



MILTON KEYNES IRISH WELFARE SUPPORT GROUP

MKIWSG@hotmail.com www.irishwelfaremk.co.uk Mobile: 07986089898 Charity No 133277

MK Irish Welfare Support Group Newsletter



Newsletter December
2023

Inside this Issue:

- Dates for your diary
- Ideas and contributions for the Newsletter
- Raffle and bingo proceeds
- Bring and buy proceeds
- Recommended reading
- Irish Christmas traditions Old and New
- An Interesting Fact

As 2023 is coming to a close we would like to thank all our members for their continued support in this our first full year following on from Covid. We rely very much on our volunteers' contribution to the success of our lunch club.

Dates for your Diary

17th December – Childrens Christmas party from 3.00pm to 6.00pm. Tickets are available from Paula Smyth.

20th / 27th December – Lunch Club closed and reopens on **3rd January 2024**

13th March 2024 – **St Patrick's day lunch.** Good Companions, Northampton, will be joining us this year. Music will be provided by Eamonn's Country Sounds.

Ideas and contributions for the Newsletter

Do we have any members who would be interested in contributing articles, features, stories for your newsletter? As much as we like to produce the newsletter every quarter we are struggling to do so due to other commitments. If there is any individual or group of members who would like to take the newsletter on as a project, we can offer support to get you started. We would be grateful for any help offered.

Raffle and bingo proceeds

We would like to remind members that all outings, excursions, free Christmas lunch, carvery are funded from profits from raffle and bingo sales. Thank you to the vast majority who do support the raffle and bingo your support is very much appreciated.

Bring and buy proceeds

The monies raised from the bring and buy sales is £85. Many thanks to all of you who brought in items to be sold and those who bought them!!

Our Sponsors:
Milton Keynes
Irish Centre



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme



An Boinn Gnóthaí Fachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Recommended reading

I could read the sky – Timothy O’Grady

This book tells of one man’s journey from the West of Ireland to the fields, boxing-booths and building sites of England. Now, at the century’s end, he feels himself alone, looking back, struggling to make sense of a life of unforgotten loveliness and loss. Exploring themes of love, dislocation and yearning, with stark, clear prose and stunning photographs, this novel explores the experience of Irish emigration as never before.

If you have any recommendations for books, television programmes, films, do please let us know so we can share.

Irish Christmas traditions Old and New

Nollaig na mBan – ‘Little Christmas’ or ‘Women’s Christmas’

A notable date during the Christmas period is 6th January a day to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. This day is known as Nollaig na mBan – ‘Little Christmas’ or ‘Women’s Christmas’. It marks the end of the Christmas Season and traditionally the men of the house take over for the day, preparing meals and allowing the women to have a rest. This is also the day that the Christmas decorations come down.

December the 8th was always the day when you were officially ‘allowed’ to put up the Christmas tree and start decorating the house. Now, of course, people put their tree and decorations up way earlier. People now do this after the much anticipated Late Late Toy show, one of the most watched television shows in Ireland every year. The programme has been running since 1975 and showcases the popular toys of the year, as presented by the host and demonstrated by various children on-stage along with appearances by celebrity guests. Another highlight is the ‘Toy Show Jumper’ that gets almost as much attention as the show itself, with viewers sending in their own versions to RTÉ ahead of the night in the hope that the presenter might wear them!

An Interesting Fact

The Pogues legend, the late Shane MacGowan, co-wrote festive favourite ‘Fairytale of New York’ with band mate Jem Finer in 1987. The pair get around €250,000 each in royalties every year thanks to radio and TV airplay. It is the second most profitable record in terms of dividends for its writers after Slade’s ‘Merry Christmas Everybody’.

Many thanks again to all our members, volunteers and sponsors for all your continued support.

A happy and prosperous Christmas to you all

Nollaig faoi shéan agus faoi shonas díobh go léir



Our Sponsors:
Milton Keynes
Irish Centre



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme



An Boinn Gnóthaí Fachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade