

Cumann Gaelach na Ginéimhe
Geneva Irish Association

Association Irlandaise de Genève

Nuachtlitir / Newsletter

August – September 2006



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GIA website ... nearly there!

Our new revamped website is progressing very well and will be up and running in the next month or so. Watch this space for details of its launch. The website will be clear, simple and easy to use and navigate through. Information on the website will include past newsletters, summary articles on past events, photo gallery, calendar of upcoming events, details on GIA membership, etc. In addition it will feature some links to items of general interest both in Ireland and Geneva.

A new area will exist for local advertisements and the Committee has agreed that any income generated from this will be used to maintain the website. Any GIA members who wish to advertise their services or products on the website should contact geneva.irish@ireland.com. Since the GIA committee welcomes feedback at all times on any issues, we would particularly welcome suggestions as to what you would like to see on the new website.

Ireland vs. Switzerland in basketball!

Ireland will play Switzerland on Sunday **3 September** in the European Basketball Championship. It bounces off at 17h00 at the Champel Stadium. Tickets can be bought at the door or online. Price: CHF 20-35 adults, CHF 10 students over 16 yrs and entry free for those under 16 yrs. For more info log into: http://www.tdg.ch/tghome/club_tg/club_tg_loisirs/concours_pour_le_s/basketball.html or <http://www.swissbasketball.ch/news/index.php>

Upcoming Events:

- **Book Club – 5 September**
Café Littéraire
- **Fêtes des Vendanges - 16 September**
Russin
- **Poker Classic – 5 October**
La Romana Italian restaurant
- **Golf Outing – 7 October**
St. Jean de Gonville golf club
- **Halloween – 31 October**
Paddy’s Irish Pub, Ferney
- **Bingo – 2 November**
La Romana Italian restaurant

Summer time...



... may still be with us but, for most, the holidays are nearing an end. We do hope you’ve all had a wonderful time with your families and friends; and have taken some time out to spoil yourselves and recharge your batteries for the many events we have been planning for the months ahead! We hope to see you all soon.





Next gathering of the Book Club – 5 September!

The next meeting of the GIA Book Club will take place on **Tuesday, 5 September** at 19h00 at the Pessoa, Café Littéraire, 5 rue J. Dasser, 1201 Geneva.

For this meeting we are reading *The Master* - Colm Toibin's book about Henry James. Anyone who would like to join us is very welcome.

The October meeting will take place at the same time and place on **Wednesday, 4 October**. The book we have selected for that meeting is: *Life and times of Michael K* by J.M. Coetzee.

Book clubs are a great way of being introduced to books one might not ordinarily come across. They help to broaden the field of choice and offer a fun evening to boot. For more information please contact Ruth Creamer: email: ruthcreamer@hotmail.com, tel: 022 917 78 57.

Speaking of books

Tom Phelan's book, *The Canal Bridge*, offers an accessible description of the horrors of the Great War. It is the story of two young Irish men who join the British army in 1913 and spend the war rescuing the injured from the hellish trenches. The story unfolds through the accounts of the main characters that represent different aspects of society at the time: the catholic peasantry, the protestant gentry and the nationalists. Chapter by chapter a picture of the politics and of the period emerges, interwoven with a love story that contrasts boldly with the backdrop of the bloody war.

Phelan, Tom. *The Canal Bridge*. Dublin: The Lilliput Press, 2005. ISBN:1843510750



Fêtes des Vendanges - 16 September!

With the back-breaking grape picking over, the grapes crushed and the produce bottled, this lively wine harvest festival takes place annually in Russin providing plenty of opportunity for tasting, dancing and musical fun. The festival was born in 1963 and is now so popular that almost half the population of Russin participates. Winegrowers from the Geneva region bring their produce to be tasted and with some 150 wines to try - including locally-grown white wine Chasselas and an AOC Gamay (the grape which makes up the famed Beaujolais) from Russin - there is plenty of *dégustation* to be enjoyed. Made from the juice of the first pressing, Must is specially prepared on Saturday morning so it is in tip-top condition for the event. This drink, though adored by locals, is an acquired taste. Throughout the festival the whole village is animated with guggenmusik, tasting of the local fruit tarts, Must, local wines, fondue/raclette tents, tartiflette stalls and fairground attractions.

So, if you don't have very much to do the weekend of **16/17 September**, then may we propose that you take a jaunt out in the direction of Russin and see what there is to offer – we are sure you will find something to amuse you.

