

Irish in Britain

Community / Culture / Sport / Business

Photo: Gavin Fiebigorn

Meet the new Chair of the Emigrant Services Advisory Committee

Jeff Hendrick, Derby County & ROI national football team

Read our Ten Point Plan on Diaspora Engagement

Wheyhey! and their recipe for success!

Issue 8
November 2014 -
January 2015

CONTENTS

Welcome	2
Irish in Conversation	3
Irish in Brief	4-5
Our News	6-7
Irish in Depth	8-9
ireland Inspires	10
irish in Business	11
Irish Voice	12-13
Irish Voice	14-15

This magazine is produced by:

Irish in Britain, 356 Holloway Road,
London, N7 6PA

Phone: 0207 697 4081

Email: info@irishinbritain.org

Web: www.irishinbritain.org

Twitter: [@irishinbritain](https://twitter.com/irishinbritain)

Facebook page: [irishinbritain](https://www.facebook.com/irishinbritain)

Linkedin group: [Irish in Britain](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/11111111)

Registered charity number 1092268

Company Number: 04013148

The next edition will be published in March 2015. If you are interested in advertising or contributing to the next edition please contact Michael Bourke (mbourke@irishinbritain.org) no later than 2 February 2015.

Copyright statement: Opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of Irish in Britain and no responsibility is accepted for advertising content.

FUNDED BY:



Welcome

What I love about being part of Irish in Britain is the opportunity to reach and engage with such a diverse range of individuals and groups.

From organisations such as the Brian Boru IDL who celebrate their 120 anniversary this year or new start-up companies such as Wheyhey!; Irish in Britain connects with all the various facets of our community right across Britain. Our activities are just as comprehensive – gaining better understanding of the needs of Irish clubs through our recent Clubs Survey and working with them to devise a strategy of support; or meeting with Minister Deenihan to relay the most pressing concerns within the community, are just some of what has been keeping us busy.

2015 is almost upon us and we have some exciting plans, including the recruitment of our new Volunteer Coordinator who will create links between the diverse groups within our community. The Coordinator will develop opportunities for people to get involved and support the Irish voluntary and community sector across Britain. We hope to provide a critical link for older Irish, new Irish and everyone in between.

In the meantime we are very pleased that our membership continues to grow and mature and that our members remain at the heart of Irish in Britain.



Jennie McShannon
CEO, Irish In Britain

Irish in Conversation



Alma Ní Choigligh is the new First Secretary based at the Embassy of Ireland. She has worked at Irish Embassies in Singapore and London and at Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade HQ in Dublin on issues ranging from the peace process to human rights and disarmament. She will chair the Emigrant Services Advisory Committee, which has supported the Irish community in Britain with grants totalling more than €75m since 2004.

It's a very exciting time to start working on Irish community issues at the Embassy given the recent appointment of Jimmy Deenihan as Minister for the Diaspora and the work undertaken by Ambassador Dan Mulhall in partnership with the community here on the State visit of President Higgins to Britain earlier this year. We're also looking forward to the outcome of the review of Diaspora policy which will set the overall tone for our work over the coming years. In my work, I'll be prioritising the vulnerable and marginalised members of the community, as well as working to broaden our outreach to help more recent arrivals feel connected and engaged with Ireland.

Having grown up in an Irish-speaking family, enjoying learning about other cultures, I was attracted by the idea of working for my country abroad. So, after studying History and English, I applied to join the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. I was lucky enough to be offered a post, and 15 years later, the work still fascinates me – I can't think of any other role which gives such a variety of opportunities to promote Ireland in different contexts and to diverse audiences.

Ireland is my home, but I also feel at home here. I am honoured to represent my country in Britain. As well as visiting family in Britain since childhood, I have been back and forth across the Irish Sea since coming to college here myself in the 1990s. I hope that my young family - who have moved with me to Britain for the first time - will feel the same way!

Irish in Brief

Photo: Paris Jefferson.

BIRMINGHAM IRISH ASSOCIATION – FORMERLY IRISH IN BIRMINGHAM

For almost 60 years Irish in Birmingham has been the leading charity in the city providing support and cultural services to the Irish community and beyond. During this time they have proudly served thousands of service users both first and subsequent generations. Building on the foundations set in place many years ago they have continued to develop an organisation that meets the needs of the community and is responsive to changing landscapes has kept the organisation at the heart of the community.



