

Luton Irish Forum Bulletin

December 2010 1st Edition

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Nollaig Shona Dúit - Best wishes from all at LIF for the festive season

Children's Christmas Party

This year's children's party was attended by 36 children who all got to see Santa, play games and have a goody bag including goods kindly donated by Tesco. The party raised over £220 for LIF funds. Our thanks to all those who supported it and a special thanks to all those who volunteered their time to help out.



Ceili & Set Dancing Classes

Since September we have been hosting Irish Ceili and Set Dancing Classes for adults.

The classes cost £1.50 per person per session and take place on Saturdays at Kathleen Connolly House from 2-3pm

For more info please call Luton Irish Forum on 01582 720 447 or email info@lutonirishforum.org.



Yoga Classes

Saturdays

9.30 to 10.45am

at Kathleen Connolly House,
102 Hitchin Road, Luton.

For more information contact
Gary Ward on 07962455122 or
email gary@garyoga.co.uk.

Do you read The Luton News or The 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. Please help us by collecting these points and handing them in to a member of staff at Kathleen Connolly House.

St Patrick's Festival Choir

Preparations for this year's St Patrick's Festival are well underway. As always there will be the Sean O'Riada sung Mass on the launch evening and on the morning of the St Patrick's Festival Parade, led by our very own choir.

Anyone who is interested in joining the choir should leave their name and phone number with a member of staff or a member of the St Patrick's Festival Committee.

CHRISTMAS CLOSE

Our advice service will shut down for drop in and telephone advice on Friday 17th December at 1pm. All other services will finish on Wednesday 22nd December at 1.30pm and full services will resume from Tuesday 4th January at 10.30am.

Extension of Kathleen Connolly House

Plans to extend Kathleen Connolly House are progressing well and we will be moving to temporary accommodation at the end of January for approximately 6 months. Watch out for publicity regarding the location of our temporary home. If you have any queries please call us on 01582 720 447.



Luton Irish Forum Golf Day

44 golfers took to the fairways for Luton Irish Forum's recent Charity Golf Day at South Beds Golf Course.

The purpose of the day was to raise funds for the planned extension of Kathleen Connolly House. After the round of golf, The Mayor of Luton, golfers and special guests enjoyed dinner, prize giving, auction, accordion playing by Malachy Cairns and storytelling from Luke Monaghan!

Frank Horan, Secretary of the Luton Irish Forum said 'The day proved an excellent golfing outing, as well as a great social occasion afterwards. The support given from Luton Irish and Club Erin Golf Societies and members of South Beds Golf Club is greatly appreciated. Thanks are due to organisers Red Hill Events for hosting a very successful event. We look forward to more similar outings in the future.'



St Patrick's Festival Parade 2011



We need you & your family!

**Help make next year one to remember
and that we can all be proud of!**

GET INVOLVED - We are looking for people interested in being in our pageant, people interested in volunteering as stewards, choir members, banner carriers and more.

This year the theme to our pageant is **'Catching the Boat'** and we want to show the history of the Irish community in Luton since arriving on the Princess Maud in the 50's.

We need adults and children to get dressed up as people going for the boat, nurses, builders, Vauxhall workers etc.

If you can help speak to Nicola or Noelette, call us on 01582 720 447 or email nicola@lutonirishforum.org.



Luton Irish Live

Tune into Diverse FM 102.8 for the Irish show on Tuesday evenings from 6pm to 8pm. Listen to all your favourites with DJ and Radio Presenter Jim Carway!

Luton Irish Forum was proud to be Runner up for an award at the recent Luton's Best Awards.



There were over 400 entries to the awards run by Luton Forum - The Local Strategic Partnership.

LIF was one of three up for the Community Cohesion award and 2 of our representatives attended the awards ceremony at Luton Hoo on Thursday 2nd December.

Proud of your Irish roots? Tick the Irish box on Census Day!

So why tick the Irish ethnicity box?

Well first and foremost, it's great to be Irish or have Irish roots!!

The Irish in Britain have made, and continue to make, an enormous contribution to society. They are leaders and pioneers in almost every walk of life. So if you're Irish, or you have Irish roots, you can make this count for something in the Census by ticking the Irish ethnicity box.

How do I know if I'm eligible to tick the box?

This is a question that you have to answer for yourself and depends on your attitudes towards your ethnicity. Every person in the world is a member of an ethnic group. Ethnicity relates to your own sense of cultural values, often through a shared heritage, which can be very different to Nationality (or National Identity in the Census).

Example 1:

Samantha was born in London. Both her grandparents were born in Ireland. Although she travels on a British passport, Samantha intends to tick the Irish box.

Example 2:

Lucy's mother was born in Ireland, her father is Turkish. She travels on a British passport. She wishes to record her Irish and Turkish heritages, so Lucy will tick the 'Any other mixed/multiple ethnic background' and write in Irish and Turkish in the write-in box provided.

So, if you are not white and/or consider yourself of mixed ethnicity and want to register your Irish ethnicity you can do this by ticking the 'Any other' box (in Section B of the Ethnic Group question) and writing in both ethnicities, e.g. Irish and English.

Register your support at www.howirishareyou.com.

To get involved in the local campaign call Noelette on 01582 720 447 or email noelette@lutonirishforum.org.



NEW NON-EMERGENCY NHS NUMBER

111 is a new telephone number to make it easier for you to access local health services when you need help fast but it is not an emergency.

The service is available 365 days a year and is free just like 999. You should use this service if it's not a 999 emergency, you don't think you can wait to see a GP and you don't know who to call for medical help.

You will get through to a team of highly trained advisors who will assess your symptoms and guide you to the right service.

This service is only available in Luton.