

Cumann Gaelach na Ginéimhe
Geneva Irish Association
Association Irlandaise de Genève
Nuachtlitir / Newsletter

December 2004–January 2005



The Geneva Irish Association Committee wishes all its Members a joyful and prosperous 2005!

GIA Committee Members

Finola Keating
(President)
Tel: 022-7369955 (D&E)

Brian Wall
(Vice-President)
Tel: 079-2518005 (D&E)

Brian Elliott
(Treasurer)
Tel: 022-3451635 (D)

Dee Windsor
(Secretary)
Tel: 022-7398454 (D)

Lorraine Maire
Tel: 022-7364336 (D)

Donal O'Neill
Tel: 079-6325885 (D&E)

Brian Cahalane

D=Daytime / E = Evening

Ski Day Out—15 January 2005!



The annual Ski Day Out will take place this year on Saturday 15 January. The departure point will be Charly O'Neill's Pub (corner of rue Hoffmann and rue Grand Pré). Coffee and croissants will be served between 07h00 and 07h20 (courtesy of Donal O'Neill) and the bus will depart for **Avoriaz** (suitable for all levels) at 07h20 sharp—there will be no waiting around for anyone!

The cost for transport and ski pass is CHF 65 per adult and CHF 40 per child, while for those who don't want to ski but would like to avail of the day out anyhow, the cost for transport only is CHF 25 per adult and CHF 18 per child (*click on www.avoriaz.com where you will find listings of other activities you can partake in such as sleigh rides (husky and horse), helicopter rides, snowshoe walks, snakeslides, etc.*).

This outing is by reservation only, and a non-refundable deposit of CHF 15 is required for each booking made. To reserve you can either do it by emailing dponeill@ireland.com, faxing 022-7768923, or popping into Charly O'Neill's itself. On the day, don't forget to bring your passport, Euros and ensure that your sports insurance is up-to-date. It is foreseen that the bus will arrive back in Geneva at its original departure point (i.e. Charly O'Neill's) by 18h00, where, as a special treat, raclette will feature on the pub menu that night (raclette à go-go + 2dl Mont sur Rolle = CHF 18 per person).

Upcoming Events:

- Ski Day, 15 January
- David Norris is James Joyce, 27 January
- Pub Night, 12 February
- Quiz Night, 25 February
- St. Patrick's Day Gala Dinner, 12 March

CONGRATULATIONS!



The G.I.A. sends a word of congratulations to Declan and Delphine McAdams who recently had a baby girl named Justine!

GET YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL !

In order to help us reduce our mailing costs for the Newsletter, we would like to be able to send it to you via email. Therefore, please send your email address to geneva.irish@ireland.com where we will add you to our mailing database for future issues. We do realize that not everybody has email, so for those we don't hear from we shall continue to send you the Newsletter by regular mail.



Christmas and New Year Greeting from Mary McAleese, President of Ireland

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to one and all. As I begin a new term of office, it is my special privilege to extend heartfelt Christmas and New Year greetings to the great Irish family at home and abroad and to all Ireland's friends.

The past year was an exceptional one in Ireland, when history placed us at the centre of the enlargement of the European Union, as hosts of that wonderful Day of Welcomes for the ten new member states. Now the citizens of the twenty-five partner states set out on a shared journey to a peaceful and prosperous future. And we in Ireland know more about peace and prosperity today than at any time in our past. This is a successful and achieving nation with a thriving economy and a vibrant culture. It is a growing nation, young, multicultural, a place of opportunity and real hope.

The backbone of our strong civic society is and has always been a unique tradition of robust, energetic, caring communities built and sustained by voluntary effort. We are a people whose innate decency has inspired us always to look out for one another and to work to make sure no-one is left out or left behind. This Christmas as many of us enjoy the benefits of our remarkable progress let us renew our commitment to one another and especially to those who are still struggling and for whom a helping hand could make the difference between enduring life and enjoying life in all its fullness. We owe a lot to those who continue to build peace on this island and whose efforts have transformed hearts and minds.

The central message of Christmas has for two thousand years been a message of peace and goodwill to all humankind and so it is my fervent prayer that reflecting deeply on that message at this crucial time in the Peace Process, we may find the trust and the faith to complete this journey of healing and reconciliation.

I wish for each one of you, a season of hospitality and of love both given and received. For those carrying burdens that threaten to overwhelm the joy of this season I hope that with courage and the support of friends you will find a space to let happiness in. I have no doubt that Santa Claus will be good to our marvellous children and that they in turn will be good to each other. And isn't that the simple essence of this great Feast, the exhortation to be good to one another, to fill the world with generosity instead of greed. The Irish have a legendary capacity for generosity - may each of us wherever we are honour that tradition this Christmastide and make it a time of lasting peace and goodwill, a beacon of hope in a very unequal world.

Mary McAleese

Davis Norris is James Joyce in “Do you hear what I’m seeing?”—27 January!

