



ANNUAL REPORT 2018



45 YEARS OF CHAMPIONING THE IRISH COMMUNITY IN BRITAIN



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Thank you!

OUR MISSION AND VISION

Irish in Britain is the national charity supporting a wide network of diverse Irish organisations that make up its membership across Britain. The Irish community is made up of many inspirational organisations and individuals, our purpose is to bring together these many voices – to share expertise, to represent, to campaign for and support the growth and wellbeing of our community and the infrastructure around it.

OUR MISSION

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

OUR COMMITMENT

Irish in Britain commits to values which guide our strategic planning and delivery. Over the next four years we will regularly appraise how our practice reflects these core values and principles.

CO-PRODUCTION

Irish in Britain believes that all stakeholders should be enabled to make a meaningful contribution to our organisation and the delivery of our services.

ACCOUNTABILITY

We are committed to a culture of transparency and accountability to our funders, our members and our partners.

EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

Irish in Britain champions the diversity within our community and is committed to promoting equality and difference.

INNOVATION

Irish in Britain is a learning organisation which encourages and facilitates learning and development to enable Irish in Britain and its members to adapt so they can survive and excel in a rapidly changing business environment.

QUALITY

We assert that our members, partners and funders should expect professional standards of service from Irish in Britain across all areas of our work. We will strive to continuously improve our services, focusing on quality as perceived by our members, partners and funders.



MESSAGE FROM MINISTER CIARAN CANNON

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. I firstly want to acknowledge and pay tribute to the members of Irish in Britain – the community groups, organisations, and individuals, many of whom I have met, who work hard daily to encourage and promote Irish community support, culture and heritage throughout Britain. I am very proud and appreciative of 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.

As Ireland's Minister for Diaspora Affairs, I work hard to strengthen connections with Irish Communities abroad and promote links with Irish people and people of Irish ancestry. Our Government's policy on the diaspora recognises that Ireland has a unique and important relationship with its diaspora that must be nurtured and developed. Central to that policy is the Emigrant Support Programme – a tangible expression of the Government's support of, commitment to, and interest in the global Irish community. I am proud that we have provided over £5.2 million in funding to organisations in Britain since 2004.

As we enter a new chapter of our relationship with our closest neighbour, Ireland continues our preparations for the UK's withdrawal from the European Union. Key amongst these preparations is the need to mitigate against any impact on the Irish Community in Britain and to provide as much reassurance as possible during this period of change. The Common Travel Area (CTA) has for decades, and well before either the UK or Ireland joined the EU, underpinned the rights of countless Irish and British Citizens to move between these islands to work, study or travel. This longstanding arrangement has endured and indeed will endure after the UK has left the EU and both the Irish and British Governments have made public commitments to this effect.

Going forward, I want to encourage you to maintain a dialogue with us so that your views can help us to shape the next chapter in the Irish-British relationship. The work of Irish in Britain and its members remains as vital and essential as ever in this regard.

On behalf of the Government of Ireland I would like to reiterate my thanks and wish you all the best for the year ahead.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2018

First Annual Irish in Britain
Volunteer Awards



First Business
networking event for
member organisations

Launch of
Green Hearts Campaign



LGBT Equality & Ireland –
Past and Present

Cuimhne Film &
Memory Book



OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

450
HEART HEALTH
GUIDES
DISTRIBUTED

222
ATTENDEES AT
15 WORKSHOPS
ACROSS
BRITAIN

60
MEMBER
ORGANISATIONS
RECEIVED DIRECT
SUPPORT AND
ADVICE

42
VOLUNTEER
AWARD
NOMINATIONS
RECEIVED

10
NEW MEMBER
ORGANISATIONS

19K
NEW VISITORS
TO OUR WEBSITE

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR OF IRISH IN BRITAIN PATRICK MORRISON



PROVIDING TOOLS FOR THE IRISH COMMUNITY

We often talk about the Irish men and women who built Britain in the context of roads, tunnels, nurses and navvies. We must understand and recognise that the Irish are still building Britain using different tools. Tools of family, community, communication, business, campaigning and contributing to civil society, and as long as Irish men and women are here building, Irish in Britain will continue to provide the tools for the job.

