

Irish in Britain

Annual Report 2015 / 2016





Irish in Britain



Haringey Irish Centre
Pretoria Road
London N17 8DX

✉ info@irishinbritain.org
 🐦 [@irishinbritain](https://twitter.com/irishinbritain)
 📌 [/irishinbritain](https://www.facebook.com/irishinbritain)

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Our work is made possible through the continued support of our funders to whom we are extremely grateful.

Our primary funder continues to be the Irish Government, through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Emigrant Support Programme.



AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA AGUS TRÁDÁLA NA hÉIREANN
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OF IRELAND



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Message from Minister McHugh



Minister Joe McHugh T.D.
Minister of State for Diaspora Affairs
and International Development

2016 has been a momentous year for our nation. As Ireland's Minister for Diaspora Affairs and International Development, I am particularly proud of how Irish communities all over the world marked the 1916 commemorations. While it was an opportunity for us to share our culture and history widely, for me, its real and lasting impact is how it brought together and reenergised our communities overseas, and especially in Britain. I am delighted that the Department's Emigrant Support Programme was able to support many of the wonderful events throughout the year both at home and abroad.

Our work on implementing the Global Irish policy continues and I am delighted to host the second Global Irish Civic Forum on 2-3 February 2017. We have a shared goal and responsibility when we meet to shape the next stages of the policy's implementation for the coming years. I look forward to working closely with Irish in Britain to make the Forum a success for all of our Diaspora.

I want to take this opportunity also to thank all of you, the members of Irish in Britain, for your commitment and passion in the service of the Irish community. Your work in providing welfare services to the most vulnerable as well as promoting Irish culture and heritage is invaluable and has such a positive impact on so many lives. The Government's appreciation of your important work and our commitment to continued strong support for the Irish community worldwide has been underlined by the decision in Budget 2017 to maintain funding for the Emigrant Support Programme at 2016 levels. This decision would not have been possible without your efforts and success in supporting our people in Britain and as Minister for the Diaspora. I am honoured to play my part by assisting Irish in Britain and your member organisations. I look forward to continuing our strong partnership, a partnership that has taken on added importance as we face into challenging and uncertain times.





Chair / CEO Statement

To quote that famous Irish philosopher Aristotle: “The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.” At a time when the headlines and conversation seems dominated by exiting and breaking apart we must look to the strength and support each of us receives from being part of a shared community.

Whether in our workplaces, families, locally and internationally each of us is defined by our experience and interaction with others. We have no culture unless it is shared and celebrated with each other. It is this sharing of our Irish culture which brings us all together and sustains us, not only for ourselves but also for the betterment of others in our community. So much has been achieved, accomplished and celebrated by the Irish community in Britain, much more than any one of us could have achieved alone.

2016 was a momentous year for the Irish in Britain with events taking place across our community throughout the year with strong member participation. Over the past 100 years the work done by the Irish community in Britain has had an immeasurably positive influence on building the relationship between Britain and Ireland. We hope that continues.

The strength in unity and power of the Irish people working together has been known and recognised for centuries. Clear evidence of this knowledge being put into practice occurred in 1973 when people from our community came together to form the Federation of Irish Societies and today as Irish in Britain we continue to show what can be achieved together for the good of the community.

Each of us working in our own areas, volunteering, contributing to improve our community is ‘Irish in Britain’. Each of our member organisations is ‘Irish in Britain’ and together we will continue to celebrate each other, support each other and grow stronger together and we look to the future with a renewed sense of optimism of what we can achieve together.



Patrick Morrison, Chair



Peter Mc Nulty, CEO



Highlights for the Year



225 individual staff, volunteers and management committee members

have been trained to understand, communicate and engage Irish people living with dementia through our Cuimhne Memory Loss programme.



16 of our member organisations

now have specific dementia activities in place.



Community Action on Dementia

was initiated by Irish In Britain with the ambition of making the Borough of Brent Dementia friendly.



17,375 followers

on Twitter and Facebook with reach up by 63% and post engagement up 681% on Facebook.



Funding of £228,000

was raised in collaboration with Supporting Locally for IiB Club forum and welfare members over the year.



A grant of £10,000

to London Irish LGBT was received through Irish in Britain support.



Funding of £99,000

for an 18-month Dementia Peer Support pilot project resulted from support for our member service Ashford Place.



