



# SCÉAL ÉILE



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH OF COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear friends and members,

For much of the past month I've been on a marvelous trip around Ireland with Katie, so instead of a formal letter, this is more of a "postcard" selection of notes and observations while abroad:

The first few days in Dublin were eye-opening in terms of all the changes going on since I first got familiar with it—which was only back in 1988! Dublin continues its trajectory, being a cosmopolitan city of the world, complete with freeway around the perimeter, brand-new light rail system for commuters, and people from literally all over the world strolling up and down O'Connell Street... and of course home prices that exceed those in the Bay Area, given the current strength of the Euro!

A few choice days in Longford followed, thanks to the wonderful hospitality of our friend Kitty Carberry (who says "hello" to her good friends here!). Highlights here included a fascinating tour of a nearby Iron Age plank road at Corlea, and a great session at the pub in Newtown Cashel – both featuring Kitty's brother Noel, a fine uilleann piper, storyteller, and guide.

From there, on to Willie Clancy week in Miltown Malbay! Or at least a few days of it... Everywhere we had gone, people had related all sorts of stories and advice to us about the school/festival, and they all turned out to be true: there are so many things going on in a wide variety of different places, I'm quite convinced you could attend the full week and not find someone you are looking for, and know is there! At the same time, you'd be likely to encounter all sorts of people you know from all over – in a little over two days there, we got a quick guide to

town when we bumped into Andrew McNamara and Bernadette Flynn the first night, saw Dave Holland and Aleta Hancock (set dancing at the Armada, of course!), and spent two great evenings outside town in the village of Coore, with Larry and Shaina Lynch and their friends. And of course, great music all around, all the time!

Since time was short, though, we headed up the coast to Doolin, and caught a SMALL ferryboat out to the Aran Islands. Fortunately, the weather was gorgeous and calm, so our ride out to all three of the islands in turn was uneventful, and we arrived on Inis Mor intact. The dozen or so towns and villages are just the right distance apart for cycling, so we had a fine tour on hired bikes the first day. For the second day, though, I had other ideas: I had been out walking along the Western cliffs years ago on my first visit, and the place held a special magic for me, which I wanted to share with Katie. Now it has some extra magic for both of us, since while we were exploring the Black fort, after enjoying a picnic lunch on the sunny cliffs, she accepted my proposal that we get married! [The "full" version of this story would occupy the remainder of this issue...see us for further detail]

Needless to say, Inis Mor was probably our favorite part of the trip. But we did move on after a few days to the Galway area, and spent a very pleasant time touring first through Connemara, then up around Westport (which has some fine dining!) and through Mayo – where the new monument to the famine is a memorable sight.

Naturally, we had at least a little rain on most days of the trip, but the showers were short, and the spaces between included plenty of blue sky and sunshine as well. I'm sure we will be returning!

Slán,  
Michael R.



COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN IS IRELAND'S PREMIERE CULTURAL MOVEMENT, FOUNDED IN 1951. WHEN YOU JOIN COMHALTAS YOU JOIN PEOPLE FROM MORE THAN 400 BRANCHES WORLDWIDE IN SUPPORT OF THE TRADITIONAL IRISH ARTS OF MUSIC, DANCE AND LANGUAGE. WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS. PLEASE CONTACT THE CHAIRMAN, OR MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION, OR VISIT US AT [SF.CCEWEST.ORG](http://SF.CCEWEST.ORG)

# SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Farewell Dave

We wish to extend a fond farewell to Dave Fernandes who came to us from Toronto all ready to join in some good "Sets"... Come August 11, he will once again be back kicking up his heels in Toronto while pursuing school and his new career. Your friends at CCE SF wish you all the very best. See you at Ottawa 2005?

## Thank You

Thanks to Walter & Lily McGovern for their report on a great Fleadh Nua. They are annual attendees and enjoy meeting friends and dancing. They sent us a brochure of "Seisiun" giving the venues for CCE's "Music Trail through Ireland, July 5 - August 21, 2004". If anyone traveling to Ireland wishes this information, please contact Joannie O'Leary at 415 664-6579.