It's been a busy year for Irish in Britain and the Irish community across Britain. Despite the uncertainty of Brexit and continued austerity the community continues to work harder than ever to support each other. In this age of a tendency towards news and information overload it is more important than ever to ensure we are listening to accurate facts and can trust our sources to bring informed opinion and debate.

Since taking over as chair of Irish in Britain I have set the organisation on a trajectory to develop and support the Irish community in the context of a modern, dynamic, informed society. There will never be an end point to this work. With an ever changing and evolving community, society and country; Irish in Britain will continue to adapt so that we can work smarter as a community. Through the work of our trustees, volunteers and especially our staff team we are now anticipating the changes and issues facing our community, leading on the conversations and drawing up the plans ourselves.

As members you will no doubt be aware of the changes and important work our staff team have been leading on over the year. It is important to recognise that this is built on the foundations of previous supporters, volunteers and staff who have contributed, and often continue to contribute, over many years, to ensure Irish in Britain is here in this position with its strong history and reputation and able to lead the community forward.

The community is still faced with many challenges ahead, some old, some new, and no doubt some that we haven't recognised yet. Thanks to our work, our campaigns, such as the successful Green Hearts initiative we are now talking about these challenges and working together using the tools of cooperation and partnership to build a stronger community.

Patrick Morrison

“ Irish in Britain will continue to adapt so that we can work smarter as a community ”

CEO ADDRESS BRIAN DALTON

This has been an exciting and dynamic year for Irish in Britain. We have increased our membership and launched a number of initiatives to promote community development, skills, health and activism. We welcome all the new organisations who have joined over the last 12 months and are proud that our network grows more diverse, promoting new voices and experiences in our community alliance.

We have spent the last year reviewing our operations and strategy to secure our sustainability for the future and ensuring our systems, processes and people are ready for the challenges of the next five years. We have recruited a largely new team, investing in increased policy capacity and streamlining member services to ensure bespoke support and online services. Our new website will offer member-specific resources and an enhanced platform for our membership to promote and profile their organisations as well as connecting practice and people across Britain.

We are pleased to have launched the Irish in Britain Volunteer Awards, showcasing the volunteerism that helps our members deliver vital services and to enable a new generation to get involved in the delivery and stewardship of Irish organisations around the country. We have also successfully launched our Green Hearts campaign to promote health and wellbeing, collating research data to make the case for culturally sensitive services to keep our community healthy and resilient.

Our Cuimhne memory book launch adds a practical resource to support inclusion and care for those living with dementia related illnesses and we will continue to use our profile to advocate for those who are at risk or are vulnerable within and outside the margins of social care.

Brexit is not yet a fully chartered journey, and some of the uncertainties for our community remain beyond the welcome guarantees relating to the Common travel Area and settled status for Irish citizens. Irish in Britain has led community representations to the House of Commons Select Committee on Exiting the European Union and have met with the Home Office to ensure

our voice is heard. As a community we stand in solidarity with our fellow EU citizens and we will support the coalition of voices highlighting the positive contributions of Irish and other migrant communities in Britain.

We look forward to working with you all over the next year as your membership body, as your representative, advocate and portal for creative discussion and connections.

We are grateful to our funders, in particular the Irish Government, donors, community members and friends who have joined us to help support, campaign and represent on the issues that are common to us as a community. Lastly, I would like to thank our staff team and board for their dedication and commitment to values of community kinship, volunteerism and making the biggest difference we can.

Brian Dalton



OUR MODEL FOR CHANGE



VISION
A confident, healthy and empowered Irish community recognised and valued as part of an inclusive British society

REPRESENTING OUR COMMUNITY

CROSS PARTY ENGAGEMENT

It has been important for Irish in Britain to re-establish political relations and forge new ones since the snap General Election in 2017. This has been achieved through meeting with members of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG), attending the AGM and key meetings of the APPG and also ensuring the APPG is represented at relevant events in parliament. Throughout the year, Irish in Britain has attended events including CHAMPs annual St Patrick's Reception, the Traveller Movement's Report Launch on Brexit and Irish Citizens Rights; John Redmond Commemoration Event, addressed by former Taoiseach John Bruton and the presentation of a portrait of Countess Constance Markiewicz from Ceann Comhairle Seán Ó Fearghaíl to Mr Speaker John Bercow in July to recognise the centenary of women's suffrage.