Increased awareness

of memory loss within the Gypsy and Travelling community and highlighting their needs at a policy level.





Member Sustainability

Assisting our members to obtain funding to build sustainability has been a key factor of our work this year. Following on from an Income Generation Survey early in the year strong evidence of a need for support and training in the area of fundraising was highlighted which IIB are working to address.

The Irish in Britain team have supported members' applications to ESP, Big Lottery (Awards 4 All and Reaching Communities strand) The Peoples Health Trust, Arts Council, the Embassy 2016 fund, Heritage Lottery Fund and other trusts and foundations. We have assisted our members in various ways from writing bids to proof reading and editing, assisting with finding supporting evidence and writing letters of support to funders.

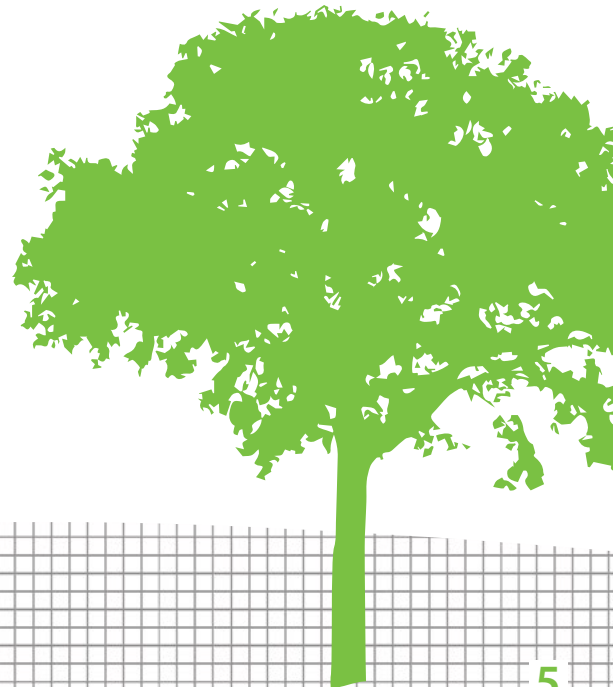
We have produced a comprehensive funding guide that was launched at the Clubs Forum meeting in the Embassy and is available to members. Relevant funding bodies, trusts and foundations are included with quick summaries of criteria and dates and hyperlinks to websites.

An example of our successful funding support is through IIB's Community Action on Dementia in the London Borough of Brent, Dr Mary Tilki and Charlotte Curran, Health Development Officer directly influenced Brent's Clinical Commissioning Group to fund a peer led project. Supported by Irish in Britain our member organisation Ashford Place won the bid for an 18-month Pilot project to the value of £99,000.

We are currently running a survey of our members 'Top 3 needs in sustainability' and will use this to inform our work with members in the coming year. Our AGM 2016 will also have a 'sustainability theme' where we hope to offer some insights into how our members are adapting and continuing to serve their local Irish communities in such harsh financial times.

“ I would like to offer my sincerest thanks to Charlotte Curran and Dr Mary Tilki who initiated the Community Action on Dementia Brent and their invite for me to Chair the strategic group. As an Irish in Britain member organisation we have benefitted from the Cuimhne Dementia training. We have now in place a dementia café for our local community and more recently have directly benefitted from their support in a bid to the Clinical Commissioning Group for a dementia peer support project. We are delighted to report that Ashford Place has secured £99,000 for an 18-month pilot project and we look forward to our continuing partnership in developing this programme.”

Danny Maher, CEO Ashford Place





Brexit

Supporting Our Members

In the lead-up to the EU Referendum we actively campaigned for members and the wider community to use their vote. This included written, online and social media communications.

Our campaign culminated in the event 'An Audience with Professor Mary McAleese' and her special guests, Joe McHugh T.D, Minister of State for Diaspora Affairs and International Development, Dan Mulhall, Ambassador of Ireland to Britain, Conor McGinn MP, which gave our members the opportunity to ask any questions they had.

The event was a huge success and we were delighted that the speakers stayed on to speak to members and take part in photo opportunities.

Irish in Britain will continue to work in the best interests of our community and support our members in adapting to the new landscape which will be taking shape before us over the coming weeks and months. We will work to ensure that the significant place our community has in Britain is not undermined or degraded in the future and continues to play a part in shaping the future.

