

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

June-July 2005



GIA Committee Members

Brian Wall—(President)
079-251 80 05

Eamonn Laird—(Vice-President)
079-278 48 51

Brian Elliott—(Treasurer)
022-791 39 36

Dee Windsor—(Secretary)
022-739 85 54

Ruth Creamer
+33-608 43 65 45

Mairead Maguire
078-898 15 54

Lorraine Maire
022-736 43 36

Clare Schenker
079-303 74 60

Email: geneva.irish@ireland.com

Quick Reminder of Upcoming Events:

- **Bloomsday Lunch**, 16 June, ICRC
- **International Joyce Exhibition**, 16 June—15 July, Palais des Nations
- **Catalpa with Donal o'Kelly**, Saturday 18 June, Cité Université
- **UN 60th Anniversary Exhibition**, 26 June—24 October, Palais des Nations
- **G.I.A. Summer BBQ**, Sunday 10 July, Parc du Jonc in Grand-Saconnex. Starts at 12.30 p.m.

G.I.A. Summer BBQ—10 July!

Since it was such a hit with everyone last year, the G.I.A. is pleased to bring you again this year their Summer Bar-B-Q!

The date to mark in your calendar is Sunday, 10 July, and the venue will be the Parc du Jonc in Grand Saconnex. Kick off will be 12h30 p.m.

The Committee will be glad to offer you the fuel, sausages and an apero. All you need bring is whatever else you'd like to eat, drink, a good mood and some sports shoes because we will, of course, be arranging some fun games for all the family to partake in (e.g. 5-a-side footie, tug-o-war, 3-legged race, egg and spoon etc.) with prizes galore. And anyone out there who would like to provide some musical entertainment, by all means, pack your instrument of choice and bring it along!

So keep a look out for our email flash reminders and note the date!



Bloomsday Lunch— 16 June!

Following on the success of last year, there will be a Bloomsday Lunch at the International Committee of the Red Cross, on Thursday 16 June at 12h15 *sharp!* This lunch is by reservation only and costs CHF 20 per person (consisting of salad, Irish stew and dessert—wine extra). A wealth of entertainment is guaranteed. For reservations and further information, contact any of the following email addresses or phone numbers: btisdall@bluemail.ch / geneva.irish@ireland.com / 079-474 4706 / 022-739 84 54.

And if you can't make it to the lunch, then make your way to Paddy's Irish pub in Ferney Voltaire where as of 20h00 you will be entertained by readings from the classic, *Ulysses*.

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.



International Joyce Exhibition— 16 June!

The Department of Foreign Affairs has organized an exhibition entitled *International Joyce* on the life and work of James Joyce. The exhibition was inaugurated to mark the centenary of the day in 1904 on which his novel *Ulysses* is set.

The exhibition opens in the Passerelle, Palais des Nations (access by Pregny Gate, Door 40) on Thursday 16th June 2005 and continues until Friday 15th July 2005.

“Catalpa” with Donal O’Kelly—18 June!

After the great success enjoyed by David Norris and Ronnie Drew, the Geneva Literary Aid Society (GLAS) has come up with the perfect production to close its first short season of live professional theatre in support of people living with HIV/AIDS.

On 18 June, Donal O’Kelly, the man dubbed the Irish Robin Williams, will bring to the Theatre Cité Bleue, Cité Universitaire, his masterpiece *Catalpa* which has taken first prizes at prestigious events such as the Edinburgh Festival and Melbourne International Festival. It has won extravagant praise from the critics of some of the world's leading newspapers including the Washington Post, the Sunday Times, the London Times, the Scotsman, the Irish Times and the Sunday Age. The show's visit to Geneva is the final leg of its current tour.

Catalpa is described as a story in the great epic tradition of Moby Dick and Gone With The Wind - with a passing glance at the Great Escape. From New Bedford, USA, to Freemantle, Australia, across the high seas on the whaling ship *Catalpa*, it is based on the true story of the daring rescue of six Irish prisoners in 1875. It's about heroes and visionaries, political intrigue and personal loyalty, with hot romance and battles at sea. An epic adventure story that challenges the nature of heroism. Lyrical and passionate, satirical and very funny.

This is the last GLAS event until October/November. A memorable evening is guaranteed. Irish musicians have been invited along to play before and after the show. Geneva Irish Association President, Brian Wall, will be to the fore again after his great contribution to the musical success of the Ronnie Drew evening.

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Written and performed by DONAL O’KELLY with live music by TREVOR KNIGHT.

20h00 SATURDAY, 18 JUNE at Theatre Cité Bleue, Cité Universitaire, 46, avenue Miremont, Champel (parking available or take the No. 3 bus, just 15 mins to the Crêts de Champel terminus just in front of the theatre).

Box office and bar open from 19h00 with live music before and after the main event.

BOOKINGS: info@theglas.org or call 079-2173357 and 079-4744706. Ticket price: CHF 25.

NEW EVENTS!