For fans of the **Kirby Bivans Band**, he will be playing the evening of 16 September at the Domaine des Molards.

Poker Classic – 5 October!



Due to popular demand, Poker is the theme of our first Craic night on **Thursday, 5 October** kicking off at 19h30 in the private function room of the La Romana Italian Restaurant, 37 rue de Vermont. Price to enter and play is CHF 15 for members and CHF 20 for non-members. Reservations are a must so in order to secure your place contact Eamonn on 079 278 48 51.

Our Poker Classics are what one could call ‘friendly’ cards. Players pay a ‘one-off’ entry fee to play. The format of the Poker is a five card draw and players play with poker chips. The player at each table with the highest value in chips at the end of a designated period of time goes on to play a final - ultimately those skilled players who came first, second and third win the prize money.

We would again like to stress that all you can lose by playing 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 prize money.

New Ambassador of Ireland to the UN in Geneva!

The GIA would like to formally welcome to Geneva, Ireland's new Ambassador to the United Nations and the WTO, Mr. Paul Kavanagh and his wife Rosemary. We hope they enjoy their time in Geneva and we look forward to meeting them at some of our future events.

Thinking about learning to play the tin whistle?

If interested in learning to play the tin whistle then take a look at an exciting new website developed for teaching the Irish tin whistle. It is called www.tinwhistelonline or www.feadogonline.

James Donohoe (the creator) has worked as an Irish music teacher for the last 15 years and has used his experience in developing the site. It contains all the elements of a live music class – video clips, audio clips, sheet music, backing tracks, online crossword and much more. It will be officially launched at the end of August and as a special offer, James is sending a free “Feadog” Irish made tin whistle to all new students during the months of August and September. His aim is to make the wonderful gift of music available to interested students, regardless of location. To date, feadogonline has been an enormous success, winning the National Digital Media awards, T.V. coverage and is supported by the Arts Council of Ireland.

For more information, log into the websites above or call James on + 353 86 337 13 60 or email james@feadogonline.com

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.

Golf Outing – 7 October!

The GIA annual Golf Outing will tee-off at St. Jean de Gonville on **Saturday, 7 October**. Please refer to the below flyer for full information. We would stress that places are limited – both options for the day (i.e. lunch & golf **or** just lunch alone) must be reserved in advance. So for those budding Tiger Woods or Nick Faldos out there, please reserve early to avoid disappointment.

Cumann Gaelach na Ginéimhe
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GIA Annual Golf Outing

Saturday, 7 October 2006 at
the St. Jean de Gonville Golf Club
Tee Times from 8.00am to 10.00am

Golf & lunch: 65 Euro (<i>GIA members</i>) 75 Euro (<i>non-GIA members</i>)		Places are limited. Time sheet opens on 4 September 2006 Reservations: 022-7574866 or 079-2784851 sbrowne@bluewin.ch or ehlaire@bluewin.ch
Lunch only: 25 Euro (<i>GIA members</i>) 30 Euro (<i>non-GIA members</i>)		

 **NB: Please bring exact money in Euro on the day** 

Halloween – 31 October!

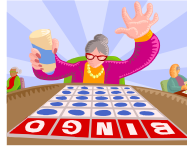


It is with great delight we can announce that Paddy's Irish Pub in Ferney-Voltaire will be hosting a Halloween fancy dress party on **Tuesday, 31 October** - with prizes galore for best attempts!

Whilst David and the team will be busy manning the bar with frightening enthusiasm, and Chef cooking up a storm in the kitchen, your GIA committee will be there in force recruiting new members, outlining our calendar of events for the year, providing membership and web info, answering any questions you may have and listening to your suggestions.

Live music is promised and a great party atmosphere. So mark that date in your calendar and we'll be seeing you there!

Bingo – 2 November!



Do you want a hint as to what our November Craic Night is going to be? How about - it's the one little duck the number two. Or it's the top of the house ninety! Or two fat ladies eighty-eight! Yes. We are organising a **BINGO** evening on **Thursday, 2 November** in the private function room of the la Romana Italian restaurant. There will be prizes for all kinds of combinations of numbers – 5 in a panel, a line and a full panel. Doors open at 19h30 and the entrance to play is CHF 15 for non members and CHF 10 for members. To reserve your seat email geneva.irish@ireland.com or call 022 739 8454

We need YOU ...!

