

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

August-September 2005



G.I.A. golf day out—1 October!

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Quick Reminder of Upcoming Events:

- **Golf day out**, 1 October, St. Jean de Gonville
- **G.I.A. Craic Night**, 6 October, Maison des Associations, Plainpalais
- **Playboy of the Western World play reading**, 8 November, English Church Hall
- **St. Patrick's Day**, 18 March 2006, La Broche Restaurant

There can be no better way to spend your Saturday morning than to join in on the annual G.I.A. golf day out. The location will be the St. Jean de Gonville golf club where tee off times will begin at 9.00 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.

As in past years, there will be a group lunch. However, if you don't fancy doing the rounds of golf (if the physical strain is just too much!) then you are more than welcome to turn up and simply have lunch with us. Prices are: golf & lunch: Euro 55 (members) / Euro 65 (non-members) or for those who just want to turn up for lunch: Euro 20 (members) / Euro 30 (non-members). Bookings can be made by calling 022-7843493 or 022-7574866. Be warned — places are limited so you must have a reservation.

Remember to press your golfing trousers and keep an eye out for our flash email reminders. We look forward to seeing you there!

Regular G.I.A. Craic Night!

The G.I.A. committee has established a monthly 'G.I.A. Craic Night' where G.I.A. members and friends of Ireland in and around the Geneva area can drop in to meet and socialise together.

We have nominated these Craic Nights to take place on the first Thursday of every month - starting on **6 October**. The venue to host these fun packed evenings is the Maison des Associations in Plainpalais. There is a bar available or, if preferred, you can bring along your own drinks.

The type of activities that will be pursued include, inter alia, board games, book club, music jamming session, French conversation, etc. The possibilities are endless and there is great potential to develop the concept.

Like all ideas, this one needs the support of you - the G.I.A. members and friends of Ireland - if it is to succeed. Should you have any ideas for future nights or have any hobbies/interests that you think others might like to share please email us at geneva.irish@ireland.com. See you on 6 October where our first theme night will focus on board games—but that does not mean you can't just turn up for a chat and drink! So pack your bottle of wine and board game and we'll be seeing you!

Address: 15, rue des Savoises, 1205 GE, Tel: 022-329 20 22.



Cast Search for Joint GEDS/GIA Playreading—8 November!

We have been invited by the Geneva English Dramatic Society (GEDS) to host a reading of an Irish play with an Irish cast or a cast with an Irish connection. *Playboy of the Western World* has been selected and the playreading will take place on Tuesday 8 November in the English Church Hall. We are therefore looking for volunteers to play the following characters:

Christopher Mahon – Playboy (late twenties/early thirties)

Old Mahon, (Christopher's father, a squatter)

Michael James Flaherty, called Michael James (a publican)

Margaret Flaherty, called Pegeen Mike (Michael James' daughter)

Widow Quin (a woman of about thirty)

Shawn Keogh (Widow Quin's cousin, a young farmer)

Philly Cullen and Jimmy Farrell (small farmers)

Sara Tansey, Susan Brady, and Honor Blake (village girls)

A Bellman

The playreading is being arranged by Sarah Browne and Clare Schenker, with David Farrar (GEDS), and will involve 3 rehearsals of approx. 2hrs duration each. So, we would love to hear from all you budding actors and actresses. You can contact Sarah on 022 757 4866, Clare on 022 799 8831 (work) or 022 361 7794 (home) and David on +33 450 351 465.

BBC Belfast—Desperately Seeking N. Ireland Citizens!

The BBC in Northern Ireland contacted the G.I.A. seeking two people from N. Ireland (living in Geneva) to partake in a programme they are filming. The programme planned is one of a series dealing with specific topics each week. The particular programme they are seeking these two people to participate in will be dealing with the subject of recycling i.e. they want to see how we recycle the "Swiss" way. It will require a film crew visiting the "volunteers" at home and interviewing them about their daily routine on how they separate/store/dispose of domestic waste, glass etc. We have been assured by the BBC that it will be an informal, up-beat programme that will only be screened locally (which explains why they want people from N. Ireland to partake — and preferably living in the city of Geneva). Should any of you out there be willing to participate in such an interesting programme, please contact the G.I.A. (geneva.irish@ireland.com) or call Lorraine on 022-7476414 (daytime) and we will put you in touch with the show's producer.

St. Patrick's Day—18 March 2006!

They say the early bird catches the early worm—so, let's see if it rings true! Already the G.I.A. Committee is busy making preparations for the forthcoming St. Patrick's Day celebrations here in Geneva. The venue will be La Broche restaurant on rue du Stand (with ample parking) which is a lively and chic bistro (www.restaurantlabroche.ch). We promise to entertain you with traditional music and dance; and for those who manage to hang on to some energy, a late night disco to see you into the wee hours of the morning! Keep an eye out nearer the time for our flash email reminders and information on bookings.

Bloomsday Celebration—16 June!