Mindful of the need to enhance their services and to compliment a city as diverse as Birmingham, they are adopting a new name and brand positioning the organisation at the forefront of support and care charities in the city. The newly named Birmingham Irish Association will still provide the same quality and professional services service users have come to expect since 1957 and changes to their website and social media will be a window to the exciting new services they will soon be providing along with information on current projects.

CHANGES TO THE IFGB GRANT ROUND

The Ireland Fund of Great Britain will be moving to a fixed grant round with effect from 31 October 2014, after which they will introduce an annual grant deadline for all grant applications. That deadline will be 31 May 2015.

TYNESIDE IRISH CENTRE CEILI CLUB

Tyneside Irish Centre is holding a Ceili Club on Sundays at 8pm on 12 Oct; 16 Nov and 14 Dec in the Tyneside Irish Centre, Gallowgate NE1 4SG. They invite you to dance the night away to the Tony Corcoran Ceili Band, with free tuition from 7.30pm to 8pm. Tickets on the Door £3.00 for more details contact the Tyneside Irish Centre on 0191 261 0384.

DO YOU LISTEN TO RTÉ RADIO 1 ON LW?

RTÉ has announced plans to cease broadcasting RTÉ Radio 1 via its longwave transmitter on 19 Jan 2015. October 27 2014 was originally proposed as the last day of LW broadcasting but RTÉ pushed this back in response to Irish in Britain's online petition which attracted over 800 signatures in its first week. Over the next three months, RTÉ will be collecting opinion on the matter. You can call +353 1 208 3111; email complaints@rte.ie or post to: 2nd Floor Admin Building, RTÉ, Donnybrook, Dublin 4, Ireland.



Photo: Paris Jefferson

OPERATION TRAVELLER VOTE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

At Resource for London, 356 Holloway Road N7 6PA, 20 Nov 2014

The Operation Traveller Vote conference will provide a platform for community members, policy makers and service providers to present and discuss their experiences and approaches in the run up to the 2015 UK General Election. This year's conference will look at the huge potential within the communities to engage and shape the political process to ensure policy addresses the needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Roma both now and in the future. Through the keynote speakers and the workshops Operation Traveller Vote aims to inspire a new generation of political engagement whilst providing the practical policy solutions to make this a reality. For more information call 0207 607 2002



Our News

ADVICE AND SUPPORT WORKERS FORUM

The next Advice and Support Workers Forum will take place on 8th December 2014 from 11–3 at St Eugene's Court, 77 Rea St, Digbeth, Birmingham. Anyone interested in attending please email hwhite@irishinbritain.org or call Helen White, Irish in Britain in the Birmingham office 0121 622 4169.

ANNIVERSARIES

2014 has seen some momentous anniversaries that we need to mark, so a big congratulations to:

Oxford Irish Society and Southwark Irish Pensioners on 20 Years; Bristol Irish Society, Haringey Irish Advice & Support Service and Irish Community Services on 25 Years; Irish Community Care Merseyside on 50 years; Leeds Irish Centre and London Irish Centre on 60 years... and how could we forget The Brian Boru IDL on 120 years, and in the year of the Brian Boru millennium celebrations!

NEW DATABASE

Irish in Britain will be implementing a new database in the coming weeks. We will be in contact with you soon to make sure we have your correct details. If you want to add contact details email Michael on mbourke@irishinbritain.org for a contact form.

CLUBS SURVEY RESULTS

Over the last number of years, the number of Irish Clubs in Britain has dropped considerably and many Irish Clubs face an uncertain future. We conducted a Clubs Survey and the report has been published on our website, it makes for some interesting reading but here are some headlines from it:

Some strengths include:

- Most are in a good location and the majority own their own premises.
- Well-run and popular lunch club services and tea dances
- Existing collaboration with community and statutory partners

Some needs identified were:

- Policies and procedures
- Securing and diversifying funding for services
- Need for grants for substantial refurbishment



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We are very happy to welcome two new organisational members who have joined recently. SIFA Fireside, a Birmingham based charity tackling homelessness and alcohol misuse (www.sifafireside.co.uk); and Annitsford Irish History Society – you are both very welcome to Irish in Britain. We also have a number of Individual Members that have joined recently so welcome to you too.

SEEKING NEW VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

City Bridges Trust has agreed to fund a part-time position for a Volunteer Coordinator for the ongoing Cuimhne training and development programme. This position will run over three years and be based in our

London office. Recruitment will begin in the near future, contact Charlotte Curran (ccurran@irishinbritain.org) for more information. In other Cuimhne news, we are delighted to report that Irish in Britain has been successful in securing funding from Ireland Fund Great Britain (IFGB) in support of our Cuimhne work.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We are also delighted to welcome new Board members Patrick Harte and Tom FitzGerald. The recruitment process identified a number of highly skilled candidates so our Board decided to take on two more co-opted Board members, Séin Ó Muineacháin and John McCarthy. We would also like to thank our outgoing members Sheila Large and Bill Dee for all their tireless work.

