



Cumann Gaelach na Ginéimhe

Geneva Irish Association

Association Irlandaise de Genève

Newsletter: September/October 2007



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Summertime – was the livin' easy?

What summer? What happened to it? The sun going on holiday in summer; Swiss villages disappearing with the floods; Greek forests burning with the heat; Irish autumn in July; impromptu real live performances of a "Rain Dance"! Well - it's over! It's back to school and work, and wherever you were in sun, rain or storm, we hope you've had the pleasure of connecting with family, loved ones and friends and have recharged your batteries for the many events we've been planning for the months ahead. We're very much looking forward to seeing you all soon!



Upcoming Events

- **45th Fete des Vendanges**
15-16 September
Russin (GE)
- **GIA Book Club**
12 September
Da Vinci's Lounge, Geneva
- **GIA Annual Golf Outing**
29 September
St. Jean-de-Gonville GC

A September of Sport

There's a feast of fun for sports fans this September, with last Saturday's All-Ireland Hurling Final having opened the month all too predictably as Kilkenny cruised home against a valiant Limerick side. Sunday 16th September sees Cork take on Kerry in the first ever All Ireland Football Final featuring two sides from Munster. By that time we'll also have a better idea whether Ireland stand a chance of getting to Austria and Switzerland for the soccer European Championships next year. On Saturday 8th the Republic of Ireland face the Slovaks, followed by a tough fixture against the Czechs the following Wednesday. Northern Ireland, who seem to be doing better than their southern neighbours these days, face Latvia on Saturday and Iceland on Wednesday. And last, but definitely not least, the Rugby World Cup kicks off this weekend in France. Our hopes will be with Brian and the Boys as they try to finally realise their potential and give us something to cheer about in the knock-out stages. *Why not log-on to the Discussion Forums on the GIA website and try to get a gang together to watch any or all of these fixtures? Let's cheer them on together!*

Upcoming Events

Book Club

The GIA book club is as strong as ever. Following the summer break, a new season resumes in Da Vinci's (rue de Grenus, close to Manor department store) on **Wednesday 12 September at 7 p.m.** The book is : ***Pride and Prejudice*** by Jane Austin.

The October meeting will be in the same place, at the same time, on **Wednesday 10 October.** And for this one the book to be read is ***The Kite Runner*** by ***Khaled Hosseini*** (Riverhead Trade, 2005).

For more information call Ruth Creamer on 0033 608 43 65 45



Calling All Golfers!!!

Annual Golf Outing

St. Jean de Gonville Golf Club.

Saturday 29th September - Teeing off from 8.30am

This event is always a great day out and this year it should be the perfect warm-up for the following day's big rugby clash between Ireland and Argentina. Places are limited and the event is always a sell-out, so to avoid disappointment, please make sure that you reserve your place. You can book your spot on the timesheet by calling one of the numbers below as soon as possible.

Golf & Lunch: 60 Euro (GIA Members) or 70 Euro (Non-Members)

Lunch only: 25 Euro (GIA Members) or 30 Euro (Non-Members)

For more information on the course at [St. Jean de Gonville](http://www.golfgonville.com/) visit their website at <http://www.golfgonville.com/>.

Tee times have been reserved between 8.30am and 10.30am.

**Reserve your place from September 3rd by calling:
+41 (0) 22 784 3493 or +41 (0) 22 757 4866**



www.GenevalrishAssociation.com

Have you visited our website recently? During the summer months we added a new set of Discussion Forums that will hopefully, in time, become a lively and useful resource for the extended Irish community in Geneva. Registering will take only a few moments and you can feel free to post about whatever is on your mind... Even Kilkenny hurling fans are welcome!

Upcoming Events



Irish Music – Are you interested in getting involved?

If you're a musician or singer, or if you're simply interested in attending a session or two, the person to contact is Christina O'Shaughnessy (christina1@ireland.com). Sessions take place from time to time in various locations in Geneva and beyond.

