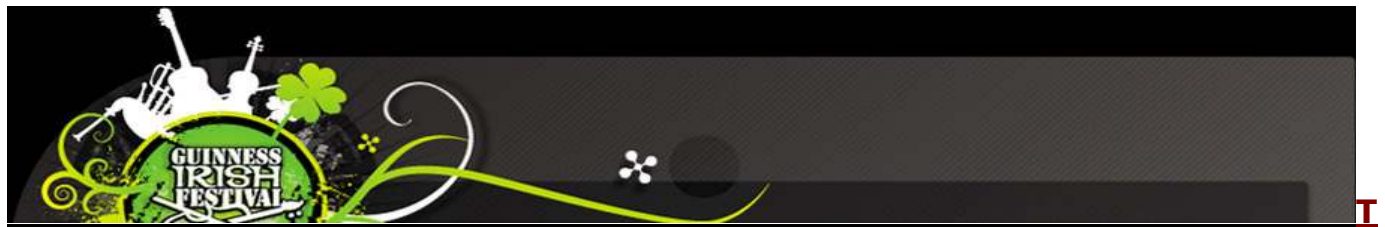
Aoife hails from Dublin and arrived in Geneva in January 2008. She studied Chemistry in Trinity College, Dublin and then completed a "Máistreacht i Gnó agus i dTeicneolaíocht an Eolais" (MSc. in Business & Information Technology) through Irish in DCU. She joined the Fund Administration department of SEI Investments in Dublin 2004 and stayed there for 4 years before the bright lights of the banking heartland called her to Geneva. She joined Coudree Capital in 2008 where she is Head of Operations dealing with day to day operations of the fund and liaising with investors and other counterparties. She is a devoted rugby fan following both Leinster and Ireland throughout Europe, and is an avid supporter of Tipperary and Dublin Hurling. She is a Gaelgóir and participated in the TG4 documentary programme "Thar Sáile" which was filmed in Geneva in April 2009.

Trevor Wade

Trevor was born in Portadown so many years ago that even elephants can't remember. His father hailed from Sligo, his mother from Portadown. Of dubious interest is that Trevor was born a day late, both he and his mother requiring heart stimulants to keep both alive following the event. People to his day bear witness to the fact that Trevor hasn't changed - neither in his notorious propensity for lateness nor the need for heart stimulants following each encounter with him.

Trevor subsequently lived in Rostrevor in the shadow of the Chloch Mhór stone, where he found out that dipping one's finger in a septic tank is not the best way to assure longevity. The family subsequently moved Co.Donegal, then Moffat, Scotland prior to ending up in Holywood, Co.Down - where he learnt to write again with his left hand - although perhaps not kick with his left foot, despite a girlfriend who could. Applied Chemistry studies (the term is used lightly) at Queens University indirectly led him to the computer services industry where he launched his career at offices housed within the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast. During this time, an application to join CERN was finally accepted - despite the fact that again he arrived a day late on his starting day. A continuing quest to find the Holy Grail took him to Digital Equipment Corporation's European HQ in Geneva, subsequently running Best Associates, a recruitment company and ultimately DBM, a career transition company where he currently torments people trying to find the next step in their careers.

Trevor and his family are dispersed throughout the Geneva area, where his children at least speak French without a Belfast accent.



The Guinness Irish Festival Sion 2010

The Guinness Irish festival this year reminded me of a summer's day on Donegal's west coast with nice chilly temperatures, wind and driving rain on the first evening. However this did not deter a shivering mass of hardy perennials who came to see Seamus Begley & Tim Edey, Arno, and the Saw Doctors on the opening night of the festival. Attendance was clearly down on last year due to the inhospitable climatic conditions, but the Guinness stands didn't seem to suffer too much. Nevertheless, I had to point out that they would have been hung, drawn and quartered in Ireland for serving Guinness the way they did.

Seamus and Tim had a tough time warming up the crowd, for obvious reasons, as the first act who nevertheless appreciated the accordion/guitar duo. Seamus' vocal cords remain in excellent shape, his dulcet tones being much appreciated by the crowd. Arno, a Belgian bereft of Celtic origins (I believe) and a curious cross between Joe Cocker and Serge Gainsbourg, endeared himself to all by demanding, mid performance, in a forceful voice - "Where's the f---ing Guinness?". Nevertheless, I felt he didn't require much more of same and managed to put on a truly stunning performance to the delight of all.

Lastly the Saw Doctors came on stage. As good, if not better than I remember them. Their emphasis is more rock oriented than the special blend of rock/celtic I recall. However, despite a severely diminished crowd, clearly preferring a cosy sleeping bag, they rose to the occasion. Davy Carton and Leo Moran sang and played such old favourites as (if my memory serves me well) "Freedom Fighters", "Coming Home", and "Why do I always want you" - the latter no doubt being a reference to the weather making them feel at home.

Trevor

Waiting for Godot

The classic comedy by Samuel Beckett

Vladimir and Estragon pass the time waiting for Monsieur Godot. Will he arrive today?