On Thursday 27 January, the Geneva Literary Aid Society (G.L.A.S.) - in association with the Geneva Irish Association (G.I.A.) - will, for one night only, present to you David Norris in “Do you hear what I’m seeing?” (the original production as performed in New York and Dublin).

The venue is the Aula, College de Coudriers, 15a, av. Joli Mont (directly opposite Balexert on the no.10 bus route). Doors and bar open as of 19h00 with the show starting at 20h00. Entry tickets cost CHF 25 each and must be reserved by calling 079-2173357 or 079-4744706.

Proceeds from this inaugural G.L.A.S. event will go towards the Masambo Fund which provides care and treatment for Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers living with HIV/AIDS.



"An exhilarating celebration of the life and works of James Joyce. David Norris is superb." -Irish Times

The Geneva Literary Aid Society (G.L.A.S.):
 supporting the Arts, supporting People Living with HIV/AIDS



Other Upcoming G.I.A. Events to Watch Out For!

Pub Nite in Charly o’Neills Pub—Saturday, 12 February

The G.I.A. is organizing an old favourite here - Irish Pub Nite - where it’s up to the audience to provide the entertainment. Spontaneity is the name of the game so come ready prepared with your songs, instruments, stories, poetry, etc.- the craic will be mighty! Things will kick off at 20h00. You must wear green! Keep an eye out for the advertisements or contact the G.I.A. directly for further information!

Quiz Nite in the American Church Hall—Friday 25 February

Yes, another favourite fun event - the Quiz Nite. As usual it will be at the American Church Hall (beside Noga Hilton Hotel) and kick off will be at 20h00 sharp with a “Happy Half Hour” getting the ball rolling and oiling the brain at 19h30! Keep an eye out for the advertisements or contact the G.I.A. directly for further information!

St. Patrick’s Day Gala Dinner at the Hotel du Rhone—Saturday 12 March

The main event in the G.I.A. calendar each year is, of course, the St. Patrick’s Day Gala Dinner. There’ll be plenty of traditional music and dancing not to mention a culinary feast. So, get that glittery frock and suit off to the dry cleaners and your dancing shoes out from the back of the wardrobe—it’s Paddy’s Day! This event is by reservation only and fully paid up members will benefit from a discount on ticket prices. Keep an eye out for the advertisements or contact the G.I.A. directly for further information!

Email: geneva.irish@ireland.com or tel: 022-7369955 or 022-7398454

DID YOU KNOW

..... that you can listen to the RTE radio news Monday—Friday at 09h00 CET on Radio 74? Tune in to 88.8 Mhz or go to www.radio74.org for further information.

G.I.A. Christmas Ceilí, Cologny—4 December!

There was a good turn out again this year for the Christmas Ceilí in Cologny. Over 100 River Dance wannabees got into the spirit of the night and gave it their all. We were delighted once more to welcome His Excellency, Ambassador Joseph Lynch and his wife Irene who travelled all the way from Berne to share the evening with us. We were also happy to see the Mayor of Cologny, Mr. Pierre-Yves Vallon, together with members of the Mairie.

Great music was provided by G.I.A. Vice-President, Mr. Brian Wall, together with brother-in-law Paul and friend Paul both of whom came over from Ireland especially for the occasion. The multi-talented Kirsty Griffith completed the line-up and the newly formed group were christened “The Irish Connexion” on the night. Many thanks to one and all and “*when’s the next gig?*”

Finally, a word of appreciation is extended to the following persons without whom the evening would not have been half the success that it was:

David Unitt and Miguel Asensio and team - for all their help and the delicious poulet et frites!

Angela and Erhart Jeangros - for dancing and bartending (in that order!).

Sam Seale - for looking after the sound.

Eoghan O’Sullivan - for his music, song and wit!



easyJet Announces New Route: Belfast-Geneva!

easyJet, Europe’s leading low cost airline, is expanding its Northern Ireland operations which includes a new route connecting Belfast International Airport with Geneva. The service will be four times weekly and starts on **Friday 1 July 2005**, with fares from CHF 50 and CHF 61 one way respectively. Go to www.easyjet.com for further information and timetable.



G.I.A. Night, Paddy's Pub — 12 November!

“Oh what a night it was!” Really! No sooner had the doors opened at 5pm, but things got off to a flying start— Chef got to busying himself in the kitchen dishing up bowls of stew (a stew that any Irish mammy would have been proud of), JD & Co. took to teasing the Guinness from the pumps (much to the delight of the eagerly awaiting (and thirsty!) early birds), and Blackwater (the best thing since sliced bread) took to setting up the stage. So enthusiastic were they to get the night going that they started playing earlier than scheduled and kept going till the crowd was completely clapped and danced out! YES! There was even spontaneous dancing from a few who couldn't resist the beat of the bodhrán! Throughout the night the bar was what can only be described as a sea of happy smiling faces—everyone doing their bit to generate that Celtic spirit the Irish are famous for and having great craic! What a night indeed it was. Let's hope we can do the same again soon!

Special thanks is extended to David, JD, Patrick and all the team at Paddy's Pub for their assistance and goodwill in facilitating the evening.

