

Irish in Britain

Annual Report 2013/2014



Dr Mary Tilki
Chair



Jennie Mc Shannon
CEO

Chair & CEO Statement

Welcome to our annual report for 2013-14. It was a busy and productive year for us. For most organisations, some years are about innovation and others are about consolidation. Over the course of 2013-14 we have done both. Along with our new and more inclusive name, we worked in close partnership with our members to establish a governance framework to keep them at the heart of our decision making process and enable us to extend our reach across the community. Moreover our new framework will ensure we are able to take the strategic decisions that we need to secure our relevance and viability for the future.

Concurrently we have focused on the sustainability of our membership and continued to successfully implement some of our key organisational and project strategies such as the Cuimhne memory loss strategy and our Ireland Inspires cultural strategy. Our daily work has continued to focus on building capacity of our members through joint projects, training and one to one support and disseminating relevant

policy and research. Additionally we brokered partnerships across and beyond the Irish sector in Britain, and raise awareness of the community with policy makers and influencers. Our members continue to provide meaningful activity to improve the lives of countless Irish in Britain and we are delighted to be able to support them.

We were awarded the PQASSO Quality Standard Award at Level 2 and are grateful to our staff for their hard work to achieve this.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2014-15

Huge challenges will continue to confront the voluntary and community sector. However, we will continue our efforts to ensure that our members are equipped with an understanding of the policy environment in which they are operating; able to share and learn best practice from within the membership and the wider sector; evidence the demand for their work through reports on an analysis of the census results; and provide guidance and training to support organisational development needs.

Minister for Diaspora Affairs, Jimmy Deenihan, T.D.

On behalf of the Government of Ireland, I am delighted to have this opportunity to express my support and gratitude to Irish in Britain and your member organisations for your support of our community in Britain over the past 12 months.

The Irish community in Britain is unique, both in terms of its size and diversity and the recent wave of immigration from Ireland has added yet another dynamic to our community. The Government is committed to engaging with all members of our community abroad and, as Ireland's first Minister for the Diaspora, I look forward to working closely with Irish in Britain and your members throughout the country to build on the strong, positive relationship that already exists with our community in Britain.

The Government is delighted to support Irish in Britain, through the Emigrant Support Programme, to continue your valuable work in providing capacity-building support to Irish community organisations throughout Britain to meet the changing needs of our community; to promote knowledge-sharing, networking and collaboration between Irish community organisations; and to highlight and promote the concerns and needs of the Irish community. It is testament to the importance the Government and people of Ireland attach to your work that we have been able to continue to support Irish in Britain and many of your member organisations, despite continuing budgetary pressures in Ireland. The Government remains committed to supporting the work of Irish organisations in



Britain, particularly those providing services to the elderly, vulnerable and marginalised members of our community.

I would like to congratulate the Board and staff of Irish in Britain and all of your members on your achievements during the past year and extend my best wishes to you all for the year ahead. I look forward to working with you.



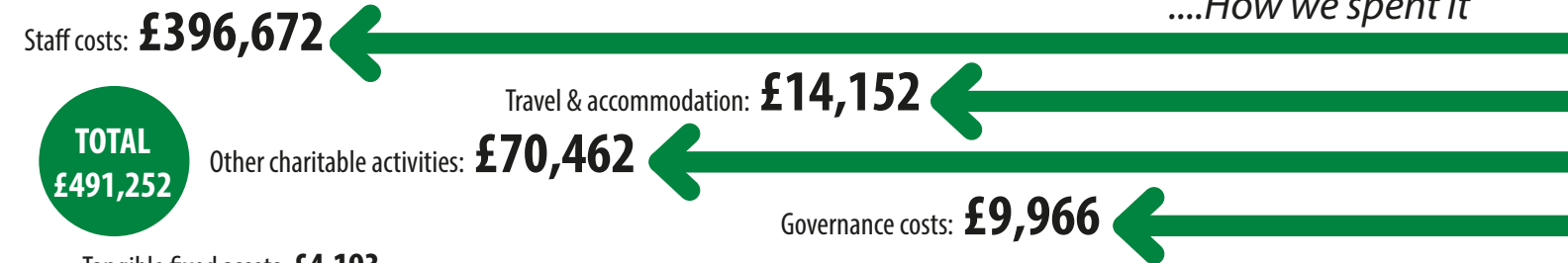
The financial accounts

Year ended
31 March 2013

Where our money comes from....