Euro 2008 – Volunteers Needed

A chance to get involved in a local activity – via the Geneva Welcome Centre:

Dear friends from the International community in Geneva and in the canton of Vaud,

The UEFA and the organisers of the host city Geneva for EURO 2008 are looking for **400 volunteers** to help them to welcome the thousands of visitors who will come to Geneva in June 2008 to follow one of the football game which will take place in our city.

The State of Geneva, wishing to involve the international community in this great and unique event, has asked the Geneva Welcome Centre to send this information to you.

For further information, please contact: www.geneva.ch/euro2008, or telephone; 022/327 3759.

Rang Oíche Gaeilge

A note from Paddy Tracey

"Again let me thank all who have signed up for Irish language classes and especially thanks for your patience. A separate mailing list has been created and I shall forward full details by mid-September when I return to the city and expect to have the final confirmation of the venue. Start date remains Monday 1st October .

I am also delighted to report that our Irish speaking numbers in the city continue to grow and I look forward to the participation of guest speakers. We shall also be forging ahead with the Ciorcal Comhrá Gaeilge – the discussion group formed last year – more details later. I did attend 2 courses during the summer; one in Glencolumbkille Co. Donegal and another in Ballyferriter Co. Kerry and you will be able to find details on our Cois Locha discussion forum on the GIA website from October onwards.

Slán go fóillín."

Get your GIA Newsletter by Email!

The most efficient and environmentally friendly way for us to distribute this newsletter is by email. It's also cheaper, which means your membership fees can be used to fund more and better events. If you're not already receiving the newsletter by email and you do use email for other purposes, we'd appreciate it if you'd allow us to send this newsletter to by email. Simply send a message to geneva.irish@ireland.com and we'll add you to the list. Thank you!

GIA Barbecue – it lasted all summer long!

by Ruth Creamer

The GIA BBQ kicked off around midday on 15 July at Parc du Jonc with delicious daintily devilled Irish sausages and an aperitif served by President Eamonn Laird and his good wife, Orla.

We were very lucky with the weather, in some cases too lucky as the sunshine at 34 degrees was reflected in the reddish skin tones of the great un-lotioned!

A big THANK YOU to Albert Zanartu and Jim Fulton, not to mention Kirsty who took on the hard work of cooking the food for the afternoon in torrid conditions. They did a marvellous job – well done!

The crowd of about 70 people mingled, ate, drank, chatted and even sang all afternoon in a party atmosphere. The ages varied from 'retired +' to very young children and everyone seemed to be relaxed and enjoying themselves. There were plenty of newcomers too.

The blistering sunshine did nothing to curb the competitive spirit of the crowd when the games began. The O'Grady children, just arrived in Lausanne, made their journey worthwhile by winning prizes galore. Oisín McClean won a grand total of 5 prizes. Rory Schenker won the 'spud and spoon' race with great ease. The GIA committee members were not left out of the activities by any means: with Eoghan O'Sullivan and Nadine McCormick winning the three-legged race, and President Laird 'giving it all' in the touch rugby game (Brian O'Driscoll – eat your heart out).

The committee would like to thank all those who supported the BBQ and particularly those who helped out on the day. This year we had quite a few children attending and they seemed to really enjoy themselves, particularly the games!!

All in all a great day and if you missed BBQ 2007 put it in your diary to attend BBQ 2008.

***Wedding Bells***

September is a bumper month for GIA committee weddings. Our treasurer, John Roche marries Priya Nair in New Delhi on 12th September, closely followed by committee member Trevor Wade, who ties the knot in Dardigny with Jacqueline, who hails from the canton of Valais, on Saturday 15th September.

Our heartiest congratulations and best wishes to them!

Your Association Needs 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 to ensure that you enjoy the events we organise and whet the appetite for the next time round. If you have an idea for an event or activity and would like to organise it under the GIA banner, please contact our Events Coordinator, Clare Schenker at Geneva.irish@ireland.com, or telephone 079 303 7460.