Your G.I.A. committee is putting together a fun-packed schedule of events for the year ahead—events under consideration include a piano evening, disco, poker evening, board game marathon, bingo and picnic (to mention but a few). However, we would like to hear back from you whether any of the above suggestions appeal to you and/or if you have any of your own ideas to put forward. If so, email geneva.irish@ireland.com or call 022-736 43 36 (evenings).

UN 60th Anniversary Exhibition: Irish artwork by Sandra Bell “Freedom Rising”

An exhibition of contemporary art will run at the Palais des Nations for a four month period commencing with the anniversary day of the signing of the UN Charter in San Francisco on 26 June 1945, and ending on United Nations Day on 24 October. Attached is the photograph of the piece that Ireland is submitting to UNOG to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the UN.

The exhibition will be placed under the theme of the fundamental values of peace and development that the UN is striving to promote.

The piece that Ireland will submit (pictured right) is a unique cast bronze sculpture of simple life and uplifting form and is typical of the artist's work. In the artist's own words, her work "portrays not the flesh, but the spirit and grace of humanity in bronze". The figure rising from the waves thrusts the globe to the heavens leaving behind oppression and worldly strife.



Celtic Cup Comes Home—28 May!

After an absence of two years, the Celtic Cup returned 'home' on Saturday 28 May, when the Geneva-Irish football club triumphed over their Geneva Scottish cousins in a hard-fought match at CERN football grounds, to regain possession of the Celtic Perpetual Trophy, which was first inaugurated in 1990, when it was the brainchild Frank Murray and some of the other Digital Equipment Corporation Geneva residents.

With temperatures on the day reaching 31°, it was just as well that both sides had a plentiful supply of substitutes (and even more plentiful supply of sun cream and water). And it was more than just the mercury that was on hot - with the Irish side finishing 3-0 victors on the day. Sharp teamwork as well as individual skills produced goals from Clarence (Geneva-Irish's own Paul Mc Grath) and Simon (combination of Liam Brady and Roy Keane). The Scots were then unfortunate enough to add an own goal, following a corner from the left taken by Philippe the Geneva-Irish's Belgian summer import.

Another milestone was made in the history of the Celtic Cup when, not to be outdone by the appearance, some years ago, of the Geneva-Scots' Mac Monagle father-and-son duet, the Geneva-Irish boasted the presence of the Laird's equivalent - Eamonn (have boots will play) and Colin (bite- yer-legs).

A splendid lunch (thanks Emma) was served afterwards in Charly O' Neills, where the official presentation of Celtic Cup took place. As per the tradition, the losing team filled the cup, this time with scotch whiskey.

Geneva Irish Football Team: Andrew Crawford, Simon Spence, Keith Silke, Gary Canning, Paul Kelly, Colin Laird, Eamonn Laird, Simon Meehan, Tony Gallery, Oran Maclaverty, Richard Newman, Barry Ardiff, Clarence Mackori, and Philippe Guinand.

Fixtures usually take place twice a year so if there are any other Roy Keanes hiding out there, please contact any of the GIA committee to sign-up for the return leg to be held in Autumn.

Caves Ouvertes—21 May!

(Ruth Creamer)

The GIA's Cave Ouvertes day-out on Saturday 21 May was a great success. The cold, wet morning morphed into a wonderful sunny afternoon, which complimented the high spirits of the participants.

Seventeen in number, we set off just before mid-day and reached our first destination, Domaine du Paradis in Satigny, about 30 minutes later. We quickly got on with the business of the day – tasting a range of very good wines from the Canton of Geneva.

My favourite wines from this cave were the Pont des Soupins Rouge, (Cabernet Sauvignon) and the Sauvignon Blanc, both of which were popular with the others too. The live band added to the holiday atmosphere and we proved to be a very compliant and efficient bunch, sampling and buying the produce as well as getting back to the bus on time to head to our next destination.

The second stop was Domaine des Molards in Russin, where most of us enjoyed a delicious lunch accompanied by some of the cave's wine (thanks Donal!). I was so relaxed sitting in the shade, indulging the taste buds that I forgot to taste more of the wines until the last 10 minutes. However, my companions were full of praise for the Merlot and Rosé, and there was much delight at the discovery of a Merlot Blanc.

On we went, heroically, to destination numero 3 – Dardagny, with its nine caves ouvertes.

I should stop here, but in this age of information and knowledge sharing, I will continue to describe what I think happened next!

Dardagny was full of people sauntering around from one cave to the next. I managed to visit seven of them myself (for the purpose of this piece you understand). The most memorable wines that I tasted were the Muscat at Clos de Pins and Gewürztraminer at Domaine du Centaure and, Garamet at Domaine de la Planta (thanks to Brian T. for this last one). There was a festival atmosphere with music, sunshine, and people strolling around absorbing the rays and imbibing the wine. For those of us who are quite new to Geneva it was a surprise to discover such a wide range of wine on offer. Some 45 types of wine are produced in the Canton, and I would guess that between us we managed to taste all of them.