Your suggestions, ideas, views, wishes for future events and your feedback on past events are invaluable in keeping your Association alive and kicking. We strive towards meeting your needs and make every effort possible so that you enjoy the events we organise and whet the appetite for the next time round. So, please do not hesitate to contact us - any committee member, or send an email to geneva.irish@ireland.com – we would love to hear from you.

Celtic Cup!

By Barry Ardiff

Missed trains, late injuries and an early morning international rugby match in New Zealand contrived to reduce the turnout for the first of the 2006 Celtic Cup clashes between the Geneva Irish XI and Geneva Scottish Football Club. Nevertheless, 12 willing, if not all able, players made it to Vessy on a bright morning on 10 June.

Geneva Irish were defending the trophy once again, but a strong Scottish team were determined to get the cup back having lost out for the last couple of games. Our own Brian Tisdall refereed the game which was played in a good spirit with his yellow card remaining firmly in his pocket.

Clarence Makori's magnificent volley struck from just outside the box low and beyond the reach of the Scots 'keeper Bob White, brought the Irish level with about 15 minutes to go and was well deserved following a close game and plenty of Irish pressure. Earlier, midway through the first half, the Scots had broken though and scrambled the ball home from inside the 6 yard box.

The Irish, in unfamiliar yellow, held on and continued to press through the second half. Regular club mates Tom Klein for the Irish and Ally Bainton for the Scots battled it out in midfield, with Eoghan O'Sullivan ably assisting in the middle of the park, but the Irish couldn't get through the solid Scottish defense. Both teams created good chances with Irish newcomer Brian Lynch adding some youthful running all over the pitch and with solid defending from Tony Gallery and Rodney Harrington at the back, the game ended at 1-1.

Bloomsday Lunch!

Just as Joyce immortalized Dublin with Ulysses, now every 16 June in Geneva the GIA 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.

This year marked the GIA's 4th 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 Guinness beef stew. Suffice it to say that, whilst the Chef was back-stage cooking, Eamonn Laird - the GIA's President - presided over a group of 30 midday revellers. The producer and compere for the day was Brian Tisdall who introduced and coordinated a long line of literary luminaries beautifully performed by members of the audience. So, we take this opportunity to thank Brian wholeheartedly for his help and enthusiasm; and look forward to working with him again next year on the 5th such event!!

Small Ads!

The GIA is introducing a small ads section to the bi-monthly newsletter and website which will serve as a vehicle for **local businesses and/or those with an Irish connection** to promote themselves and reach a wider audience. There will be a nominal fee for availing of these two facilities as follows:

1 newsletter and 2 mths on web: CHF 50

3 newsletters and 6 mths on web: CHF 130

6 newsletters and 1 year on web: CHF 250

As space is limited in the newsletter, the ads will be restricted to a frame approximately the size of that which is demonstrated on the right. On the website, however, we can be more flexible.

For further information and details on how to advertise with us, please contact the GIA by sending an email to geneva.irish@ireland.com. Or call 022-736 43 36.

The Geneva Irish Association
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Geneva's focal point for all Irish people
and their friends!



Come and join in with the craic at some
of our regular events!

Contact:
geneva.irish@ireland.com
www.gia.com

In deepest sympathy ...

The Geneva Irish Association would like to extend a word of sympathy to its President, Eamonn Laird, on the passing away of his father, Robert, on Monday, 21 August, 2006, at St. Mary's Hospital, Phoenix Park. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family during this difficult time.

Summer BBQ!

by Dee Windsor

What better way to spend a Sunday afternoon than with the 3 “S”s – Sun, a chilled Sauvignon and Sizzling Sausages.* The GIA annual summer BBQ was held on what was - without doubt - the hottest afternoons to date this summer. Fortunately, it was the massive oaks that bordered the Parc du Jonc which provided ample shade and respite from the searing summer rays. And it was in this shade that fellow BBQ lovers could sit back, eat their fill, natter with friends and generally chill out over a tippie or two. A great opportunity to meet up with people you hadn’t seen for a while and watch the kids go wild.

Alberto and Kirsty ably abetted by Mike took to “Hell’s Kitchen” - and if either said they never wanted to see another merguez or chicken leg again we don’t think anyone could blame them – so, many thanks to them for taking on the roles of Chef and Sous Chef - and not burning anything (not even themselves)!!

