

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

February-March 2005



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D=Daytime / E = Evening

Upcoming Events:

- Quiz Night, 25 February, American Church Hall, Geneva
- St. Patrick's Day Gala Dinner, 12 March, Hotel du Rhone

**NEWSLETTER
VIA EMAIL !**

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.

*St. Patrick's Day Gala Dinner,
Hotel du Rhône, 12 March 2005!*

Let you all not forget that the G.I.A. is once again this year organizing, in celebration of St. Patrick's Day, a Gala Dinner with traditional music and dance at the Hotel du Rhône on Saturday, 12 March. The menu will be as follows:

Apéritif of red/white wine, beer and soft drinks

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Terrine of salmon and perch in choux pastry

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Oven roast rack of veal garniture grand mère and jus créme au morilles

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Gratin d'orange, sabayon grand marnier and grapefruit sorbet

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*Meal served with a red cabernet sauvignon "Domaine la Colombe"
and a white "Féchy la Colombe"*

For those who do **NOT** eat meat (i.e. fish or animal) there will be a separate menu. **PLEASE INFORM US BY 7 MARCH LATEST** if you wish to avail of this option so that the hotel can be advised accordingly. If you don't then we cannot guarantee on the night that you will be catered for accordingly.

Tickets: CHF 110 per G.I.A. Member and CHF 130 per non-G.I.A. Member. However, should you agree to become a G.I.A. Member and pay your 2005/06 fee in advance, you will benefit from the CHF 110 ticket price. **This event is by reservation only.** For further information and reservations call Finola on 022-7369955 or send an email to geneva.irish@ireland.com.

Formal wear is required and a good pair of dancing shoes!



CONGRATULATIONS!

The G.I.A. sends a word of congratulations to Maire and Oleg Kiiamov who had a baby girl named Roisin on 28 January!



David Norris Launches the Geneva Literary Aid Society, 27 January 2005!

The Geneva Irish Association lent its full support to the launch in January of the Geneva Literary Aid Society (GLAS), a new non-profit which aims to promote the arts and support people living with HIV/AIDS.

Over 200 people braved the cold winter night on January 27 to take their seats in the theatre at the College de Coudrier to hear the well-known Joycean scholar David Norris' give his tour de force performance based on the life and work of James Joyce, "*Do You Hear What I'm Seeing?*".

The audience frequently erupted in laughter and was held spellbound for two hours as Norris hurtled his way through the Joyce canon with hardly a pause for breath. He managed to bring Joyce alive in a way that few can, through a wonderful evocation of the writer's humour and humanity.

Senator David Norris who is better known in Geneva for his visits to attend the UN Human Rights Commission received a rapturous and well-deserved standing ovation at the end of his performance.

He was welcomed to Geneva the previous night at a reception for Irish people working in international organisations, hosted by Ambassador Mary Whelan at her residence.

Senator Norris remained on stage to assist GIA President, Finola Keating, and GLAS founder, Denis McClean, to draw the winning tickets in the raffle for several prizes which included bottles of Joyce's favourite whiskey, Jameson, and elegant volumes of Joyce-related literature including the 1922 annotated text of *Ulysses* and a copy of *Finnegans Work* ("*no home should be without one*" according to Denis McClean).

All in all it was a memorable night and CHF 6,000 has been given to Bernard Gardiner who manages the Masambo Fund at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The fund provides life-saving care and treatment for Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers who are themselves living with the virus while also trying to assist others in similar circumstances in poor communities across the developing world.

A total of CHF 7,100 was raised on the night and the reserves are being used to meet operating expenses incurred and to prepare for the next GLAS event, details of which will be announced shortly. Le Richemond Hotel provided accommodation for Senator Norris and the event was well-supported also by Jennifer Clickner's drive-time show on WRG which ran an interview with the Senator and also mentioned the event on several occasions.

The organising committee for the event comprised Finola Keating, Brian Wall, Deirdre Windsor, Lorraine Maire, Denis McClean, Claire Geraty, Sophie Barton-Knott, Brian Tisdall, Harold Masterson, Chris Black, Mark Willis and Jean Charles Chamois.

Irish Night as Charly O'Neills, 12 February 2005!

What a night it was! "Parties" in pubs happen all the time—that is, someone or some group feel so happy and free from the cares of the world that they break into song or recite their favorite party piece. Often a bearded minstrel is on hand to play a tune or two. Others join in and before you know it, a session is in full swing. The night at Charly O'Neills was a bit like that. The Crazy Canadians were on duty to keep the evening going, fill in the blanks, and join in off-mike to "get in on" with the Irish music sessions lead by Geoffrey and Christina. Angela was there with her dancing troupe and they demonstrated that line dancing can be done on an uneven stone floor. Many thanks to all who came along and joined in with the fun, and to those who helped facilitate the evening. Won't be long till the next one—so watch this space!