Updated information can be found under the 'News and Brexit' tab on irishinbritain.org, which is accessible to all members.



Culture

1916 Memorabilia Collection Day

Irish in Britain, the Embassy, and Digital Recording Ireland collaborated on an event to capture and exhibit 1916 memorabilia currently in private ownership.

Staff and volunteers from Irish in Britain were on hand at the Embassy in March 2016 for a busy day as members of the public responded to the call and arrived with their personal objects to be recorded and digitised for posterity. Over 40 objects were brought in from 17 families or individuals throughout the U.K. It included letters, pamphlets, photographs, insignia and medals. These treasured personal mementoes will now reach a wider community and be a resource for future exhibitions and research via the Inspiring Ireland 1916 website:

www.inspiring-ireland.ie



The Embassy of Ireland invited Irish people living in Britain to visit and share personal objects and family stories related to 1916.

Irish Voices

Heritage Lottery funding enabled us to run an oral history project, documenting the journey of the London St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival over 5 decades. It includes the stories of those who organised, marched or watched, those who performed, protested, danced and celebrated. This project is now available online via the Irish Voices website:

<http://www.irishinbritain.org/irishvoices/>





Policy

Responding to member needs, we ran three Policy Advisory Forums, supported by the APPG, throughout the year. This was to address concerns raised by our members and as well as representation from Government Departments, we also invited member organisations to present their current work.

The Road Home

The aim of this forum was to discuss the impact that 'addiction' can have and looked at how individuals can access funding for alcohol and drug residential treatment through the Cross Border Directive.

Universal Credit

This forum looked at the introduction of Universal Credit and the effect it will have on how benefits and tax credits are paid in the future. This event will be repeated in the near future due to the huge expected impact on our welfare agencies and the clients they support.

Tackling Health Inequalities Among BAME Communities through Sport

The aim of this forum was to highlight cardiovascular disease and other diseases and how community services can help address it through sport.



Representation

Our Policy Officer took part in the extensive Office for National Statistics (ONS) Consultation on proposed topics for the 2021 Census in England and Wales.

Irish in Britain uses Census and other data to represent to the British and Irish governments areas of concern for Irish communities in Britain. We also make the data available to our members to make representation to, for example: Departments of State and statutory bodies in England, and a range of charitable trusts and funders.

Because of the way ethnicity data is collected and/or analysed, there is a lack of recent information about mortality and morbidity in the Irish community. Data collected on the Irish community continues to be aggregated into the overall 'White' category making our community invisible and despite many years of evidence of considerable health disadvantage the poor health of the Irish are repeatedly ignored. During this year liB have actively campaigned to have the health needs of the Irish recognised, and although this has been an ongoing campaign over many years with frustratingly few gains we feel we are in a much stronger position now because of the active support of the APPG on the Irish in Britain led by Conor McGinn MP.





Health

We have made representations to Public Health England, the Care Quality Commission, NHS Commissioning Board, The Race Equality Foundation and various JSNA authorities to advocate on behalf of the health needs of the Irish community in Britain. We have provided background information to member organisations making representations at local level.

A letter was written to Jeremy Hunt to raise concerns about the neglect of serious issues of health inequality of the Irish community in England stating that this neglect raises issues of equality and human rights and has the potential to impact on Equality Delivery Systems if not addressed at national level.

- We are working with the Haemochromatosis Society to draw attention to the high level of haemochromatosis in the Irish community.
- We have liaised with the Stroke Association to raise awareness of the high incidence of cardiovascular disease and stroke in the Irish community which are repeatedly neglected by researchers and policy makers.
- We have undertaken cancer awareness with member organisations and published a Better Health Briefing called 'Dementia and Cancer in the Irish Community in England' published by the Race Equality Foundation.

The Cuimhne Irish Memory Loss Strategy



The Cuimhne Irish Memory loss strategy was developed by Irish in Britain to meet the request of our member organisations to address their lack of knowledge relating to dementia and to further develop activities that are stimulating and engaging for people living with dementia.

