

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

January – March 2007



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Upcoming Event:

St. Patrick’s Day celebration
Friday, 16 March, La Ramada
Hotel

Happy New Year!

We would like to wish all our GIA members and friends of Ireland a healthy and prosperous New Year. We hope you’ve all had a very pleasant festive season with your families and friends.

St Patrick’s Day



GIA Celebration

Friday, 16 March 2007

20h00 La Ramada Hotel

(ave. Louis Casai)



Price: CHF 95 (non-G.I.A. members) / **CHF 75** (G.I.A. members)
*NOTE: Beverages other than the welcome drink are **not** included in ticket price.*



St. Patrick's Day Celebration – 16 March!



This year, your GIA is organising its annual St. Patrick's day celebration at the La Ramada Hotel on Friday, 16 March - and we purposely chose Friday over Saturday because we know that all those Ireland rugby fans will (hopefully) be busy celebrating Ireland's win over Italy at the Stadio Flaminio that evening!!

The night includes a welcome drink, 3-course dinner (see menu below) and traditional music performed by the one and only Liam Burns and his band "Na Fir Créaga" (if anyone was in Paddy's Pub in Ferney last year, then you know what talented musicians they are. The atmosphere in the marquee was electric with everyone up on their feet singing and dancing). They perform a wide range of music styles from the more traditional Irish pieces to folk to really absolutely anything. Something for everyone. Doors open as of 8 p.m. with dinner being served promptly at 8.30 p.m.

As many of you know, each year the GIA uses one of its larger events to support a worthy cause, and this year we have dedicated our St. Patrick's day event to support a very worthwhile local children's charity – the Hôpiclowns Association (www.hopiclowns.ch). The Hôpiclowns Association (a non-profitmaking association) provides organised entertainment and brings cheer to sick children in hospital. The clowns themselves are professionally trained for their work with children. At times they can also be called upon by medical staff to help put at ease or distract children whilst potentially uncomfortable or difficult treatment is being administered.

The price per ticket is Chf 75 for members and Chf 95* for non members. Reservations are essential. So in order not to be disappointed contact any of the following and provide the name for whom the reservation is being made for: e-mail: geneva.irish@ireland.com or tel: 022-747 64 14 / 079-753 8554 / 079-303 74 60

For groups of 8 persons who reserve a table and pay for all tickets in advance, we are offering a 10% discount on the total amount due for the 8 tickets purchased. For further information, contact the GIA.

We would like to encourage people to pay for the tickets in advance as this means not having to handle large sums of money on the night. Once your reservation has been confirmed you can effect payment into our **post office account** as follows: The Geneva Irish Association, 1200 Geneve, a/c 12-10220-4.

If paying over the counter at the post office, please make sure that you indicate on the bulletin de versement precisely the name(s) of the ticket holder(s) e.g. if paying for one ticket only: Mary Malone 1 x 75, or if paying for several tickets at the same time: Joe & Jan Smith 2 x 95 + Mike Walsh 1 x 75 etc. The same applies if paying via ebanking - include the same information in the remarks or comments area for the beneficiary. Remember, our account is a post office account so if paying with e-banking, you should use the "CCP rouge/pink" option.

☘ MENU ☘

Terrine au saumon et feta

☘☘

Supreme de pintade aux girolles

Gratin Dauphinois

Bouquetiere de legumes

☘☘

Pyramide à la mandarine et chocolat

*Should you wish to become a member of the GIA for the 2007-2008 year and pay your membership fee in advance of the event, then you will benefit from the cheaper ticket price.



Next gathering of the Book Club – 7 March !



The monthly book club will continue with a meeting at the Café Pessoa, 5 rue Jean-Dassier, on Wednesday 7 March at 19h00. The choice for this meeting is *Plato, not Prozac* by Lou Marinoff.

We look forward to seeing you there!

GIA Website !

The GIA is proud to announce that its revamped website is now available on-line at www.genevairishassociation.com. It contains general information on the GIA and membership, plus upcoming and past GIA organised events. It also has an area called Local Information that contains links to Geneva-specific transport information, tourist resources, theater, cinema, etc. Under Local Information – General, you will find links to the Geneva Welcome Center and Geneva Online which are extremely useful for those who have just arrived in Geneva and trying to find their feet. There is also a small area dedicated to Ireland Links (e.g. Dublin Airport, Eircom, Dublin Tourism, Ticketmaster in Ireland (if you want to plan to see something when in Ireland), getting married in Ireland, etc.

Naturally we welcome any suggestions you may have as concerns the site – good and bad - and also if you come across some technical problems. Please feel free to contact us. We consider the site as a work in progress and still under development; and we hope that, with your assistance, to be able to continuously update and improve it to meet your needs. So go and bookmark it now!!

Geneva Irish Dancing Club !

Due to popular demand, the Irish dancing classes with Angela Jeangros are set to resume. They will take place every second Tuesday (starting on 6 February) at the Salle Communale de Genthod. So, if getting to grips with ceili dancing, set dancing or line dancing is your new year's resolution, then contact Angela on 022 361 86 42 for further information and times.



Congratulations !

The GIA would like to extend a word of congratulations to GIA member Anne Marie Kerrigan-Deriché and her husband Kamel on the birth of their baby daughter Melissa recently!

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.

Is there a role for the Geneva Irish Association in modern Geneva? If there is, what is that role?