Irish in Depth

County Tyrone-born Mark Lennon, a solicitor in Irwin Mitchell's Birmingham-based workplace illness team, examines the key issues surrounding the concerning figures which show a higher-than-average number of Irish workers suffer from workplace illnesses.

One of the most disturbing trends in recent years is the growing number of Irish-born men who develop long-term health problems as a result of their work. This is highlighted by the stark fact that around 9,000 Irish-born individuals were claiming disability benefits in Britain at the start of last year.

We have seen these problems first-hand through our legal advice sessions at the Irish in Birmingham charity's offices. A high number of Irish men work in sectors including construction, tunnelling, demolition and engineering – heavy duty industries which can have a long-term impact if health and safety is not carefully considered by employers.

Many develop work-related illnesses such as asbestos conditions, occupational asthma, noise-induced hearing loss and hand arm vibration syndrome

(HAVS). A prime example is that of our recent client Thomas Feerick-Kenny, a Birmingham-born, second generation Irish man who developed HAVS while employed by a demolition firm.

Thomas developed HAVS from his use of hand-held vibrating tools and now suffers from permanent symptoms affecting both hands, including attacks of whitening, tingling and loss of sensitivity in his fingers. We secured over £118,000.00 in compensation for Thomas, one of the largest settlements for this condition in the UK.

The impact on Thomas, who is now unable to continue working in his trade at the age of just 41, was huge and went beyond physical symptoms as he suffered from both anxiety and depression. His settlement will go towards his continued efforts to come to terms with his condition and his dream

of retraining to gain a position in health and safety – with the ultimate aim of preventing others from suffering what he has been through. Thomas' story is a strong reminder of the huge impact work-related illnesses have. Research continues into identifying links between the world of work and the conditions that many people endure.

The official statistics may not show the full extent of the problem and systematic failings mean they are not being fully identified or reported. Reasons may include worker reluctance to report their illness through fear of losing their jobs, employer failure to identify risks to employees' health or healthcare professionals omitting to ask workers about their work history and overlooking that potential cause.

Those affected should not suffer in silence and should seek legal advice at the earliest opportunity to see whether they can get help, in the form of an entitlement to benefits which exist for industrial disease victims or even the potential to pursue a claim for civil compensation. Strict time limits apply to claims for compensation so we strongly encourage people to speak to us at the earliest date.



*Mark Lennon can be contacted directly at Irwin Mitchell's Birmingham office on 0121 203 5365 or **mark.lennon@irwinmitchell.com**. He runs the fortnightly Irish in Birmingham Legal Advice Clinics at St Anne's Parish Centre in Digbeth at 2-4pm on Thursdays.*

Ireland Inspires

Continuing with our series on Cultural Funding for the Irish community in Britain, we take a brief look at Arts Council England and its funding relationship with Irish arts and cultural projects in England.

Arts Council England (ACE) is a large, statutory organisation with many different funding streams. ACE awards funding in a variety of ways, from regularly funded large-scale organisations such as museums and theatres, to providing smaller amounts of money to individual artists and small groups working in community settings. Traditionally, Irish organisations in England have not benefited well from these grants. Between 2008 and 2014, just 29 organisations applied for funding, and only 9 of those were successful. That's just 1% of all the funding awarded to Black, Ethnic and Minority organisations across the whole of England in those 6 years.

So what are the issues for Irish organisations? Why do we have so few applicants and why are most of them unsuccessful? We have a fantastic cultural offer, excellent organisations and wonderful talent but evidenced by these figures, something certainly isn't working. Irish in Britain are trying to find out what this might be and how

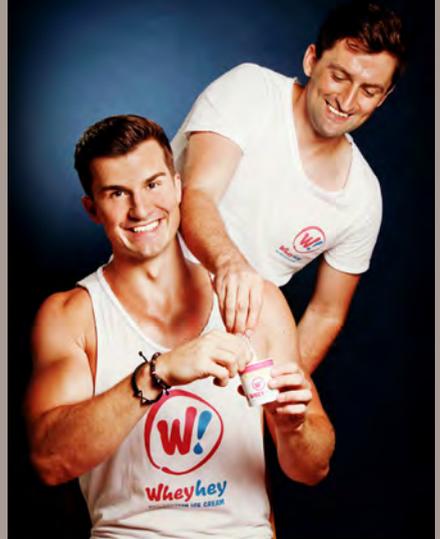
to address it. There are many questions to be asked so we'd like to hear your thoughts on the issues and work with you to find ways of submitting more applications and ensuring those applications are successful.

