

*Cumann Gaelach na Ginéimhe*  
**Geneva Irish Association**

Association Irlandaise de Genève

**Nuachtlitir / Newsletter**

April – May 2006



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## ***Annual General Meeting – 27 April!***

This year's AGM will take place on Thursday, 27 April at the La Romana Italian restaurant at 8.00pm (apéro offered by the committee at 7.30pm). The AGM provides an opportunity for members to come together to look back fondly over the activities and events of the past year, put forward ideas for the year to come, review the Association's accounts, and say a big thank you to the outgoing committee while electing and welcoming in the new.

It is very important that members who have already paid their 2006/07 membership fee participate at the meeting as a quorum is required in order for the AGM to take place. Candidates for election to any office of the Association may be nominated by any two paid-up members of the Association provided that the nomination in writing reaches the Secretary at least fourteen days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.\*

Notices of motion may be sent in by any two paid-up members to reach the Secretary not less than fourteen days before the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting.\*

Attached to this newsletter is a letter of proxy (for those eligible to vote but who will be absent).\*

Also, as the current membership year is drawing to a close, to renew your membership for 2006/2007, you can pay the fee into our post office account by using a blank bulletin de versement at any post office and make it payable to "The Geneva Irish Association, 1200 Geneve" and the account no. is 12-10220-4. This can also be paid via ebanking if preferred. The fee per year is CHF 75 per family (CHF 37.50 AVS/retiree couple), CHF 50 per individual (CHF 25 AVS/retiree individual) and CHF 25 for students/au pairs.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

\* Written submissions may be sent to: the GIA, c/o L. Maire, 6 rue Pedro Meylan, 1208 Geneva or via email.



## ***Easter Wishes!***

The committee of the GIA would like to take this opportunity to wish all its Members and Friends a very Happy Easter!



### **Quick Reminder of Upcoming Events:**

- **Annual General Meeting, Thursday 27 April, 8.00pm (apéro at 7.30pm)**  
(La Romana Italian restaurant)
- **Caves Ouvertes, Saturday 20 May, 11.30am** Collection point: Charly o'Neill's
- **Bloomsday, Friday 16 June**
- **Summer BBQ, Sunday 2 July**

## ***Message from GIA President – Brian Wall!***

Dear Members,

As we approach the end of another year's activities and the GIA prepares to unveil its new schedule of forthcoming events, I would like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge one and all for your tremendous efforts in supporting and strengthening our association throughout the year.

This year we have witnessed a significant increase in the number of GIA members (a staggering 54% increase on last year's figure). I attribute this to the dedication and hard work of the committee which, with your support, voluntarily undertakes to organise the widest possible choice of events in order to develop a vibrant and successful GIA. Our most notable event this year was our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration which, through your generosity, raised CHF 7,000 for the International Red Cross Masambo Fund. So well done everyone ...!

Although I am retiring as President of the GIA for career reasons, I will continue as a member and attend as many events as possible. I am both happy and proud in the fact that there remains an excellent committee to further develop, guide and serve the members of the GIA. Presidents do not function in the absence of a committee and I was honoured to work (on your behalf) with this committee during my term as President of the GIA.

In closing I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for your enthusiastic support throughout the year, and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the forthcoming AGM on 27 April.

Best wishes

Brian Wall

## ***Bacchus meets the GIA – Caves Ouvertes – 20 May!***

Since last year's fun-filled jaunt to the Geneva countryside on the occasion of the caves ouvertes 2005, we have decided to organise yet another such trip this year. The day itself is the official launch date of the « nouveau millésime » and is a must for all wine lovers in the region who each year take great pleasure in visiting the caves, chatting with the producers, tasting and, of course, buying their favourite tipples. Many of the caves not only open for tasting but also provide music, dance and food which compliment the high spirits of participants.

As last year, we are organising a bus to take the interested wine lovers to a select number of caves in the area such as: in **Satigny** - the Domaine du Paradis for their Pont des Soupirs Rouge (blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Gamaret) and Sauvignon Blanc; in **Russin** - the Domaine des Molards which last year boasted a very popular Merlot, Rosé and Merlot Blanc; and in **Dardagny** - the Clos de Pins for their Muscat, and the Domaine de Centaure for their Nom de Zeus Merlot).

The bus collection point will be Charly o'Neill's Irish pub at 11h30 *sharp* and will return to the same point at 18h00. Places will be limited so book your seat early in order to avoid disappointment. Price is CHF 30 (non members) and CHF 25 for members. Seats **must** be reserved and paid for in advance. Once you have contacted us and booked your seat you can make payment by either paying directly into our post office account (over the counter or via ebanking). The account holder's name is "The Geneva Irish Association, 1200 Geneve" and the account no. is "12-10220-4". Or you can pay and collect your ticket at the same time on Wednesday 10 May in Charly o'Neill's pub as of 18h30. For further information and to book your seat call 079 753 85 54 or email [geneva.irish@ireland.com](mailto:geneva.irish@ireland.com).