....How we spent it



Tangible fixed assets: **£4,193**

Debtors: **£17,196**

Cash at bank and in hand: **£479,833**

Creditors: amount falling due within one year: **£177,867**

2012/13 Total funds at start of year: **£234,787** | Net Income: **£50,383**

2013/14 Total funds at start of year: **£285,170** | Net Income: **£38,185**

Dr Mary Tilki (Chair), Declan Carroll (Treasurer), Danny Maher (Secretary), Paul O'Donovan, Dermot Lappin, Pauline Roche, Bill Dee, Sheila Large, Mary Spillane, John Nolan, Claire Hoey (co-opted 01/11/2011 - retired 12/10/2013), Patrick Morrison, & Luke Donovan appointed 1/10/2013.

The summary financial information above has been extracted from the full audited financial statements which can be obtained from the charity office.

Company number 04013148. Registered charity 1092268

Ireland
Inspires
Me.....

We want to spread
the word about all
the Irish arts, sport
and heritage

Let's
talk



Picture credit: Tracey Fahey

Building the SUSTAINABILITY of Irish organisations

Irish people in Britain have demonstrated repeatedly through research and evaluation that they prefer the services offered by our members when it comes to the provision of social care, housing, cultural and other activities. These are challenging times but we are dedicated to assisting our members find ways to ensure a more sustainable future and continue to meet the demand from our community.

“In this challenging economic environment your up to date information, advice and practical help on strategic planning has been critical in helping to us to plan for the future.”

“One of our members asked ‘what does Irish in Britain do?’ I said ‘In this ever changing environment it plays a vital role, working with us and for us on all issues that affect the Irish Communities in Britain”

Ellen Stafford, Director, Irish Community Services

This year we have

- Provided over **350** interventions to **81** organisations and a further **20** individual run Irish projects (such as new cultural projects)
- Provided **44** interventions on governance and **30** on strategic planning.
- We gave more than **33** organisations support with funding and directly supported them to raise over **£70k**.
- Worked with members to support them to develop and deliver new culture and health related projects.
- Strengthened our peer to peer support networks sharing expertise and ideas and brokering potential partnerships across the membership.
- Supported **52** member organisations to make considerable savings by providing advice and information on governance matters from developing constitutions to trustee recruitment and dissolution.



EXIT



Prof Bronwen Walter
Professor of Child Psychology
Anglia Ruskin University

CAMPAIGNING for the Irish in Britain

A key element of our work is to listen to the most pressing issues of concern within the community and through our campaigns raise awareness to galvanise action for the benefit of the community. We have consolidated our focus on the three areas identified by members and the community including; culture, memory loss and electoral engagement of the Irish abroad.

Ireland Inspires

The driving force behind our work has been raising the profile of the Irish community's cultural contribution and connecting artists and musicians with our members to develop projects which engage, inspire and enhance the wellbeing of our community. This has resulted in some fantastic projects including the Irish Voices Project which has brought the stories of the first years of London St Patrick's Parade to schools and community groups across the city; and the Big Gig in Birmingham. Both of these were leading examples of our cultural strategy at work

An exciting partnership with Innisfree Housing saw residents active and engaged through a reminiscence project bringing a new perspective to inclusion through culture.



Irish Memory Loss Alliance

Through extensive partnerships with our members, media, parliament and the leading third sector dementia charities we have undertaken considerable work to champion the need for culturally appropriate responses for Irish people who experience memory loss and their carers. Irish businesses, housing providers, older people's services, community activists and volunteers across Britain have continued to take steps to become more inclusive of those with memory loss. Thanks to the Irish Post for their concerted efforts to help us raise much needed funding for volunteer training.



Support within the community for electoral representation increased over the year especially amongst more recently arrived Irish. After further consultation amongst our members and the wider community we were invited to make a presentation to the Constitutional Convention. We also made a comprehensive submission to the DFAT Review of Diaspora Policy and are delighted by the recent appointment of a Minister for Diaspora.