Just as Joyce immortalized Dublin with *Ulysses*, now every 16 June in Geneva, the G.I.A. plays its modest part in continuing the tradition of honouring Joyce's masterpiece, as it recaptures the sense and sounds of that spring day in 1904 when Leopold Bloom rose from bed and began preparing breakfast for his wife Molly. As Sarah Browne eloquently reminded us last year, while Bloom's mind was on frying kidneys with thick giblet soup and liver slices fried with crustcrumbs and hencods roe, Molly was pondering adultery that afternoon with a man by the name of "Blazes" Boylan.

A year that has seen the demise of Bewley's Oriental Café in Grafton Street makes all the more poignant Joyce's claim that he wanted to give a picture of Dublin so complete that if the city one day suddenly disappeared from the earth it could be reconstructed out of his book. As a witty commentator recently put it: *"...if the likes of Behan, O'Casey and Patrick Kavanagh were alive today they'd be hard put to find any bar fit for their alcoholic and literary indulgences amid the "super pubs" and wine bars of modern Dublin - and they'd be appalled at how their names are used and abused around the city."*

But some traditions are upheld. And this year marked the G.I.A.'s third Bloomsday literary lunch at the restaurant in the International Committee of the Red Cross. One would need all of Joyce's uncanny abilities to vividly depict a setting to do justice to the lunch. Suffice it to say that, whilst Jacques Wiesner did the back-stage cooking, Eamonn Laird - the G.I.A.'s Vice-President welcomed a group of 30 mid-day revellers. The *compère* for the day, Brian Tisdall, then introduced a long line of local literary luminaries, including Sarah Browne, who shared with us a hilarious 5-minute condensed version of *Ulysses*, and Ruth Creamer who proved that librarians can also possess a poetic side. The key-note address was given by Denis McClean, the founder and leading light of the Geneva Literary Aid Society (GLAS), who - true to the style of our friend and Joycean scholar John Doohan (R.I.P.) - regaled us with stories of Joyce's life and times.

La Maison Rochette!

We're sure many of you dream of going out to eat but dragging along young children seems just not worth the hassle and you end up staying at home. Well, we have discovered a restaurant in Onex which may just suit your needs as it has a supervised garderie for children so the kiddies play while you eat in peace.

It's called La Maison Rochette (127, route de Chancy, 1213 Onex, tel. 022-8700390; www.lamaison-rochette.ch.) It's a lovely place with a nice terrace and situated just next to a paddock where horses roam about freely. Inside there are small rooms each with a fireplace which are lit in winter. The menu is interesting and reasonable. The garderie operates each day from 12h00 to 14h00, and again in the evenings. On Sundays for brunch it operates from 12h00 to 15h00.

The easiest way to reach it is by taking the motorway, exit Bernex, and turn left towards Geneva. By-pass the road to the right marked Lully, follow straight on through the traffic lights, where just after you will come upon the Mairie to your right and a church on your left. The restaurant is just passed the Mairie on your right.

Catalpa—June 18!

Acting is probably too mild a term to describe what transpired on stage during Donal O’Kelly’s electric performance in Geneva of his award-winning drama, *Catalpa*, named after a Bedford, Massachusetts, whaling ship, quixotically enlisted in the cause of Irish freedom.

O’Kelly’s clever starting point was that of a film-maker pitching the 1875 rescue of six Irish political prisoners from a penal colony in western Australia as a suitable subject for Hollywood treatment, to a sceptical film producer.

With the aid of superb stage lighting by Sorcha Fox and the original music and sound effects provided by Trevor Knight, O’Kelly took us on a flight of the imagination that dazzled and absorbed throughout. With rare craft, he brought to life a cast of fascinating characters including the slightly sinister Fenian mastermind, John Devoy; the young newly-wed captain torn from his wife and baby daughter by a mad lust for adventure; the *Catalpa* crew, various Fenian emissaries and the luckless females caught up in the plot which took two years to execute as the crew grew more and more mutinous over the unexpected addition to their job descriptions. The smell of the salt sea air seemed to permeate the Cite Bleue Theatre as O’Kelly’s body and voice took us on a journey half-way round the globe from the excitement of a whale hunt in the north Atlantic to the nail-biting bid to outrun the British navy in the south Pacific with the escaped prisoners safely on board the ship.

Despite the brilliant evocation of the enormous propaganda coup which the Irish Republican Brotherhood scored with the arrival of the six in New York, O’Kelly steers clear of political point-scoring to bring the drama to a close with a touching vignette of the young and sorely tested sea captain returning home to the meet the gaze of the child he left behind. A fitting close to a rip-roaring adventure with great characters, humour and full of human feeling.

Although there was competition on the night from the Fetes de Geneve, the Geneva Literary Aid Society attracted an attendance of 130 or so, and GLAS regular, Kathleen Ogden and a friend, benefitted from the free raffle for two tickets to see U2 in Paris which she reports was "brilliant."

The event was sponsored once more by the Anglo Irish Bank (Suisse) SA whose managing director, Declan MacAdams, was among the attendance. Some CHF 4,000 has been shared between the Mamsambo Fund and the Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS as a result of a very enjoyable evening.