Attending events in parliament has developed connections in person and given the opportunity to raise matters with members of parliament across parties in both houses, building organisational presence in Westminster. Irish in Britain has met with APPG Ireland and Irish in Britain members and beyond – fostering networks with new MPs such as Janet Daby MP for Lewisham East, who is set to address the Irish Britain 2018 AGM. While Brexit will continue to dominate the year ahead, Irish in Britain will keep monitoring and campaigning on issues affecting the Irish in Britain to ensure the Irish community is well represented at Westminster.

RACE DISPARITY OFFICE

Irish in Britain provided a detailed letter to the Race Disparity Office at the Cabinet Office spelling out the research showing the specific needs of the aging population of the Irish community in Britain today. We pointed to the urgent need for “culturally sensitive approaches that understand Irish people, their fears and experiences and which are trusted, tried and tested by the Irish community”.

This work tied in with the continuing input Irish in Britain is giving in consultations about the future of the census, and what it will look like in 2021.

WORK WITH EXTERNAL BODIES

Irish in Britain participated in a symposium at University of Sheffield, part of a large Economic and Social Research Council research programme about ageing which includes the needs and experiences of ageing migrants. The study will investigate ageing migrants in Britain from a range of countries including Ireland.

We are represented by Dr Mary Tilki on Bradford University's Dementia Group advisory panel of a doctoral student investigating the experience of Irish and other BME people with dementia

Irish in Britain have met with RTE as part of a community representation of the RTE/ Long Wave steering group and will continue to represent community views as future provision planning is prepared.

Irish in Britain wrote a submission for the Mayor of London's consultation on the draft London Health Inequalities Strategy. The overarching vision of the London Health Inequalities Strategy is to create a fairer, healthier city, where nobody's health suffers because of who they are or where they live.

Officers at City Hall analysed over 200 responses from organisations as well as the huge public response and the final strategy has now been published.
www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/health/health-inequalities-strategy

BREXIT

Brian Dalton, Irish in Britain's CEO, has met with Home Office officials and given written evidence to the Exiting the European Union Commons Select Committee on the question of how Brexit affects Irish citizens living in Britain. Brian pointed out that

“It is our experience that recent events such as the Windrush controversy and the so-called hostile environment have negatively impacted the Irish community's confidence in reliance on the Common Travel Area.

Older and vulnerable populations are particularly anxious that they may have to demonstrate their rights to benefits, health care, and housing. Many within these groups fear they will not have the documentation required.”

Brian's written submission followed oral evidence given on behalf of Irish in Britain to the same Select Committee in June 2018 by Mary Tilki, member and former Chair of Irish in Britain, and Trustee Catherine Hennessy.

Catherine Hennessy told the committee, “we would recommend that Irish nationals are offered additional information on their rights within the common travel area by the UK authorities.”

In response to Irish in Britain's approaches over a case in which an Irish citizen was wrongly told by a Home Office official that it did not accept that Irish citizens are settled in the UK, the Home Office clarified the position of Irish citizens to us saying:

“Irish citizens enjoy a right of residence in the UK which is provided for under domestic Common Travel Area arrangements; this is not reliant on the UK's membership of the EU.

“This right will be protected as the UK leaves the EU. Irish citizens in the UK are not required to do anything to protect their status.”



IRISH IN BRITAIN'S FIRST ANNUAL VOLUNTEER AWARDS

This year's Irish in Britain Volunteer Awards were the first of what will be an annual event and they were a huge success. Community members, volunteers and award winners all attended to recognise and honour the outstanding contribution of volunteers to the Irish community in Britain. The awards were held at the Irish Embassy in London and introduced by comedian Rory O'Hanlon. The night itself saw speeches from all nominees and nominators, as well as community members, sponsors and the Ambassador of Ireland Mr. Adrian O'Neill.