REPRESENTING the Irish in Britain

As the only national representative organisation for the community we seek to maximise the visibility and inclusion of the Irish community in those policy areas which most affect their health and wellbeing.

Overall health and wellbeing

Our meetings with Public Health England have led to a number of initiatives to address the lack of awareness and monitoring of Irish people in all areas of health service provision and public health campaigns.

Cuimhne - Irish Memory Loss Alliance

Continued representation to the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Dementia has led to greater recognition of our Cuimhne strategy as an innovative and original step taken within the BME sector and we have now been invited to sit on two of the Prime Ministers dementia task groups. We successfully lobbied the British Irish Parliamentary Assembly to pass a motion encouraging the UK and Ireland's travel providers to take action to become dementia friendly and support Irish families to stay connected with Ireland through visits home.

Arts and Culture

Discussions with the Arts Council have highlighted funding concerns for Irish cultural services and projects and given us a useful steer on how we can support members to develop engaging and participative cultural events and activities which are sustainably funded.

"Irish in Britain has played a key role in keeping us informed about changes to funding.

They helped us secure almost £10,000 to increase activities and improve our governance.

We now have charitable status. The training and information about memory loss has been vital in helping us tackle local need."

Jo Shally, Northampton Irish Support Group



CONNECTING the Irish in Britain

Irish in Britain is in a unique position and is able to bring together varied organisations, individuals and groups from across both the membership and the wider community to share best practice, ideas and opportunities that enhance the experiences of Irish people all across Britain.

Our members have been closely involved in setting the agenda for our membership meetings and with our peer to peer support networks throughout the country. Irish in Britain use these network meetings to provide information and advice on a whole range of policy, governance, funding and service development, but the real benefit comes from the sharing of experiences directly between members. A new series of meetings was established in London for directors of all the social care and cultural organisations and a core group continues to meet.

Our reach into the wider community has enabled us to connect individuals who bring a whole range of skills and expertise to our members resulting in project partners, volunteers and new trustees.

Our communications have continued to grow and we are now communicating regularly with up to 13,000 across the community through our online, print and social media activities.

“Irish in Britain has been my ‘turn to’ organisation for advice and support in what has been a testing 12 months for our sector.

It is reassuring to know that I can pick up the phone and the team will be there to assist.

Managing an organisation brings its own pressures and when time is an issue I need people who can provide solutions, Irish in Britain has been that organisation.”

**Maurice Malone, Chief Executive,
Irish in Birmingham**

UNDERSTANDING the Irish in Britain

All our policy, campaigning and capacity building support is underpinned by robust efforts to ensure that we have an up to date understanding of the community, its most pressing needs, its strengths, its weaknesses and its changing profile.

The Cost of Change Report which assessed the impact of the welfare reforms on the Irish community which was launched in July 2013 allowed our members to use its findings to highlight issues affecting our communities to their local authorities. We initiated research into the experiences of Irish Teachers in Britain and tendered for a series of census reports.

Our 40th year saw some volunteers and staff research our history and pull out some interesting correlations between issues members faced more than 40 years ago and those faced currently. Our Irish Voices Project researched the experiences of organisers from the very first St Patrick's Day Parade's in London.

We continue to be a central source of independent information for the Irish community by producing up to date academic and social research.



Irish in Britain

Our work was made possible through the generous support of our funders, to whom we are very grateful.



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



LOTTERY FUNDED

st.stephen's green trust



THE IRELAND FUND OF GREAT BRITAIN

We are grateful to all our staff for their dedication and hard work and thanks to our members for their continued support over the last year.



Irish Memory Loss Alliance

A very special thank you to The Irish Post and all their staff for their ongoing support for the Cuimhne Campaign.



A further thank you to all our sponsors in 2013-2014, especially:



DOVEGUARD

TIME | QUANTUM
EXPERT FORENSICS



Finally thank you to all the individual donors and supporters in aid of Cuimhne.

356 Holloway Road, London, N7 6PA | Tel: 0207 697 4081 | www.irishinbritain.org

✉ info@irishinbritain.org | [@irishinbritain](https://twitter.com/irishinbritain) | [f](https://www.facebook.com/irishinbritain) Irish in Britain | [in](https://www.linkedin.com/company/irishinbritain) Irish in Britain