We got back to Chary O'Neill's bar in Geneva at around 5.30, after what was a most enjoyable day out. Roll on next year !

Mid West Irish Radio!

Midwestirishradio.com have started a new dedicated internet radio service aimed at Irish people and the lovers of Irish culture and heritage all over the world. They are based in their broadcast centre in Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo, and would like to bring this service to the attention of our newsletter readers. It is the sister station of a terrestrial radio station based in Ireland called Mid West Radio, which is the 2nd most listened to radio station in Ireland. They have created a brand new station broadcasting across the web aimed at the lovers of all things Irish. They play predominantly Irish music including such artists as Daniel O'Donnell, Mary Black, Tommy Fleming, Sean Keane, The Pogues, The Dubliners, The Chieftains to name but a few. Basically they want to bring their unique brand of music, chat and craic to listeners across the globe. The beauty of the station is that internet listeners are not an afterthought—this is a **dedicated** service. Where else can you send off an e mail and have your song played and name mentioned by their DJ in a matter of minutes. You will not be asked to subscribe, register or for any fee of any kind. All that they ask is that you give them a try. Log on now to www.midwestirishradio.com

An Evening with Ronnie Drew—16 April!

(Denis McClean)

Ronnie Drew was in town recently and took us on an unsentimental journey down the last 150-odd years, in humorous yet often touching tribute to the lives of working men and women: from the mass graves of Famine-times through the streets of tenement Dublin; from the newly independent nation's sometimes ludicrous sense of its own importance to the uglitudes of SUV Ireland badly mauled by the Celtic Tiger.

His voice rolls out of a deep place to tug at your heartstrings and alert your ear to something important, stories full of grit and passion, told with remarkable sensitivity when required as in the impeccable rendition of Shane MacGowan's "The Dunes", a chilling evocation of the fate which overcame those who wandered starving among the dunes of mid-19th century Mayo.

Other stories were told with a rollicking, searing kind of jollity which makes familiar ballads like McAlpine's Fusiliers and Dicey Reilly sound as fresh and potent as they must have, the first time he performed them in public with The Dubliners.

It was as if, with the aid of Mike Hanrahan's beautiful guitar, he has been able to revisit these word paintings and painstakingly remove the layers of disrespect shown to them over the years by all the rest of us who have beaten them to death in bars up and down the land in happy singalong mediocrity.

Ronnie linked up all these musical vignettes with the aplomb of an accomplished actor, wryly mining the comedy in his own life and the lives of those who were, and are close to him.

These narrative diversions included a side-splitting account of Ronnie, the not entirely proud father, recovering from a horrendous hangover in the uncomfortable surroundings of Dublin zoo's hot-houses with his young daughter at his side. Or his sobering account of the fate that befell himself and Terry Woods from the Pogues when they let Barney McKenna attempt to drive them home because he "only had five pints." A hint: it leads into the Auld Triangle.

A shining moment occurred when he transformed himself unannounced into the person of Captain Boyle to deliver the magnificent "What is the stars" speech from O'Casey's "Juno and the Paycock".

His appreciation of literary life in Dublin had a nice cynical undertow thanks to his personal acquaintance with the citizenry of pre-Celtic Tiger Baggot St. and his own frank revelations about the paramount importance of whiskey in those circles. His sincere affection for Behan and Kavanagh came through in his interpretation of some of their finest songs. Even Luke Kelly could not but have applauded Ronnie's interpretation of Raglan Road on the magical night that was in it.

Mike Hanrahan's guitar work provided the perfect foil for Ronnie's voice, particularly on Nora from Sean O'Casey. Hanrahan's own composition Garden of Roses was one of the musical highlights of the evening, a painful but deeply sympathetic evocation of the loss inflicted on victims of child abuse at the hands of the clergy.

The Swiss in attendance may have been puzzled at times but the Irish working for the UN, the banks, SITA, DuPont, Proctor and Gamble, Imogen and the Red Cross were lost in the music, captivated by the words and transported back home for the evening.

And it was all in aid of a good cause. Euros 5,000 was given April 22 to Stu Flavell, international co-ordinator of the Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS and another Euros 1,000 is earmarked for an orphanage in Harar, Ethiopia, pending finalisation of the project proposal.

The event was organized by the Geneva Literary Aid Society with the support of the Geneva Irish Association and the kind assistance of Anglo Irish Bank (Suisse) SA. GLAS was formed to support the arts and people living with HIV/AIDS who are estimated to number 40 million worldwide in the greatest public health emergency the world has ever seen with 7,000 to 8,000 people dying every day.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN SWITZERLAND

- **Van Morrison**, Blues Ball Festival, Luzern, 22 July (CHF 99)
- **The Chippendales**, Geneva Casino, 27 September (CHF 55-CHF65)
- **Riverdance**, Hallenstadion Zurich, 16-18 December (CHF 50-CHF135)

Go to www.ticketcorner.ch or freefone 0900-800-800