The GIA organised a workshop on the above topic on Monday 29 January where 40 people participated. We conducted a root and branch analysis of the objectives of the association, membership, target audience, activities, forms of communication and feedback. The workshop was preceded by a short presentation comparing the facilities for the Geneva Irish residents when the Association was first established 32 years ago and today in 2007. Discussions were structured and focussed and there was very active and enthusiastic participation by all of the focus groups. The committee is still analysing the results and we will issue our assessment in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, we would like to say a big thank you to all who participated. It was very gratifying to see the level of interest there still is in the association. The good news is that the first decision of the night was to confirm that ‘there is a role for the Geneva Irish Association in modern Geneva’.

Farewell !

We sadly say Goodbye to our treasurer, Damian Downes, who has been on the Committee only since April 2006. He, his wife Fiona and 3 beautiful little daughters are heading back to Dublin to further their respective careers. We wish them all the very best and we would like to say “thank you Damian” for your much-appreciated contribution to the GIA.

Would you like to join the GIA Committee in 2007 ?

As the 2006/07 committee year draws to a close and the AGM looms on the horizon, we need to start thinking about forming the next committee for 2007/08. Should any of our members or friends of Ireland out there think that they would like to stand for nomination, and get more involved in the running of the committee and organising events, then please make yourselves known. We would be most happy to speak with you and answer any questions you may have. Alternatively, should you simply have some suggestions to put forward to the incoming committee for the year ahead, we would equally be glad to hear from you.

Mighty Munster – 14 January !

By Sarah Browne

Oh how the mouse roared... We expected a rout by Munster, but finally won with three measly points to spare. Words were muttered, hearts were fluttering but it was all right on the night! In the Rugby world, Geneva has never seen the likes of it before – yours truly was seen three nights in a row (yes, three!!) in the Mr. Pickwicks pub with at least 2,500 of the 3,000 Munster supporters; and I was in full voice (only to be replaced by Ms. Schenker when I could do no more)! The craic was only ninety – we met folk from all over the Southern hemisphere of Ireland (good strong Kerry, Limerick and Cork accents to be heard all around) and gallons of beer and good humour to be enjoyed. When I went back on Tuesday to the Lord Jim Pub to recover my coat (blame the warm weather on Sunday) the staff said they had never seen the likes – “gentil comme tous”, also the refrain from the Hotel across the road.

When the day of the great match finally arrived, a gang of us got things going at the wonderfully named O’Glorioso pub (opposite Le Stade de Genève at La Praille) in what could only be called “O’Glorioso” sunshine. The Portuguese food was quite something I can tell you, the beer thirst quenching and the music Irish. The excitement was palpable outside the Heineken tent as greetings were exchanged – the lads from Borgouin were doing battle with their drums against the roaring and lusty Irish voices (note to oneself - must learn the words to “The Fields of Athenry” ...).

Our seats were in the front row, just behind the score line, and wouldn’t you know it – all the action was down the other end during the first half (except for one runaway try in front of our eyes) with superb scoring from the French team helped somewhat by mistakes from the other side. “Never mind” we said, “Munster will be all over them in the second half and all the scores will take place right in front of us. Halftime was spent making room for more beer and off we went again. WELL, the play was STILL down the other end – we couldn’t believe it and started to actively dislike the French crowing behind us! However Mr. O’Gara and friends did come through and we actually had the best view of two streakers – my photos were as blurred as I was!

We filed out of the stadium and into the Heineken tent – someone outside found a rugby ball and the match restarted between the two adversaries with the best will in the world – I talked to a local Swiss who couldn’t get over this fact and vowed to move to Ireland where the lovely Irish people were.

Back to the pubs - Mully’s, Charlie’s, Mr. Pickwicks and the Lord Jim – and thereafter I managed to squeeze in a much needed pizza before heading home pumped up with pleasure and making a pact to join the Munster Supporters Club immediately - if not sooner. The rugby was not “Mighty” on that particular day but we rugby-starved Irish (English, Scots, French, Welsh and even Swiss!) in Geneva had a grand weekend, and let’s do it again...soon!

PS. for those wanting a non-emotional sportsview of the match, please ask a man!

Christmas Carol-a-oke – 7 December !

by Clare Schenker

The mulled wine flowed; the mince pies (à la Madame Laird) were simply delicious; the Xmas tree sparkled and the candles glowed. Mr. John Roche was animateur supreme and got the place swinging to carols and other sing-a-alongs. The quality and level of participation was just great, and a most enjoyable night was had by all. Our thanks go to Mr. President for his organisation and to Orla Laird for having so generously supplied the mince pies.

Bingo Night – 2 November!

by Eamonn Laird

At our AGM in April 2006, we were asked if we would consider organising a Bingo night as one of our monthly Craic Nights. As your GIA committee aims to please, we duly set about organising the Bingo and it took place at the La Romana restaurant on 2 November.

There were about 30 participants of whom many, including yours truly, had never played before and were not sure what we were letting ourselves in for. We recruited Mike Browne as the Bingo Caller and he did a great job. He had been on the internet, downloaded and memorised all the relevant phrases to go with the numbers – ‘legs eleven’, ‘two fat ladies 88’ and his enthusiasm and banter certainly contributed to making it a very enjoyable and successful evening.

It was an extraordinary evening insofar as the Bingo numbers fall out randomly, the bingo cards are given out randomly yet each table seemed to get a run of winners at different stages and one or two tables won very little.

Having played for the evening I now understand why so many people almost become addicted to Bingo and play a number of times every week. It is a very sociable evening and there is a great buzz and air of excitement in the room while the games are being played. There is also a great sense of excitement when you are waiting for the last number to fill your card and get your chance to shout ‘BINGO’.

We played ten games with prizes for a full line and a full house and there were many winners on the night. Many thanks to Mike Browne for his expert calling and his good humour, and to Dee Windsor who organised the event to her usual high standards.

GIA membership!

For those who would like to become a member of the GIA, 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.