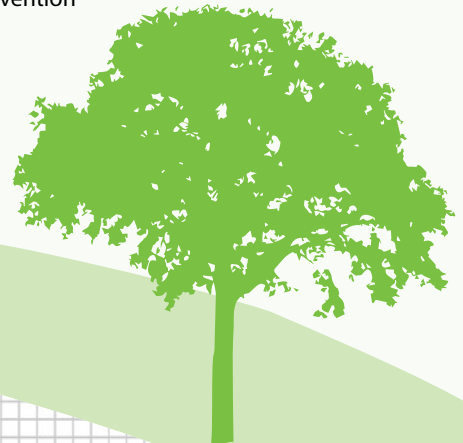
Healthy Eating for Healthy Memories Recipe Book & Film

Together with Innisfree, we worked with residents of a Sheltered Housing Scheme on a project to explore a range of foods and cooking techniques that encouraged a healthier approach to diet and lifestyle with an emphasis on food and nutrition that supports good brain health as we age. Cuimhne training and related publications invariably address the wider health issues affecting the Irish community as they have an impact on dementia.

Following our taste tests and explorations, we've developed 7 recipes that are nutritious, easy to follow and quick to make. The recipe book is available on our website to download

Suicide Prevention

Last year in partnership with icap, we met with several member organisations in order to begin a programme of working together to improve suicide prevention and awareness within the community.





Wellbeing

There is strong evidence that increased physical activity improves the wellbeing of people in general and older people in particular. For older people this can be delivered through community based exercise programmes, which can include mixed exercise, strength resistance, aerobic exercise and walking groups.

Irish in Britain has been working in partnership with our member services to create opportunities for older Irish to engage in a range of different activities

Walking Football

St. Finbarr's and Sky Blues Coventry have introduced Walking football for over 55s. They now run two sessions weekly and have a waiting list. Walking Football is simply a slow-paced version of soccer and is designed to help people have an active lifestyle regardless of their age and ability, learn new skills, have fun and socialise all at the same time. ○.....

The Shed

liB have worked with construction partners to bring about 'The Shed' a customer led initiative where retired construction men and women living in Clogher Court, Innisfree's sheltered housing scheme and people from the local community are developing activities including basket weaving, carpentry, upholstery and other activities. The ambition of this project is to demonstrate the importance of seeing our retired community as people with skills and value and given the right opportunities of interest will create spaces that are meaningful for them.



// I really look forward to coming each week and have made some nice friends."

Footballer, Coventry

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For more information visit https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/277593/What_works_to_improve_wellbeing.pdf





Member Partnerships

Midlands Partnership Group

// The creation of the Midlands Partnership has been a fantastic initiative led by Irish in Britain. From my perspective it has helped shape new and improved services that will be of great benefit to the community. The group is very focused on looking at more efficient use of resources and saving money which given the current climate is more important now than ever."

Maurice Malone, Birmingham Irish Association

// Working collaboratively with the Midlands Partnership has enabled me to gain a better perspective of how Irish community organisations are operating in the UK. It has increased my knowledge of the sector and sharing ideas and knowledge is enabling me to improve my management input at the Coventry Irish Society.

Simon McCarthy, Coventry Irish Society

Irish in Britain have provided support to member organisations through dedicated individual 1-1 support, telephone and email support and through group forums, training sessions and the sharing of relevant research and statistics. We have encouraged collaborative working, networking and co-operation between Irish organisations in Britain through partnerships to promote mutually beneficial support across different sectors and from different parts of Britain. With the future sustainability of our members at the forefront of our work we are delighted to have brokered and continue to support the following groups.

The Irish Support Partnership comprises of 7 welfare agency Chief Executives and liB that meet to share good practice, identify strategic priorities and offer the framework to support each other in their roles.

West Midlands Partnership

We've worked with our members in the West Midlands in the development of a new initiative aimed at promoting greater collaboration and mutual support. The group take it in turns to host meetings, so that other members have a chance to see their premises and services on offer. Each of the meetings also features a training event, and long-term plans will explore the opportunities to share back office services and supplies and joint initiatives.

Northern Collaboration

The Northern Collaboration is in the initial stages but we hope it will go on and replicate the success of the other partnerships.





Member Forums + Training

The Advice and Support Workers Forum continues to be a resource not only for specialist advice givers, but for smaller organisations where one or two staff deliver a range of services to the local community. The agenda is led by the participants and IIB participate and facilitate the meetings ensuring that the expertise or knowledge required by our members to run their services effectively is made available to them.