In September 2014, ACE announced that it would be providing a specific funding stream to support diversity in the arts as part of their 'Great Arts and Culture for Everyone' strategy. They have now allocated £6m in funding between 2015 and 2018, with an emphasis on providing opportunities to Black, Ethnic, Minority and Disability led organisations and individuals. At Irish in Britain, we believe the Irish community has a huge amount to offer and to gain from receiving funding from ACE and this new grant scheme is a positive development. There is work to be done in order to benefit from this opportunity; Irish in Britain are working at the policy level and there are also many practical approaches at local level that need to be explored. Contact Fiona fsmith@irishinbritain.org to learn more about ACE funding.

Irish in Business

Damien Kennedy, Co-Founder of Wheyhey! Protein Ice Cream was born in Cork in 1984. He moved over to the UK to study Sports Science and Physiology at Brunel University, where he met pal and Co-Founder Greg Duggan.

“Greg and I met at University and were always bouncing ideas around for a start-up business in the health and fitness industry. The idea for sugar free high protein ice cream came about on a trip to the cinema with some friends. We saw the long queue for treats in the foyer, all of which were jammed full of sugar and other nasties. It immediately got us thinking that it’s pretty appalling how big companies don’t offer consumers the choice of selecting a healthier alternative to the standard sugar and fat laden menu and generally gloss over their ingredients.” Unimpressed, they bought an ice cream maker off eBay...and the rest, as they say, is history. “We perfected a recipe that tasted great, because at the end of the day, that’s the most important factor. But we



were adamant that it had to be sugar free, low fat, all natural and actively beneficial to your health, hence why we included whey protein isolate. Before long we got a national listing in Holland & Barrett and since then it’s snowballed with listings in Ocado, Musclefood, Compass & cinema chains under our belt.” With launches into new global markets underway, the sky is the limit for Wheyhey!

Wheyhey is manufactured in Ireland and being from Cork, we’ve received fantastic support from the Irish network in the UK. The IIBN in particular have opened so many doors for us and the Embassy in London is always there too with help when needed. The whole process thus far stands as testament to how facilitating the Irish and UK landscape is to start ups like ours. It’s certainly an exciting time to be in this business, especially with such strong growth forecasts for the Protein Industry over the coming years.

wheyhey.co.uk

Irish Voice



Irish in Britain has welcomed the appointment of the first Minister for the Diaspora, Jimmy Deenihan. We see this as a unique opportunity to take the aspirations of the Irish Diaspora to the heart of Government.

Our CEO Jennie McShannon said that “For Irish organisations around the world, this is an enormous challenge. We need to match the Taoiseach’s bold vision with a commitment to forge a lasting partnership, to work together and be even better at what we do best.”

During his visit the Minister showed his keen interest and deepening knowledge of the diverse community that makes up the Irish in Britain. His address to the business networks and visits to some of our members working with the most disadvantaged and excluded such as the Traveller Movement and community hubs such as Luton Irish Centre were greatly appreciated, as was his engagement with the

parliamentarians that support our community. Jennie McShannon said “the Minister really showed an understanding of the community and we are delighted with his positive response to our Ten Point Plan.

On October 8th, Irish in Britain held a Roundtable discussion with Irish community representatives from across Britain where David Burns from Paris based ‘We’re Coming Back’ who pointed out that Diaspora representation has been on the table since 1991. It is our hope that through our partnerships with the global diaspora and from our position as community leaders here in Britain, we can initiate a conversation with our Ten Point Plan that will lead to a permanent voice for the Irish diaspora.

Our Ten Point Plan on Diaspora Engagement

**DIASPORA
VOICE** | Listening
to the Irish
in Britain

1) FLY THE FLAG FOR THE DIASPORA: OUR BUSINESS, OUR PEOPLE

At home and abroad, promoting our diversity and huge contribution – social, political and economic

2) BUILDING ON SUCCESS

Supporting and strengthening existing infrastructure of services for the most vulnerable

3) RECOGNISE OUR NEEDS EQUALLY

Support new migrants and the older Irish; speaking for high flyers and those who hit hard times

4) WORK ACROSS DEPARTMENTS OF GOVERNMENT

Scoping the Diaspora perspective and creating a cabinet committee chaired by the Taoiseach