G.I.A. Membership

The G.I.A. Committee would like to take this opportunity to say GO RAIBH MAITH AGAT to those of you who have paid the 2005/2006 membership fee. These funds will help greatly in organizing events for you in the year ahead. For those who would still like to become a member, the fee per year is CHF 75 per couple/family, CHF 50 per individual or CHF 25 per student/au pair/retiree. You can use any blank pink bulletin de versement at your post office marking it to pay "The Geneva Irish Association, 1200 Geneve - account no. 12-10220-4". Membership of the G.I.A. confers a number of benefits, not only the opportunity to participate in a wide range of regular social activities, but also the opportunity to meet with the large Irish community and other nationalities living and working in Geneva and throughout Switzerland. Remember to include your full name and address so we can contact you personally to say thank you.

Lark in Le Parc—10 July!

The annual G.I.A. BBQ took place this year at the Parc du Jonc on Sunday 10th July. The weather forecast was not the best but we were lucky and got a glorious day of sunshine with a slight cooling breeze. Ruth Creamer was on-site at 9.00am to 'bags' the best BBQ and ensure that we had access to the 'covered area' if required.

65 people attended the BBQ and there was a great cross section of ages – old, older, young and very young. It was a lovely sociable occasion with people mixing easily and the general chat and banter was friendly and good humoured. Many thanks to Albert Zanartu, who started the BBQ at about 11.30am and was still cooking food for the late arrivals at 4.00pm.

When the food was finished the 'games' commenced. After two heats of six pairs, the final of the three legged race was won by Eoghan O'Sullivan and his girlfriend Nadine. They won by at least five lengths. A notable performance in this event was that of mother and daughter combination of Emma and Finola Keating. They qualified for the final but I'm afraid the pace of the final was too much for them.

There were two heats in the Egg and Spoon Race and they were won by Marie Windsor and Stephanie Fitzjames. There was supposed to be a final, but by the time the two heats had been run off there was not enough 'whole' eggs to have a final.

The Tug-of-War was a titanic struggle - a team of ten against a team of eleven. The team of ten included the not insignificant bulk and strength of both Donal O'Neill and Albert Zanartu. That team won the two pulls but only after some incredible resistance on the second pull. Others on that team were James, Anne-Marie, Regis, Orla, Dee, John, Stephanie and Eamonn



The compulsory 'match' then was played with a rule that only the ladies could score. Team Captains were Eoghan and Eamonn. Eamonn's team took an early lead when Nadine rifled a shot passed a helpless Brian Tisdale. Eoghan's team got a great chance to equalise when referee John Windsor awarded a 'dubious' penalty but Donal made a great save pushing Finola's shot out for a corner. Pamela then showed her true predatory instincts by scoring two great goals, one with the right foot and one with the left foot to leave Eamonn's team as winners 3-0. The winning team was Pamela, Nadine, Donal, Olivier, Tony and Eamonn.

While the energetic were playing field games there was a very competitive game of Trivial Pursuit going on in the margins. I don't think they managed to conclude.

Many thanks to everyone who helped out to make the day a great success. There was a lovely atmosphere and a buzz about the place and it was nice to be part of it.

easyJet flights from Geneva to Belfast!

Don't forget that as of July 2005, easyJet now fly direct from Geneva to Belfast 4 times a week (Mon, Wed, Fri and Sun), and as of 17 December the service will increase to include Saturday. In order to benefit from competitive rates, it is advised to book well in advance of your chosen dates of travel. Bon voyage!



Useful Geneva Emergency Numbers!

GENERAL

Police (freefone): 117
Firebrigade (freefone): 118
Ambulance (freefone): 144
SOS Medecins: 022-748 4950

HOSPITALS

Cantonal

Hôpital Cantonal
Rue Micheli-du-Crest, 24
1205 Geneva
Tel: 022-372 33
www.hug-ge.ch

La Tour

Hôpital de la Tour
Av. J.D. Maillard, 3
1217 Meyrin
Tel : 022-719 61 11
www.latour.ch

Beaulieu

Clinique Générale-Beaulieu
chemin Beau-Soleil, 20
1206 Geneva
Tel: 022-839 55 55
www.beaulieu.ch

Grangettes

Cliniques des Grangettes
chemin des Grangettes, 7
1224 Geneva
Tel: 022-305 01 11
www.grangettes.ch

MEDICAL CENTRES

Meyrin

Meyrin Medical Centre
Promenade des Artisans, 24
1217 Meyrin

Hours:

08h00-19h00 Mon-Fri
08h00-18h00 Sat
Closed Sundays and state holidays
Tel: 022-719 74 00
Email: cmm@latour.ch

Carouge

Carouge Clinic
Avenue Cardinal Mermillod, 1
1227 Carouge

Hours:

07h00-23h00 7/7
Tel: 022-309 45 45
Email: carouge@latour.ch

PHARMACY ON CALL:

http://www.pharmacies-geneve.ch/cad_gardes.html
or
Tel: 022-3060850 / Fax: 022-3060856
Email: apgeneve@freesurf.ch

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