“ I'm delighted that this year the Embassy was able to host the inaugural IiB Volunteer Awards. This is a great initiative to honour those who give of their own time and effort to serve the community. ”

AMBASSADOR ADRIAN O'NEILL



NOMINATIONS

We want to thank everyone who participated in the awards by nominating an individual or agreeing to be nominated. There was an excellent level of participation from members across the country and we received over 40 nominations in total. All nominations were very well put together and everyone who was nominated should be extremely proud of the work they have done.

Choosing winners from such an outstanding group of volunteers wasn't easy, and we want to thank our judges for the hard work they put into the task. This year's judges were Laura Doughty of Volunteering Matters, Helen Walker of Time Bank, and Adrian Murtagh of Volunteer Scotland.

“ The Irish in Britain IiB Awards recognise the selfless kind acts of love towards one another. We overcome all transgressions when we display these qualities. ”

BRIAN HEFFERNAN

“ Judging the Irish in Britain Volunteer Awards was an amazing experience - to hear about all the incredible work being done by volunteers to support their communities was truly inspiring. As a volunteering charity, we know that millions of people in the UK volunteer their time every day, quietly getting on with the job of helping others. They rarely receive the recognition they deserve, which is why awards like this are so important. ”

HELEN WALKER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, TIMEBANK.

OUTSTANDING TRUSTEE PETER HINTON AND OWEN HAGAN (PICTURED RIGHT), IRISH COMMUNITY CARE MERSEYSIDE

As trustees and members of the executive, Hinton and Hagan have provided sound financial leadership and direction. They provide risk analysis and financial planning and have led a restructuring of the organisation with the intention of expanding its programmes.



OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEER BRIAN HEFFERNAN, CAUSEWAY IRISH HOUSING

Brian Heffernan volunteers with Tottenham Restoration Environmental Enterprise (TREE), a social enterprise he helped to create with Causeway Irish Housing. He sources raw and recycled materials to upcycle into furniture, which is then donated or sold cheaply within the local community.

Brian has led workshops and classes on furniture restoration and has helped to renovate a disused garage into a creative hub where participants can drop in and work on their furniture.



OUTSTANDING GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS

Care in the Community, Irish Network Stevenage
The Care in the Community group provide a visitation service for vulnerable and housebound members of their community. Volunteers check up on community members to ensure they are healthy and living comfortably and encourage them to attend social activities and to interact with others. The group offers respite relief for carers and liaises with family members who may not live close by.



SPONSORS:

We also want to thank our sponsors for supporting the awards including Moreland Investments Ltd. The volunteer awards wouldn't have been possible without their contribution and it is important to know that the business community stands behind our volunteers.



GREEN HEARTS: A COMMUNITY APPROACH TO HEART HEALTH



From the outset, the campaign centred on a collaborative community approach towards improving health outcomes for the Irish community and promoting a positive message around prevention and early detection. Many of the risk factors for heart disease are the same as those for cancer and diabetes and promoting a heart-healthy lifestyle will undoubtedly have a positive knock-on effect on general health and wellbeing.

PARLIAMENTARY LAUNCH

The campaign launched on 14 March in Portcullis House, Westminster with the support of Maria Caulfield MP and it was attended by 15 MPs. That same week, we held our first blood pressure screening and gave out our Green Hearts 30-day health guide to over 150 people at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Trafalgar Square.

NATIONAL SCREENING CAMPAIGN #KNOWYOURSCORE

High blood pressure is the main risk factor for stroke and a major risk factor for heart attack, heart failure and kidney disease. There is also increasing evidence that it is a risk factor for vascular dementia.

Green Hearts partnered with the international blood pressure campaign May Measurement Month to roll out our national Green Hearts screening campaign. From London to Leeds to Liverpool, over 300 people were screened, and more than 600 Green Hearts Health guides given out. The campaign was launched at Luton Irish Centre by MEP Alex Mayer and attended by Hertfordshire GAA Chairperson Diarmuid Walsh.