A Theatre Someone
Production



CAST

Gary Bird,
Gabriel Bird,
Andrew Brookes,
Alan Leather,
Joe Pirri

DIRECTOR

Sue Humphreys

TECHNICAL

Steve Pavis

STAGE MANAGER

Susan Leather

PRODUCER

David Humphreys

October 1st & 2nd	Theatre les 50, 31 bis Impasse aux Rues, St Jean de Gonville
October 9th	Commons Room, Webster University, 15 Route de Collex, Bellevue
October 15th	La Grande Salle, Emmanuel Church, 3 Rue Monthoux, Geneva
October 16th	Salle Ausonne, L'Esplanade, Divonne les Bains

All performances start at 20.00hrs

Tickets 19 euros [France] 25 CHF [Switzerland] Free seating

For reservations or information e-mail: theatresomeone@hotmail.com

or call +33 450201232

www.theatresomeone.com

Past Events: GIA Summer BBQ Bout du Monde July 2010



Geneva Irish Association

35th Anniversary Lake Geneva Cruise



**Saturday 2nd October
Geneva**

**Boat Departs
19h00**

**Quai des Paquis
(opp Hotel Beau Rivage)**

**Returns to Geneva
22h00**

Apero from 18h30

**To reserve your place:
Call/Text: 079 237 35 25
Or Email:
geneva.irish@ireland.com**

**3 Hour Lake Cruise with 3 Course
Gourmet meal and Wine**

**Meet the new Irish Ambassador to
Switzerland Martin Burke & his wife**



**All Members and Non Members
Welcome!**



What: GIA 35th Anniversary Lake Cruise

The GIA is proud to present our 35th Anniversary Boat Cruise. To help celebrate the occasion we are planning a 3 hr Lake cruise complete with 3 course gourmet meal and wine. The new Irish Ambassador to Switzerland Martin Burke will be joining us so it's a good opportunity to come along and meet him and his wife. We will be providing plenty of stories, pictures and memories of years gone by. So come celebrate this fantastic anniversary in style!

We are providing two menu options: Beef and Vegetarian.

Menu:

Salade de féra fumé aux asperges vertes

Aiguillette de bœuf au Salvagnin, galettes de rösti, poêlée de courgettes et céleri

Tourte aux carottes

Or

Fricassée de champignons sur pain brioché et buisson de pousses à l'huile de pépins de courges

Duo de galettes de légumes sur fondue de tomates aux olives vertes, penne rigate au basilic

Salade de fruits exotiques au sirop d'orgeat

Members: CHF 115

Non Members: CHF 125

Cost includes welcome drink, meal, wine, and 3hr Lake Cruise.

Tickets for this event must be purchased in advance: Options include

Payment by "Pink Slip" into the Post Office Account No. 12-10220-4

or

Payment via E-Banking using IBAN CH24 0900 0000 1201 0220 4 Geneva Irish Association

Please add your name and reason for payment in the details provided

RSVP: Please email geneva.irish@ireland.com or call/text **079 237 3525** by Monday 20th September so we can get an idea of numbers.

Places are limited so please let us know ASAP!

Past Events: GIA Paddy Wagon to the Caves Ouvertes May 2010



JIM'S

British Market

www.jims-british-market.com

Just outside Geneva in St.Genis, France.

-  Jim's British Market has been in existence for over 13 years, providing the Anglophone community with all their favourite foods and goodies from home.
-  Why don't you come and try our fabulous fish & chips, sausage or bacon butties, homemade pies, or a cream tea (with a freshly made scone, clotted cream and strawberry jam)
 - Fish & chips served at lunchtimes on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, bookable in advance by telephone
 - Friendly atmosphere, children welcome
-  WiFi facility available. Bring your laptop and connect to the Internet for free in the Tea Room.
-  A Sky television agent is at our service at Jim's on the first Saturday of each month and a free phone is available at the shop to speak to the agent at any time. All Sky TV services are provided, including installation.
-  If you haven't yet discovered Jim's, or if you haven't been for a while, now's the time to come and see the Tea Room, and check out our new competitive prices.



Check out the website for directions,
special events and offers:

www.jims-british-market.com

Espace de l'Allondon,
St. Genis-Pouilly, 01630 France

Tél. 00 33 (0)450 42 04 18
Email : jimsbmm@aol.com

Upcoming Events / GIA Calendar 2010

~ October 2010 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 GIA 35 th Gourmet Lake Cruise
3	4	5	6	7 GIA Drinks Night, Da Vinci's Pub from 19h00	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 GIA Golf Tournament
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	Notes:					

~ November 2010 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 GIA Drinks Night, Da Vinci's Pub from 19h00	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 GIA Fondue Evening Bains des Paquis	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	Notes:			

~ December 2010 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 GIA Drinks Night, Da Vinci's Pub from 19h00	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 Lord of the Dance, Arena	11
12 GIA Xmas Lunch	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day
26	27	28	29	30	31	Notes: