

Luton Irish Forum

August 2009 1st Edition

Kathleen Connolly House 102 Hitchin Road, Luton, LU2 0ES

Tel: 01582 720 447 Fax: 01582 415 002

Email: info@lutonirishforum.org Web: www.lutonirishforum

Bulletin



CULTURAL DISCOVERY BOXES LAUNCH

Saturday 19th September
11am-12.30pm & 1.30pm-3.30pm
Stockwood Discovery Centre
London Road, Luton

We will be officially launching our Cultural Discovery Boxes on Saturday 19th September at Stockwood Park Discovery Centre. This will provide community groups, schools, members of the public and interested individuals the opportunity to view the contents of the box and talk to the community members about the content of the box.

There will also be cultural refreshments, an opportunity to view oral history recordings and children's activities throughout the day.

For more information on this project please contact Nicola Molloy or Noelette Hanley at Luton Irish Forum on 01582 720 447 or by email to info@lutonirishforum.org.

Do you read Luton News or Dunstable Gazette?

We are still collecting the community cash points which you can find in The Luton News and The Dunstable Gazette at the bottom of page 2.

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM took place on 4th July. Joe Ward retired his position on the Board after a number of years service. Noreen Kellett, LIF's Chair thanked Joe for his commitment to the Forum and wished him well. Both Pat Leonard and Frank Horan stood down and were re-elected to their positions.

Lucy Kellett was elected to the Board to replace Joe, Lucy has been training as an advice worker with LIF and brings this experience and knowledge to her position on the Board. At her first Board meeting Lucy was nominated for and accepted the position of Public Relations Officer.

Congratulations to members of the staff team and volunteers who completed NVQ's last month. Between them they completed two Level 2 in Customer Service, a Level 2 and two Level 3 in Information Advice & Guidance.

IRISH LANGUAGE GROUP

Meets the third Wednesday of every month

1.30pm to 3pm

At Kathleen Connolly House
102 Hitchin Road Luton



Come along and learn in an informal setting.

No need to book - for more info call Nicola on 01582 720 447 or email nicola@lutonirishforum.org.

Emergency Life Support Workshop

Learn key life-saving skills and gain awareness of treatment for shock and significant blood loss.

Includes dealing with unconscious casualties, CPR, Choking, Shock and Significant Blood Loss.

Monday 10th August 10am to 2pm
Kathleen Connolly House

There are a few spaces left on this FREE workshop. Call 01582 720 447 or speak to a member of staff to add your name to the list.



Learn to dance like 'Strictly'

Following the successful taster sessions, Ballroom and Latin American dance classes will be taking place every Monday afternoon. The first session is:

Monday 7th September
at Kathleen Connolly House
3.45pm to 5pm

The cost is £1.50 per person per class. To add your name to the list or for further info call the Forum on 01582 720 447.



Are you green fingered?

We are looking for willing volunteers to help tidy up our garden.

Please give your name to Noelette if you can spare us a couple of hours.



Literary Society Talk

Tommy Christie gave the literary society a talk on his short story writing after winning The Irish Post's Listowel Writers Week competition. Tommy beat hundred of entries with his short story written in rhyme which is set in Dublin in the 1950's.

The Literary Society meets at Kathleen Connolly House after the bingo on the first Wednesday of the month to discuss their own work and work of published writers.

STAR ATHLETE

Daniel Chorley is a young man who is quietly making a name for himself in the athletic field. He is a member of Luton Athletic Club and his great ambition is to take part in the 2010 Olympic Games which are taking place in London.

His coach is former international Luton athlete Tony Simmons. To date he has won over 30 medals, cups and trophies. In 2007 he was ranked No 1 in the U17 age group for the mile sprint. He also won the English National Cross-Country Championship at Alton Towers. In the 2009 Luton Athletic Club annual awards Daniel won the coveted young sportsman of the year award.

Daniel earned his first Great Britain International Vest at the National Indoor Centre in Cardiff, Daniel won the 1500m in a personal best time of 3.55 minutes. Daniel was selected for the Great Britain U20 team competing at Loughborough at the end of May.

The Luton Irish Forum wishes Daniel every success in his athletic career. We will be watching and supporting him with keen interest. Daniel's parents are Ian and Kathleen from Luton. His grandparents are Michael and Sarah Pender from Laois and Cavan and are prominent members of the Luton Irish Forum.



Family Fun Day

We will be holding a family fun day on Saturday 26th September to raise funds and also to attract families into the centre.

We are looking for:

**Helpers Donations of items to sell Cakes
Food items for a hamper Cord and elastic**

If you can help or have items to donate please see Nicola or Jacqui or call 01582 720 447

Ambassadors Visit

The new Irish Ambassador to Britain, Mr Bobby McDonagh, came to Kathleen Connolly House in June for a brief visit to see the work of the Forum in action.

The Ambassador and his wife, Mary, enjoyed a cup of tea and a tour of Kathleen Connolly House before they were on their way to visit other Irish community groups.



Representation

We are always keen to make sure that the Forum and the Irish community as a whole are represented at events and forums across Herts, Beds and Bucks. The last two months we have been especially busy representing the Forum across a range of meeting and activities. Here is an overview:

Peter Fletcher Associates Ltd held a focus group for members of the Irish community to feedback on how Luton Borough Council Consults with older people. Bedscarf met twice to plan a festival for International Older Persons Day, LIF is involved to make sure the programme provides for the Irish community.

Our advice team represent the Forum on Luton Action Against Poverty. LAAP is a forum for welfare agencies where LIF can bring issues facing the Irish community to the attention of the council and other agencies.

Mick attends the Older Persons Partnership Board which gives direction to improving the quality of life, the security and maximising the independence of older people in Luton.

Luton LINK is an independent network of individuals, user groups and voluntary organisations that work together to improve local health and social care services. Noelette has been regularly attending their meetings to bring the health of the Irish community to the attention of statutory authorities.

Legrave Youth Work Action Group hold an annual festival for young people. Staff and trustees went along to run an information stall to engage with young people of Irish descent.

NHS Luton came in to talk to the Tuesday and Wednesday Club about local health services and will be coming again in the near future to talk to small groups about their plans to transform their services. These consultations provide an opportunity for the Irish community's views to be heard.

Noelette was elected to the Luton Assembly earlier in the year which feeds directly into Luton Forum, our Local Strategic Partnership. Noelette has attended several meetings.

Also as part of our work to engage with children and young people and promote Irish culture we attended Someries Junior School's Multicultural Day 2 members of staff went and gave a presentation on the needs of the Irish community to members of staff & tenants at Aldwyck Housing Association.

The Race Advisory Forum is a vehicle for the Council to consult with black and minority communities in devising policies and services relevant to their needs. Our Chair, Noreen Kellett, is the vice chair and active member.

Credit Union

New Credit Union collection point
at Kathleen Connolly House

Tuesday 10-11.30am Wednesday 10am-12pm

For further information please contact:

Aidan Gallen 07913558461

Charlotte Seery 07883848269

John Hutcheson 07919162006