As the afternoon wore on and recipes for all kinds of salads were swopped – not to mention the bellies getting more swollen - those with an extra bit of energy took part in some light games. Congratulations to Eamonn & Rory for winning the three legged race and Mary Sheahy for winning the spud & spoon. For those who preferred less stressing activity in the heat, there was putting with numerous people winning spot prizes for their putts. This event was renamed the “Pied Piper” as it attracted just about every other child, and some Dads, in the park who even formed an orderly queue to have a go. But the most competitive event must certainly have been the Petanque, featuring Mr. President himself, ably abetted by Mr. Keating on one side and father-and-son Schenker team on the other. Laird/Keating team won the first game (best of 7) very admirably, but the Schenker Swirish team were having none of it and went on to slaughter them in a second game.

By the time the sun started to set and the park was taking on an amber hue, it was time for those left still snoozing to rouse, pack up and make the journey home having had a most enjoyable day.

* The GIA would like to extend a special word of thanks to Jim Anderson of Jim’s British minimarket in St. Genis for contributing the delicious sausages.

GIA membership!

The GIA Committee would like to take this opportunity to say GO RAIBH MAITH AGAT to those of you who have paid the 2006/2007 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”. You can also pay via ebanking into the same mentioned post office account. Remember to include your full name and address so we can contact you personally to say thank you.



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Information Notices for Irish citizens – 14 July, 2006

1. Requirements for Irish Passport Holders entering the United States

The Embassy of Ireland, Berne would like to inform Irish passport holders intending to travel to the United States that they must present a Machine Readable Passport to avail of the U.S. Visa Waiver Programme. (The U.S. Visa Waiver Programme allows passport holders from 27 countries, including Ireland, to enter the U.S. without a visa for travel or business purposes for a maximum period of 90 days).

A Machine Readable Passport is a passport in which the holder's details have been printed on the data- and photo-page. A passport where the holder's details have been handwritten is not a machine readable passport.

Irish citizens in Switzerland should be aware that, since July, 2005, **all** passports issued through this Embassy are Machine Readable Passports.

Children, including infants, who are endorsed on a parent's passport must have an individual machine readable passport to avail of the US waiver programme or else obtain a US visa in the parent's passport.

2. E-Passports

Irish e-passports, containing biometric data, are scheduled to be introduced from mid-October, 2006. The new e-passport will be the same as the normal passport, but with the addition of a small integrated circuit, ie a computer chip, embedded in the data- and photo-page. The e-passport is to ensure that Ireland complies fully with a US requirement that, from 26 October, 2006, countries participating in the Visa Waiver Program have moved to the production of biometric passports.

It should, however, be emphasised that existing machine readable passports, i.e. without chips, issued before 26 October, 2006, will continue to be acceptable under the US Visa Waiver Program for the full extent of their validity period.

3. Extension of Centenarian Bounty Scheme

The Embassy of Ireland is pleased to announce the approval by the Government of Ireland of the extension of the Centenarian Bounty Scheme, i.e. the scheme under which the President awards a gift of €2,500 to people when they reach 100 years of age.

Until now, eligibility under the scheme was limited to centenarians resident in Ireland. Under the extended scheme, however, **all Irish citizens born on the island of Ireland** are eligible to receive the President's gift, **wherever they may currently reside**.

Announcing the decision, An Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern TD said: "*While we now enjoy a flourishing economy and have become a country of immigration rather than emigration, history shows that many thousands of our people had to leave Ireland out of economic necessity. Many built remarkable lives for themselves abroad and contributed substantially to their adopted countries. We see huge evidence of this to this day with people of Irish ancestry to the fore worldwide in all walks of life. Many of these people continued to support families back home and it is well known that the families they had to leave behind relied on the envelopes that would arrive from overseas.*

My Government's decision that the Centenarians' Bounty should be extended equally to Irish people wherever they are in the world is a token of the regard this country has for those people, for what they did and for the sacrifices they had to make".

Any centenarians, or soon-to-be centenarians, resident in Switzerland or Liechtenstein, who believe they are or will be eligible, or their families on their behalf, are urged to make contact with this Embassy for further information about receiving the Centenarian Bounty.

4. New Embassy e-mail address

The Embassy wishes to inform Irish citizens that the Embassy's main e-mail address has recently changed. The new e-mail address is berneembassy@dfa.ie

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