A Bit of Fun!



Carlow = mad for sugar beet, can't get enough of it. Hobbies: growing sugar beet.



Cavan = filthy, ignorant hillbillies, mean. Hobbies: discovering IRA ammo dumps and knitting black balaclavas.



Clare = fiddle-playing charming people and, more recently, fine footballers. Hobbies: eye gouging, falling into pot-holes and being never heard from ever again, setting up golf courses in their back lawns.



Cork = the loveable rogues of Ireland. Here for everyone else's entertainment. Hobbies: milking cows, being European capital of culture but not knowing what exactly that means or how they got it?



Donegal = away in their own world up there, not much known about this eccentric type. Hobbies: stripping the Irish coast of fishies, running back up to their corner of the island and blaming the spanish...aye twas the spanish!!



Dublin North = criminals, drug dealers and factory workers, dirty women, skinheads and all-round examples of human waste. Hobbies: heroin and watching serial numbers being filed off stolen BMWs, joy-riding anything from a lexus to a washing machine.

Dublin South = west Brits, snobs, rich, easy glamorous women. Hobbies: talking crap and sleeping with their best friend's spouse or mother.



Galway = sophisticated culchies, sexually adventurous, cultured and wealthy. Hobbies: teaching sex acrobatics to foreign tourists, dropping acid, juggling with fire on the streets, paying a million pounds for a three bedroom suburban house and pretending it was a bargain.



Kerry = God's kingdom on earth, no doubt about it. Some of the best land in Ireland but they don't tell anyone this. Hobbies: football, swimming with dolphins, football, seeing how many foreigners they can score each year, football, hosting a massive festival every week, football, going to the south pole and football.



Kildare = is anyone really from Kildare or are they all just from Dublin? Hobbies: denying they have anything to do with Dublin. Spending best part of 4 hours each day travelling to and from Dublin. Using Daz for whiter than white jerseys on a summer's day.



Kilkenny = red haired alcoholics who refuse to believe not all land in Ireland is capable of growing barley and wheat "not a bother". Hobbies = driving massive combines, beating Wexford every summer, hosting comedy festivals and having red-haired babies.



Laois = harmless aul bunch of lads, hope to have the whole county by-passed at some stage by 2025 so they can get on with their own business. Hobbies: living an honest life, collecting EU development grants, getting the piss taken out of them for being the queen's county...haha ye plantation b*^&^%\$ds!



Limerick = grand place, great sports people, city has bad reputation through no fault of its own. Hobbies: gang-land murders, drug hauls, graffiti spraying, joy-riding....



Longford = Gombeen men. Hobbies: legalising bestiality.



Louth = IRA supporters, smugglers and bandits. Hobbies: tearing through Cooley at 125MPH trying to stop the boxes of cheap vodka from falling out the window.



Mayo = Depressing, defeatist, negative, misery-laden losers, emigrate as soon as the umbilical cord is cut. Hobbies: roaring about how great they are, whinging about why nobody likes them.



Meath = either Dublin wannabes or country bucks. Hobbies: beating Dublin at GAA and hoping that somebody in Dublin will actually notice, driving massive john deere's cos they're big, green and yellow.



Monaghan = a land of gentle rolling drumlins full of strong, beautiful women and hard drinking men. Hobbies: football and poetry writing.



Offaly = Bog. Hobbies = exploiting bogs and later making them into tourist attractions...hats off!



Roscommon = flat county, a silage pit is a mountain. Hobbies: sheep-stealing.



Sligo = either in their 20s and a surfer or in their 80s and a granny, no in-betweeners. Hobbies: surfing and knitting wet-suits for their grand children.



Tipperary = promiscuous girls, Tipp does not have two different Ridings for nothing! Hobbies: beating Waterford every summer. Getting a flat in Dublin and losing their accents and hoping their parents don't find out.



Waterford = decent honest hard-workers generally good folks (crap at hurling though). Hobbies: loving their county, calling a strike.



Westmeath = like most midlanders, generally boring. Hobbies, much like some people up north, winning one football title and then believing they know it all about football.



Wexford = brown earth you'd wanna take home in your pockets. Hobbies = being jealous of Kilkenny, selling their "home-grown" organic fruit (bought at supermarket that morning) at the side of the road in summer and ripping-off gullible Dubliners out for a drive in the country.



Wicklow = either country snobs with range rovers or poor aul sheep farmers with peak caps and a small black and white sheep dog with dirt all over him. Hobbies: setting up illegal dumps in their back lawns and denying all knowledge of that 300,000 tons of asbestos, nappies and syringes. Never saw it til now your honour.