5) CELEBRATE OUR GLOBAL CULTURE

From cutting edge artists to traditional clubs; our sports, our language; our literary heritage

6) MEASURES FOR GREATER DIASPORA CO- OPERATION

Building on success of Global Irish Forum with a parallel community and civil society dimension

7) INVOLVE DIASPORA IN THE ELECTION OF OUR PRESIDENT

A date for referendum on Constitutional Convention recommendation to extend vote

8) DON'T SHUT THE DOOR ON YOUNG MIGRANTS

Always welcome back? Practical assistance and an end to automatic disenfranchisement

9) REPRESENTATION IN THE OIREACHTAS

Consultation and research on methods and measures required to facilitate fundamental change.

10) A GLOBAL IRISH DIMENSION ON PEACE & RECONCILIATION

Marking the 'Decade of Centenaries', supporting the peace process and assisting more recent victims

Irish in Sport

Jeff Hendrick is a young Dublin-born Derby City player who has lived in Britain for the past seven years and has represented the Irish national team since U15 level and made his International debut against Poland in February 2013. We caught up with him just before the match against Germany, and John O'Shea's momentous goal which Jeff was instrumental in delivering.

What brought you to Britain?

I played for St. Kevin's Boys Club in Santry, Dublin since the age of eight, but it was around the age of 13 that I started coming over to England for trials with various different football clubs. Ultimately, I signed with Derby and I have lived here ever since.

Are there many Irish on your team/in your life?

Through the years, I have always had a couple of Irish players on my team. It was good to have Irish lads there to help me get settled. Some of them have moved on to other clubs, but we've stayed in touch.



Do you call Britain home or will it always be Ireland?

Ireland will always be home. My family and childhood friends are there and I try to get back as often as I can to see everyone. But I suppose you could say I call England a second home. Especially considering I've been settled here a relatively long time now. I feel comfortable here and have my daily routines. When I first moved over I did miss home occasionally, but I'm sure every young Irish lad making the move has felt that way, too.

Is being Irish an advantage here in Britain?

I not sure I would call it an advantage. In football terms, I don't think that your nationality makes much of a difference. Although on a personal level, the Dublin accent has its benefits over here!

What's your training schedule like?

Training schedule involves a few hours, daily. It's very enjoyable. We work hard, but have fun at the same time. The manager is a great coach to work for and I'm continually learning a lot from him. The hard work during the week pays off when it comes to stepping out on the pitch on a Saturday – it's a great feeling.

Do you prefer to play for Derby or for Ireland?

We get so much support here at Derby every week – I am happy to be at such a great club, but it's also

a great feeling to play for Ireland, to play for your country. The proudest moment of my career was making my debut for Ireland and I am always delighted to be called into the Irish squads. It's something you dream of as a kid growing up – putting that green jersey on for your country.

Who were your sporting heroes growing up? Have you met any of them?

Growing up, I have had a lot of sporting heroes. And yes I have been lucky to meet and play against a few of them actually!

What are Ireland's chances for 2016 Euro's?

I feel we have a great chance to qualify for the Euros. We have a good group of players and great coaches to help us push for qualification. There will be a lot of big matches in our group, but we are all looking forward to them. We all want to experience a big tournament, so we will try our best in every match.

What advice do you have for upcoming young players?

The main advice I would have for young, up-and-coming players is to practice as much, and as often, as you can at every aspect of your game. Everyone can always progress, so never be 100% happy with your game and always strive to improve.



Legal Advice from Irwin Mitchell

Our range of legal services includes:

- **Personal injury** (including asbestos and industrial related/workplace disease, all types of medical negligence, head and spinal injuries and accidents and illness abroad)
- **Divorce & family law**
- **Public Law** (questioning social and healthcare provision and education decisions)
- **Financial issues and court of protection**

www.irwinmitchell.com
Freephone: 08000 23 22 33

Follow us on Twitter @irwinmitchell

Irwin Mitchell LLP is authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

irwinmitchellTM
solicitors



Home Removals | Office Removals | Student Moves | Furniture Delivery | Pallet Delivery

We have regular runs to / from Ireland - England at excellent rates!

17 cubic meter and 5.8 cubic meter vans available for small and large loads!

CALL NOW ON +44 7595 155 332 OUR TEAM WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

www.facebook.com/gomanandvan

[@gomanandvan](https://twitter.com/gomanandvan)

www.gomanandvan.co.uk

info@gomanandvan.co.uk

Brought to you by:

Irish in Britain

irishinbritain.org

Registered Charity No. 1092268