VOLUNTEERS

We want to give a huge thank you to our amazing volunteers! Our Cardiac Nurse Valerie Nangle brought her invaluable experience and knowledge to the team as well as enlisting her student nurses to help. The 2018 London Rose candidates took part in our opening intergenerational screening at the London Irish Centre.

VISIBILITY

Reaching a wide breadth of the community was made possible by our partnerships, collaborations and support from our member organisations, including Britain GAA, Irish businesses, the Rose Centre and other charities such as Haemochromatosis UK.

Members of the Irish community also shared their real-life experiences with heart health. Marathon runner Geoffrey shared his story of overcoming a heart attack at the age of 37 and musician Ronan spoke about his personal experiences with alcohol.

The support of the Irish media has helped us reach out with the Green Hearts message, as has our social media campaign.

10K FUNDRAISER

A team of eight Green Hearts runners took part in the Kew Gardens 10K in September to help raise awareness and funds for the campaign. Apart from raising funds, it was an opportunity to promote the benefits of exercise. Our very own board members Conrad and Patrick are the prime example of how to get from couch to 10K in seven weeks, well done fellas!

“ I would like to say a huge thank you to Green Hearts and May Measurement Month for coming along to the London Irish Centre and running free blood pressure screenings. Service users were queuing up. We will now look at doing quarterly screenings ”

RUTH AT THE LONDON IRISH CENTRE



“It’s always better to be proactive rather than reactive and Green Hearts is a proactive campaign helping make people more aware about the risks of heart disease and the importance of checking your blood pressure.”

PAUL COGGINS, TIR CHONAILL GAELS

SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERS

Irish in Britain supports a wide network of over 100 diverse Irish organisations that make up its membership across Britain. We help build sustainability into our member organisations; promote healthy living; draft policy positions and campaign for issues that matter to the whole community.

MEMBER FORUMS

We held forums in London and Liverpool for members who run cultural activities and programmes. These workshops were very well received and provided participants with an opportunity to share best practice and to hear from innovators in the non-profit sector. These forums featured sessions on monitoring and evaluation and how to include a health focus in cultural events and programmes. A separate member workshop featured a practical session on running intergenerational projects.

“It was a really good forum, informative and well run.”

MAY CULTURAL FORUM PARTICIPANT (LIVERPOOL)

FUNDING WORKSHOPS

Representatives from the Big Lottery Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund and Trust for London each ran a workshop for liB members that covered their organisations' different grants, the types of applications they like to see, and what applicants should avoid. Participants found the workshops extremely useful and appreciated the chance to speak with these funders one-on-one. In addition to our in-person workshops, we ran a webinar with the Heritage Lottery Fund where participants had a chance to hear from an HLF representative and ask questions in real time through their computers. The training video is now available to members online.

“The workshop was very informative and extremely beneficial.”

JOHN GILTENAN COUNCIL OF IRISH COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS - LONDON ON OUR BIG LOTTERY FUND WORKSHOP

RESOURCES

We have created and compiled a diverse collection of useful resources and tools for our members in different formats. In addition to compiling a tailored database of public resources and tools, we have created text and video materials to assist our members.

The Irish in Britain website has a large catalogue of resources and tools available to help members with many relevant topics. These resources range from safeguarding policy templates to strategic planning guidance, to social media tools.

Over the last year, we have provided members with monthly funding and policy bulletins that identify and explore key funds and industry developments. Both bulletins have been very well received and several members have applied to funds they found through the bulletins. Lastly, we have created several training and informational videos for our members. We currently have two training videos on demonstrating your organisation's impact and on board recruitment.

DIRECT SUPPORT

We provided direct support to members on a range of issues including funding, project development, strategic planning and communications. Along with longer term support on specific issues, many members received tailored updates or information on funds or training that were relevant to them. Multiple members who received support on a funding application received the funding they were looking for. We plan to continue to develop our offering of direct support in the coming years.



SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERS



STEP UP

Step UP is a quality assurance framework created and designed by Irish in Britain to help our members build and strengthen their foundations to provide high quality services. Step UP was created to help small and medium sized groups who might have difficulty adapting to larger and more complex quality assurance systems.

Working through Step UP improves our members' chances of success with funders because they will be better prepared and able to show that their group is well run. The statements and standards in each section give goals and will be compatible with other quality standards members may encounter. So any member that decides at a later stage to take on a more comprehensive quality system will find that all the work done to complete Step Up is completely relevant and transferable.

Step UP is designed to be user-friendly, which means you can dip in and out of each section as you like.

Irish in Britain ran Step UP as a pilot programme from September 2017 with 12 participating members. The pilot has now concluded, and many of the participants have found the programme extremely beneficial to the operation of their services.

“ [Step UP] has helped us to ensure all our policies, website, promotional materials and practices are consistent with our governing documents and organisation mission and values.”

PILOT PARTICIPANT

The framework has been updated to accommodate our findings from the pilot and has been improved to make it simpler for members to use. The programme has now been expanded and we encourage all our members to participate.

“ I feel that Step UP has allowed us to really look at the areas of improvement in the club and has highlighted the positive work we already have in place.”

PILOT PARTICIPANT

“ online resources were useful and the Member Support officer was very supportive and available to offer guidance and assistance.”

PILOT PARTICIPANT



SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERS

MEMBERSHIP

Ten new organisations joined us as Community and Associate members in 2018. We welcomed as new members: Friends, Families and Travellers, a national charity that works on behalf of all Gypsies and Travellers; York Irish Association, a community group set up in 2014; Irish Society of East Anglia, an Irish community society; the Commission for Peace in Ireland; Irish Jam radio station, a community based radio programme promoting Irish arts and music in London; the

Aisling Project, which supports long term and vulnerable Irish emigrants with trips home and resettlement in Ireland; Irish language group Conradh na Gaeilge I Londain; VICA, which campaigns for Irish citizens living abroad to be able to vote in elections and referendums in Ireland; Irish Cultural Centre, a hub for Irish arts and cultural activities in Hammersmith; and community hub Nottingham Irish Centre.

“Diaspora implies being scattered - membership of Irish in Britain changed that to ‘belonging’ for us.”

ANNE CURTIS, DIRECTOR GREEN CURTAIN THEATRE

COMMUNICATIONS

Irish in Britain uses its website, social media platforms and regular newsletters to amplify and highlight members’ activities and achievements and to point to developments and news of interest to our members and the diverse Irish diaspora in Britain. We have almost 21K followers across our social networks: Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

Our Facebook post below celebrating the 70th anniversary of the NHS broke all Irish in Britain records and reached over 17K people with over 900 likes/shares and comments.

“Happy 70th birthday to the NHS! So many Irish emigrants came to make their lives here in Britain and helped build the NHS alongside the #Windrush generation and people from across the world. Today we celebrate them and the care they have given, and continue to give, to generations. #NHS70”

Through our communications we can give the activities of our members and the issues affecting the Irish community in Britain a national profile.

We can also enable researchers who want to do work on the experiences of the Irish in Britain the ability to connect. For example our social media plug put a US academic studying the lives of Irish nurses who came to Britain and worked in the NHS in touch with many future participants:

“The Irish in Britain communication/ outreach was really a tremendous help. Many people reached out to me as a result – I not only heard from nurses willing to be interviewed for my project (and who were willing to share my research with their personal networks), but also from people in the Irish and nursing communities, who generously offered their assistance and support. Several people directed me to useful resources and archives that I otherwise would not have known about.”

CATHERINE BABIKIAN, PHD CANDIDATE, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

“Membership of Irish in Britain has enabled the Traveller Movement to reach a wider national audience”

PATRICIA STAPELTON, PARTNERSHIPS MANAGER THE TRAVELLER MOVEMENT

CUIMHNE AND OUR WORK ON MEMORY LOSS



Our Cuimhne dementia training has had a huge impact on Irish communities and groups across Britain. We have offered well-received training on understanding memory loss and dementia awareness free of charge to many different groups. Previous hosts include Irish Community Services Greenwich, Bexley and Lewisham, East London Irish Pensioners' Forum and Birmingham Irish Association. Encouraging discussion on the taboo subjects of dementia and mental health changes hearts and minds and sparks individuals within groups to step forward and take action.