## ***St. Patrick's Day Celebration!***

You could have cut the atmosphere with a knife at the La Broche restaurant at 6.30pm on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March, where a large crowd had arrived (in advance of the GIA St. Patrick's Day celebration) to watch Ireland take on the 'ould enemy' England at Twickenham with a chance to win the Triple Crown. After 80 gruelling minutes Ireland won and it set the tone for an enjoyable and lively evening.

The GIA was honoured to be joined for the evening by H.E. Mr. Joe Lynch, Irish Ambassador to Switzerland, and his wife Irene. The music was provided by the excellent Bofield Ceili Band who had travelled all the way from Bonniclon in Co. Mayo to play a few gigs in Geneva over the St. Patrick's festival.

The restaurant was an ideal setting, small and comfortable with a nice ambiance and with some 120 Irish revellers there was a great atmosphere about the place. The rugby enthusiasts sat and drank and discussed important issues such as 'who made the break for the last Irish try?' while the more energetic were up dancing the Siege of Ennis and many more Irish set dances.

Overall it was a most enjoyable evening and it did not finish up until the wee hours. Many thanks to all who supported the night. We hope we will see you all again at our St. Patrick's Night 2007.

## ***Speed Dating!***

Cupid's arrow struck a total of 14 times at the La Romana function room on 16 February for the first ever GIA-organised speed dating event. A great night was had by all and the passion punch and pizza went down a treat at half-time giving people a chance to get their vocal chords back in shape for round two. The romantic atmosphere was heightened by candle light and dreamy music which played behind the babble of conversation that flowed from the speeding tables. Our end-of-evening raffle allowed the men to show their chivalry by one of them donating his raffle prize to one of the ladies and another gent popping open his raffle prize (bottle of champagne) to round the evening off. At 23h00 the organisers left the last speeders happily getting to know each other a little bit better!

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## ***GIA Book Club!***

The GIA book club has already met three times (venue: the Pessoa, Café Littéraire, 5 R.J.Dassier, 1201 Geneva (tel: 022 340 22 85).

Membership is open to all GIA members and their friends. The philosophy of the book club is to be open-minded; books on all subjects, by authors of all nationalities will be added to our reading list and selected democratically. Selection will be made up to three months in advance so that people have plenty of time to find and read titles. In order to keep the book list fresh, titles will be removed after five or six months if they have not been selected, and new ones will be added constantly.

For those of you who are not familiar with the idea of a book club it is simply a meeting to discuss the selected title for the evening. People give their views about what they liked or disliked about a book, what struck them most, what they didn't understand, etc. What is most fascinating about this is the range of reactions to books.

Joining the book club will expose you to books you might not otherwise come across, as well as introduce you to new people. If you would like to join or attend the next meeting, please email Ruth Creamer at: [r.creamer@ibe.unesco.org](mailto:r.creamer@ibe.unesco.org) or call 022 917 78 57.

## ***Winter Poker Classics!***

Further to our very successful 'Craic Night' Poker Classic, the GIA organised three Poker Classics in Charly O'Neill's Pub on the last Sundays of January, February and March. The classics were well supported and the atmosphere at the events was very relaxed and enjoyable. It is what one could call 'friendly' cards although the finals tended to be quite competitive.

Once again the players paid a 'one off' entry fee to play. The format of the Poker was five card draw and players played with poker chips. The player at each table with the highest value in chips went on to play a final and ultimately the players who came first, second and third won prize money.

We would again stress that all you can lose in these games is your entrance fee. You are not gambling for money, you are playing with chips of denominated values and it is the players with the highest value in chips who win the prize money. The prize money constitutes 90% of the entrance fees, so the more who play the higher the prizes.

We will run another Poker Classic when the Craic Nights resume in October and we hope to play to the Texas Holdem format. If you enjoy playing cards in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, this night is for you.

Watch this space for more info!!

## ***Children's Easter Egg Hunt – CANCELLED!***

To all the children out there - Easter Bunny is a little bit sad that there weren't enough little kiddies to have his Easter Egg Hunt - and unfortunately, the Committee has had to cancel it, at least for this year. But, there'll be lots of fun for children at our Annual Picnic on 2 July, so get your Mummies and Daddys to note this in their diaries and we look forward to seeing you then.



### ***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](mailto: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.