



Irish in Britain

IRISH IN BRITAIN ANNUAL REPORT 2012-13



Irish in Britain

Created by the Irish community
for the Irish community

WE CELEBRATE
WE LEAD
WE CHAMPION
WE CONNECT
WE LISTEN

40 years of knowledge, experience and care

Be part of Irish in Britain
Visit www.irishinbritain.org

**A special thank you to all our Members
who continue to work with us for the
benefit of the Irish community in Britain**

Thank you to our funders:



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



st.stephen's green trust



Irish Memory Loss Alliance

Cuimhne Sponsor

Irish Post

Cuimhne supporters:

John Leahy, founder Zutech

Danny Fealy

The London Irish
Construction Network

Crown Moran Hotel

BCM Scaffolding

Dunne Construction

Message from the
Tánaiste & Minister
for Foreign Affairs
and Trade

**MR. EAMON
GILMORE T.D.**

to Irish in Britain's
Annual General
Meeting 2012/2013



"I am very pleased to have this opportunity to again express my support and gratitude for the work done by Irish in Britain (formerly Federation of Irish Societies), its members and affiliates over the past 12 months.

The Irish community in Britain has made an incredible journey over the last few decades and there is virtually no aspect of British civic or political life that has not been enriched by contributions from the Irish community and from the organisations that make up the federation. However, despite all these successes, there remains the need to protect and support the most vulnerable in the Community, to support and assist the organisations that do this vital work and to highlight and promote the concerns and needs of the Irish Community as a whole at the highest levels. That is why the work of Irish in Britain and its members remains as vital and essential as ever to our Irish Community.

It is a testament to the huge importance the Government and people of Ireland attach to the value of this work that, despite significant budgetary pressures, we have been able to continue to support Irish in Britain and so many of its members. I would like to emphasise that the Government is extremely proud and appreciative of the work you and your members and affiliates do. I know that, without your dedication, the Government's Emigrant Support Programme could not have the impact it does.

I would like to congratulate the Board and staff and all of Irish in Britain's members on your achievements and I wish you all the best for the year ahead."

Chair & CEO STATEMENT

LOOKING BACK OVER 2012-2013



Dr Mary Tilki
Chair

Every year we take time to reflect on our achievements, learn from what we have done, plan for the future and in particular set the direction for the coming year. Each time we do this we are struck by how much is achieved and just how much we owe to the active engagement and collaboration of our members who inspire and galvanise us, our partners who support us, our funders who enable us and our community in all its vibrancy, diversity and energy.



Jennie
McShannon
CEO

We aim here to capture just some of the work we have done in partnership with our members over the last 12 months. 2012 was of course the year of the Olympics and Paralympics. The Irish teams were amazing as were the Irish fans and fans of Ireland. It started the year with great

excitement and enthusiasm and we sought to harness that throughout the year. Whilst the sprinters are often in the spotlight, for us in our 40th year we are more like the long distance runners. Just as they keep their focus on their goal and keep a steady pace we are proud to be celebrating 40 years of work with and for the Irish community in Britain.

Understanding changes within the community and reaching those who have been here for many years as well as those who have recently arrived; providing information and guidance on opportunities and possibilities; building new projects with and amongst members; exploring new ways of working and encouraging active engagement with those in public life. Our focus in these areas remains strong.

LOOKING FORWARD 2013-2014

Our 40th year has marked key changes in our constitution. A new name 'Irish in Britain' marks a new chapter in our development and brand. We look forward to embracing the change and harnessing it to widen our reach across all parts of our community through our cultural and health work, ongoing support to members, an ambitious clubs mapping project and continued representation across the political and policy field.

OUR YEAR

in highlights

“The Personalisation workshops offered by Irish in Britain have helped us understand personalisation and develop a clear action plan around the social enterprise opportunities that exist for our collaboration in the current community care climate.”

Breege McDaid, Director, Irish Community Care Merseyside



Photo: Kris Howes

HOW PEOPLE DESCRIBE IRISH IN BRITAIN: A SELECTION OF RESPONSES FROM OUR PERCEPTION SURVEY, JANUARY 2013

- A professional group looking after the needs and aspirations of the Irish Diaspora and its friends
- Pride
- A wonderful organisation dealing with issues and helping the Irish community
- All the Irish community working together
- Information, support, partnership, advice, empowerment
- Community, Strength
- Belonging to a body of like-minded people who have the interests and welfare of the Irish community at heart



Photo: Kris Howes

“Working in partnership tends to make an organisation stronger. This year we launched ‘The Cost of Change’, a significant look at the impact of the current welfare reforms on the Irish community in partnership with Irish in Britain. The strength in pooling our expertise and knowledge created a report that had value and impact at a local and national level for the Irish community.”

David Barlow, CEO, London Irish Centre

“Working closely with Irish in Britain on their youth music project, I was inspired by their cultural vision and expertise. The outcomes were creative, contemporary and proved to be a real opportunity for partnership working both within and beyond the Irish community.”