The Clubs Forum has been extremely active and successful during this year and has held a number of meetings throughout the country with an emphasis on building quality through firm foundations. The meetings have covered topics requested by members and have included; Governance, HR, Stock Management, Health & Safety, Fundraising and Marketing amongst others. We have built up several 'preferred partners' to work with the clubs and centres and this has generated some successful joint working and pro bono opportunities.

Training

The Cuimhne Irish Memory Project was further developed and 225 individual staff, volunteers and management committee members have been trained to understand, communicate and engage Irish people living with dementia.

Social media

The benefits to be gained by social media as a means of advertising, business and funding were highlighted to all when Tim Martin from Chorlton Irish Club gave a presentation to members on the many uses of social media and how it can be used to encourage a younger generation to interact with clubs.

Good governance

Charlie Cattell, an IIB preferred partner in constitution and governance, presented an overview to members of good governance and explained in detail the legal pitfalls of operating with out-of-date governance documents. Since the presentation 25% of our member clubs have updated their constitutions.

// I attended my 1st club's forum meeting at the Embassy this year and the content was pertinent in every respect and gave me a far better understanding of how we, as a committee, can avail ourselves of the expertise that is available in many differing aspects of being a committee member and the actual function of running a club. From that one meeting, I was able to arrange a talk for our Thursday club members on dementia awareness, obtained advice on how to use social media more effectively, received guidance and invaluable help in applying for a grant from the Big Lottery Fund for training in Compliance, HR and IT, and obtained employment/consultant contracts via John Gradwell.

Tom Burke, South London Irish Association





Research

liB regularly work on producing and sharing information that will be of benefit to our members and the wider Irish community. We are often contacted by students and universities for information and statistics on Irish issues and we respond where possible with relevant and up-to-date information. Our members have also used information and statistics provided by liB to inform and enhance funding applications.

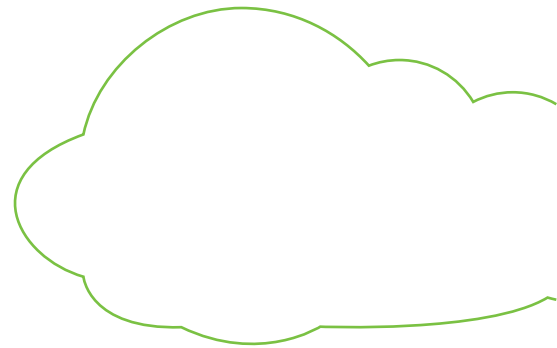
The **'Research Bibliography'** undergoes regular updates to include up-to-date social and academic research on the community and is available to our members and the wider community. Dr Mary Tilki has advised and supported several university students undertaking research on health issues in the Irish community at Masters and doctoral level.

RTE Research, RTÉ Long Wave Radio in Britain

Irish in Britain oversaw the research which was conducted by the Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC) at Middlesex University into the reach and value of RTÉ Radio 1 on Longwave among the Irish community in Britain. The research provided invaluable insights and we are part of the consultation group reviewing and discussing next steps.

Dementia Research

Dr Mary Tilki continues to raise awareness of the neglect of the Irish community by researchers and policy makers. Two co-authored articles highlighting dementia in Travelling communities were recently published in Journal of Dementia Care. Two organisations have been supported and advised about ethnographic and community research into dementia which has underpinned the funding of a dementia peer support service in London and community research into dementia in Leeds. We also contribute to national bodies focussing on dementia in Black and Minority Ethnic communities.





Year End Financial Statement

Where Our Money Comes From



£570
Tangible fixed assets



£21,657
Debtors



£427,860
Cash at bank & in hand



£170,766
Creditors: amount falling due within one year

TOTAL IN
£453,929



£353,532

STAFF COSTS

£116,737

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

£13,857

TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION

£13,897

GOVERNANCE

TOTAL OUT
£498,023

2014/15

Total funds at start of year

£323,355

Net Income £ (632)

2015/16

Total funds at start of year

£322,723

Net Income £ (44,094)




Vision

Our vision is a confident, healthy and empowered Irish community recognised and valued as part of an inclusive British Society.



Mission

Our mission is to be the representative voice providing leadership, campaigning and support to the Irish community in Britain.



**Irish
in Britain**

irishinbritain.org