This year, with the help of our volunteers, we have developed a number of learning resources including two publications and a special training video, My Story, featuring Cuimhne Champions. Over the coming year we will take these books into communities and public libraries, spreading our Cuimhne messages. These resources will help us to share our learning and ideas with Irish communities all over the world.

Over the year, we have facilitated knowledge sharing partnerships at Community Language Support Services in St Mellitis Church and City Mission Harlesden and are keen to develop this work.

Thanks to City Bridge Trust funding, we have continued to support people to become Cuimhne Champions who in turn support Irish community groups to become more dementia friendly. We have been connecting volunteers and groups with a variety of organisations providing resources and training such as the London Ambulance Service and Gas Safety. Champions have then been bringing back all that they have learnt into their local groups.

“ Many thanks for supplying the link to the wonderful and informative day which I really enjoyed and found so informative. I felt the style that you and Mary maintained throughout the day facilitated learning on so many levels and I really enjoyed the day.”

RORY MAC GIOLLA CHOMHAILL, IRISH CHAPLAINCY OUTREACH PROJECT

“I learned so much from Mary’s speech. I now pass the information on to other people who are carers for people with memory loss and explain to them, in layman’s words just like Mary told us, and I get great response. The first thing I always state is people do not want sympathy they require help and they are still human beings.”
Chris O’Reilly, Cuimhne Champion and Treasurer of East London Irish Pensioner’s Forum

Irish in Britain are collaborating with the National Institute of Health Research to encourage Irish people to take part in dementia research as part of the Join Dementia Research Programme. We have also negotiated inclusion of the Irish community in a survey of dementia information needs with Dementia Diversity Xchange Network and in an evaluation of dementia information needs by Independent Age. We have provided telephone and email advice to Chicago Immigrant Support about the issue of dementia among the Irish community in Chicago, with a view to establishing a culturally sensitive dementia service in Chicago.



IRISH IN BRITAIN BIBLIOGRAPHY

The new updated edition of our Bibliography of Research is now available online. This unique project is a rich resource of information and evidence about the Irish community in Britain and covers a wide range of subjects.

The focus of the bibliography is on the most contemporary evidence and particularly aims to capture the expanding body of scholarly research which has emerged since the year 2000. However for the sake of completeness, a small

number of earlier materials have been included because of their seminal nature and significance.

New additions include studies on the impact of Brexit; several studies on returning Irish emigrants; the role of GAA; and the experience of discrimination against Travellers.

If you have written or know of a research piece that should be included in a future edition, please email jhudson@irishinbritain.org

THE ANNUAL IRISH LANGUAGE AWARD

“Tá Irish in Britain ar thús cadhnaíochta ar chúram, ar fheachtas agus ar obair chultúrtha. Tá gradam bliantúil Gaeilge againn. Molaimid oibrí deonach óg as a gcuid oibre ar cur chun cinn ár dteanga agus ár gcultúr sa Bhreatain. Tá an dámhachtain tábhachtach mar go gcuireann ár gcultúr fáilte roimh gach duine. Maoiníonn Coláiste na nGael an duais. Tá siad ina bhall bródúil as Irish in Britain.”

CHRISTY EVANS

“Irish in Britain is at the forefront of welfare, campaigning and cultural work. The Annual Irish Language Award recognises a volunteer or organisation within Irish in Britain who has done the most to promote our language and culture in Britain. The Award is important because Ireland’s culture is inclusive, welcoming and open to all. Funds for the prize come from Coláiste na nGael, who are proud members of Irish in Britain”.



ABOVE: LAST YEAR’S WINNER JOHN-JOE Ó CONNOR PICTURED WITH THE KING OF TORY

OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY

“Irish in Britain is proud to represent new voices in our network and this year we have welcomed ten new community members. This includes campaigning organisations, Traveller support services, culture, arts and media organisations and we will continue to broaden our membership to represent our community as it evolves and grows.”