Sid Peacock, Lead Artist, ‘Our Two Islands’ Reconciliation Project

50

volunteers campaign and the launch of Cuimhne (qu’eevna) – a 4 year strategy supporting Irish in Britain experiencing memory loss and dementia

96

Irish Member organisations

400

interventions providing advice in areas such as funding and business development

450

people attended Irish in Britain events, training and conferences

600

people celebrated Culture Night in Britain organised by us in partnership with Tyneside Irish Centre, St Michael’s Irish Centre, London Irish Centre and the Irish Arts Foundation

8000

copies of the Irish in Britain magazine distributed – telling the story of our work and the work of Irish organisations and individuals across Britain



Photo: Gavin Freeborn



Photo: Kris Howes

CONNECTING

the Irish in Britain

As a national agency we bring together Irish clubs and societies, supporters, individuals, artists, social care providers, businesses and networks in multiple forums to work together to support and celebrate our vibrant community.

Our core membership remains the primary focus of our networking opportunities and we continue to be driven by their creativity and energy to engage. As we expand our reach and engagement across different segments of the community we look forward to new opportunities to bring people together to enhance the connections and experiences of all Irish people in Britain.

OUR IMPACT THIS YEAR

More than 450 individuals and organisations attended our events this year with:

- **Member organisations providing social care services within the community** meeting to share innovation and information on contracting and commissioning, social enterprise and quality standards.
- Clubs continuing to work together to secure **added value through bulk purchasing**.
- **Artists supporting communities** to take a new approach to engaging younger or older people with memory loss or bridge communities through joint projects.
- **Business networks coming together** to support community initiatives such as Cuimhne (pronounced qu'eevna) our memory loss and dementia campaign.

In a recent survey amongst members, supporters and partners, growth and expansion of the membership came out as an agreed priority for our future and for the well-being of the community and this will shape much of our work over the coming two years.

Working with communities of interest, organisations and groups as well as individuals, our work can be a way to generate a collective community response to the new and emerging needs within the community.

Are you Irish in Britain? An individual or organisation that wants to be part of a national community network? If so, contact us for more information on how to join:

info@irishinbritain.org

Building the **SUSTAINABILITY** of Irish organisations

Our member's innovation and dedication to providing the best possible services for their local Irish community continues to inspire us.

In 2012-13 we delivered over 400 interventions with Irish organisations. Our support ranged from information on funding and developing social enterprises to offering one-to-one advice on managing premises, reviewing strategic plans, negotiating with local authorities and signposting members to expert advisors.



Photo: Gerry Molumby

OUR IMPACT THIS YEAR

- **Launch of a new website www.irishsurvivorsinbritain.org** to support Survivors of Institutional Abuse living in Britain. We also assisted individuals to establish and sustain self-help groups.
- **17 community organisations participated in a year-long learning programme** on how to develop new services and consider new business models for sustainability.
- **65 lunch club volunteers accessed basic training to build confidence and knowledge** about how to support older Irish people who develop memory loss.
- **We supported members in Glasgow, Birmingham and London** to develop partnership projects with arts and cultural organisations to improve engagement with their local Irish community.

As a result of our work:

- **96 organisations** cited they had increased confidence and skills to develop their services in different ways
- **27 member organisations** actively reduced risk to their organisation
- **31** felt their management had demonstrably improved
- **47** felt better informed about key areas of their work.

"This year Innisfree engaged Irish in Britain to deliver the Cuimhne training on memory loss for our staff. How was this for us? Descriptions include 'surprising, revealing, poignant, engaging, hilarious, challenging' - but most importantly it has helped us to appreciate how we can better deliver our services to the communities we serve. What a great leadership stance from Irish in Britain."

**John Delahunty, CEO,
Innisfree Housing
Association**

CAMPAIGNING

for the Irish in Britain

Ours is a dynamic and active community and campaigning to raise awareness about relevant issues is a vital part of our work.

CUIMHNE – PRONOUNCED ‘QU’EEVNA’ / IRISH FOR MEMORY



The Cuimhne initiative focuses on our aim to become the first memory loss friendly minority ethnic community in England and Wales. We have seen the confidence of Irish organisations to provide services for those with memory loss grow significantly; celebrated best practice among our members such as Irish Community Services Happy Days Café in Greenwich; and worked in partnership with corporate organisations keen to support the initiative.

IRELAND INSPIRES

Ireland Inspires focused on innovative ways to celebrate our cultural contribution. We supported the cultural talent of both our professional artists and makers as well as our wider community through unique events and activities. Culture Night was a nationwide celebration of arts and music, while our youth music project worked in ways that not only celebrated our rich heritage but developed new and creative ways to showcase it.