BRIAN DALTON CEO IRISH IN BRITAIN

OUR DIVERSE MEMBERSHIP

We have provided telephone and email advice to Friends Families and Travellers prior to establishing their Irish Travellers Project. We are advising and facilitating research into the genetic transmission of haemochromatosis among Irish Travellers in Britain by the Haemochromatosis Society, collaborating with GATEHerts.

LGBT EQUALITY AND IRELAND PAST AND PRESENT CONFERENCE

Irish in Britain was proud to co-host with the London Irish LGBT Network a ground-breaking conference on LGBT Equality and Ireland in London on 1 November. We are grateful for support from Innisfree Housing Association that helped make the day possible.

Brian Dalton, CEO of Irish in Britain said, “We believe in showcasing voices and experiences that have not always been given space in the story book of the Irish emigrant experience. We know our membership and our community is diverse, nuanced and plural.”

Speakers included Clare Moore from Love Equality Northern Ireland, Conor McGinn Labour MP for St Helens North, Sinn Fein MP Chris Hazzard, Damien Egan, Mayor of Lewisham, Dr David Shaw, Dr Joanne McCarthy, and chair Professor Daniel Monk. Irish in Britain was delighted that Ambassador Adrian O’Neill was able to attend for part of the day.

“Thanks for organising such an excellent day. The speakers were very inspiring, and I was privileged to meet so many great people.”

CAROLINE BROGAN, SOLICITOR AT IRWIN MITCHELL AND MANAGER OF FREE LEGAL ADVICE CLINICS AT THE BIRMINGHAM IRISH ASSOCIATION

MIGRATION AND THE MAKING OF IRELAND

Irish in Britain’s Treasurer Conrad Bryan took part in a panel with Rosemary Adaser of the Association of Mixed Race Irish and Mary Hickman for a launch of Professor Bryan Fanning’s book ‘Migration and the Making of Ireland’ published by University College Dublin Press at a packed event in the Embassy of Ireland.



SEÁN HUTTON RETIRES

Seán Hutton, our Policy Officer, left the organisation in June 2018 after more than 20 years with Irish in Britain and formerly The Federation of Irish Societies (FIS). Seán is leaving to pursue his other passion of writing.

Irish in Britain enjoys a well-developed national profile that is, in part, a direct result of much of the work that Seán has undertaken for the organisation, in particular his skilled persistence in helping to secure formal recognition of the Irish community within the census consultation. This and other representations he made on behalf of liB and FIS represent the best values of the voluntary sector, and the team here at liB and the wider community are deeply grateful for his contributions.

It is, by any measure, an outstanding legacy and we are very sorry to see Seán leave but we hope to maintain a valued association in the future as we look to fill the considerable void his retirement brings. Seán leaves with the utmost respect of his team, board, and member organisations up and down the country.

The Irish in Britain team and board wish Seán the very best for his future endeavours and we will always consider him a true friend.



WITH MARY MCALEESE AND MARY MONTAGUE

FINANCE

INCOME	
INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	£401,014
DONATION AND MEMBERSHIP FEES	£34,530
INCOME FROM OTHER ACTIVITIES	£410
INVESTMENT INCOME	£5
TOTAL INCOME	£435,959

STAFF COSTS	£253,754
OTHER OPERATING COSTS	£112,537
TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION	£7,772
GOVERNANCE	£10,519
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£384,582

2016/17 TOTAL FUNDS AT THE START OF THE YEAR	£278,629
NET INCOME	£31,410

2017/18 TOTAL FUNDS AT THE START OF THE YEAR	£310,039
NET INCOME	£51,377

WHERE OUR MONEY COMES FROM	
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	£459
DEBTORS	£5,975
CASH AT THE BANK & INVESTMENTS	£483,377
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN 1 YEAR	£128,395



THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS, FUNDERS, COMMUNITY AND SUPPORTERS FOR A WONDERFUL YEAR



NATIONAL LOTTERY FUNDED



**Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme**



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