DIASPORA VOICE



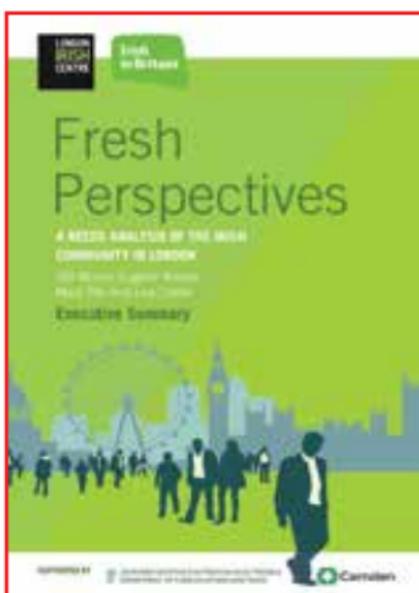
A key focus this year has been to inform, engage and create dialogue amongst the Irish in Britain in the year-long review of the Irish Constitution. We have run listening events in London, Birmingham, Leeds and Manchester and encouraged individuals and members from across the community to make submissions to the Convention on issues from same-sex marriage to extending the voting franchise to Irish citizens living overseas.

UNDERSTANDING the Irish community

All our work is underpinned by evidence and a thorough understanding of the continuing and emerging needs of our community. We are a central resource for our members and the wider community seeking information about the Irish community in Britain.

OUR IMPACT THIS YEAR

- **We published our Research Bibliography which draws together over 300 entries of research published since 2000.** It covers a myriad of subject areas - from culture to elders, Travellers to patterns of migration. It also includes more contemporary information sources such as podcasts and visual archives.
- **In partnership with member organisations and academic institutions we researched and reported on the changing needs of the Irish in Britain.** 'Fresh Perspectives: The needs of the Irish in London' and 'The Cost of Change: A Report into the Impact of the Welfare Reforms on the Irish Community in London' were both produced in partnership with the London Irish Centre. They outline the most contemporary and pressing issues for the community and can be drawn on by our members and local authorities to evidence the need for targeted services.
- **We advocated for and secured inclusion about the Irish experience and needs in commissioned research by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Dementia.** The research reported on the shared concerns of Irish and other ethnic communities about appropriate care and support for elders with dementia.



"Having read the Executive Summary for your report 'Fresh Perspectives'... I write to congratulate all involved in an excellent piece of research into the attitudes and needs of migrants and second generation Irish people living in Britain and particularly London."
Eoin Ó Nialláin,
Cathaoirleach,
London Fianna Fáil



REPRESENTING

Photo: Gavin Freeborn

the Irish in Britain

Our continued representation has led to greater recognition and inclusion of the Irish community in key policy areas as well as encouraging Irish citizens in Britain to remain engaged with public life back home. This year our focus has been on dementia, health service commissioning and political representation.

OUR IMPACT THIS YEAR

Cuimhne – Irish Memory Loss Alliance

- The All Party Parliamentary Group on Dementia recognised Irish issues as a result of our contribution to their investigation on lack of access to services by older Irish people and their carers (Ethnos 2013).
- Our partnership with the Alzheimer's Society was strengthened and resulted in joint training to community organisations.

How Irish Are you?

- The release of the Census 2011 figures highlighted our community has an older age profile in need of focused and appropriate services. Successful representation to the Office of National Statistics has resulted in us securing the health data we require to support our members demonstrate the need and their potential reach at a local level.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

- We have continued to press commissioners to include the Irish community in their Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNA), providing them with robust information and facts about their local Irish community and how best to involve and consult with them.

All Party Parliamentary Group on the Irish in Britain

- We provide a working secretariat and strategic advice to the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on the Irish in Britain, benefiting from the assistance of parliamentarians across most areas of community interest. We continue to participate in the British Irish Parliamentary Assembly, as the agency best able to represent the Irish in Britain.



£561,819

Incoming resources
from charitable
activities

£66,441

Voluntary
income

£11,695

Activities for
generating
funds

£4,164

Investment
income

TOTAL: £644,119

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2013

Staff costs



£372,820

Other
charitable
activities



£191,521

Travel
and
accommodation

£18,755

Governance
costs

£10,640

TOTAL: £593,736

HOW OUR MONEY IS SPENT

<i>TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS</i>	£0	
<i>DEBTORS</i>	£5,926	
<i>CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND</i>	£531,867	
<i>CREDITORS: AMOUNT FALLING DUE IN ONE YEAR</i>	£231,623	
<i>TOTAL FUNDS AT START OF YEAR</i>	<i>NET INCOME</i>	
<i>2011/12</i>	£201,996	£32,791
<i>2012/13</i>	£234,787	£50,383

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

TRUSTEES: Dr Mary Tilki (Chair), Declan Carroll (Treasurer), Danny Maher (Secretary), Paul O'Donovan, Dermot Lappin, Pauline Roche, Bill Dee, Sheila Large, Mary Spillane, Claire Hoey (co-opted 01/11/11) John Nolan (October 2012), Michael Snee (deceased 27 April 2012 RIP)



A special thank you to all staff this year for their hard work — making a difference for the Irish community in Britain.

**356 Holloway Road,
London, N7 6PA • 020 7697 4081**

info@irishinbritain.org •

@irishinbritain • Irish in Britain

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