## Condolences

We offer sincere condolences to the family of Kathleen Loftus on her recent passing. Kathleen was a long-time friend and supporter of the Cooley-Keegan Branch, and we will miss her. May she rest in peace.

## Childrens Ceili

Just a reminder that Comhaltas will be hosting a Children's Ceili on Sunday, August 1, 2004 at the United Irish Cultural Center from 4 to 6 pm. Look forward to seeing you all there and feel free to pass this along to your friends. Contact Michael Murphy or Maureen Murphy at: 415-564-7188 for information.

## Irish Network Ceili

IRISH NETWORK CEILI, Saturday, August 21, at St. Athanasius Church Hall, 160 N. Rengstorff Ave. in Mountain View. Time: 8-11:30 p.m. Cost: \$8 with 2 complimentary drink tickets. Live Band with instructor giving lessons.

## IRISH LANGUAGE & CULTURAL EVENTS

Oíche Ghaeltachta, Hayward, Dé Domhnaigh an 15ú Lúnasa 2004, 6.30 i.n. (3ú Domhnach de mhí) --- comhrá as Gaeilge agus seisiún ceoil agus amhránaíochtá ar an tsean-nós. "Ádh an phóta": 6.30; seisiún 8:00 i.n. An chéad ceann eile: 17 Deireadh Fómhair 2004, i Hayward. (Beidh muid ag an Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta i Meán Fómhair!) Seoaldh agus treoreacha le fáil: gaeilge@ccewest.org, 510 881 5958

Gaeltacht Night, Hayward, Sunday the 15th August 2004, 6.30 p.m. (3rd Sunday of the month) --- conversation in Irish and a music and sean-nós singing session. "Pot luck": 6.30; session: 8:00 p.m.. Next one: 17 October 2004, in Hayward. (We'll be at the Gaeltacht Weekend in September!) For directions: gaeilge@ccewest.org, 510 881 5958.

## **Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta**

(Gaeltacht Weekend: Irish Language Immersion)  
September 17-19 2004

Venue: United Irish Cultural Center, San Francisco

Three levels of intensive tutorials focusing on spoken language and increasing fluency. Teachers are native speakers of Irish, who travel in especially for this weekend course. Meals and snacks provided; keep practicing Irish between classes. Seisiúin! Bring instruments and your voices for sessions each evening, when we'll enjoy playing music, and sharing songs, poetry, and stories in Irish.

Registration form now available at [www.OneSourceGraphics.com/Gaeilge/DeireadhSeachtaine.html](http://www.OneSourceGraphics.com/Gaeilge/DeireadhSeachtaine.html) or contact 510 881 5958, or gaeilge@ccewest.org for information

Thank you.

Nikki Ragsdale,  
Treóráí na Gaeilge, CCE

<b>Dé Domhnaigh Sunday</b>	<b>Dé Luan Monday</b>	<b>Dé Mairt Tuesday</b>	<b>Dé Céadaoin Wednesday</b>	<b>Déardaoin Thursday</b>	<b>Dé h-Aoine Friday</b>	<b>Dé Sathairn Saturday</b>
<b>August 1</b>	2	3	4	5	6	7
<u>Children's Ceili</u> 4-6 PM UICC <u>Seisiún</u> 8:30 Plough and Stars		<u>CCE Meeting</u> 7:30 UICC	<u>Set Dancing</u> 8PM Scruffy Murphy's Sunnyvale			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<u>Seisiún</u> 8:30 Plough and Stars	<u>Slow Seisiún</u> 8PM Ireland's 32			<u>Set Dancing</u> 7:30 Sunset Rec Center 9:30 Plough and Stars		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<u>Oíche Ghaeltachta</u> (Gaelacht Night), 6:30 Hayward  <u>Seisiún</u> 8:30 Plough and Stars				<u>Set Dancing</u> 7:30 Sunset Rec Center 9:30 Plough and Stars		<u>Irish Network Ceili</u> 8-11:30 - Mountain View
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<u>Seisiún -</u> 8:30 Plough and Stars		<u>Slow Seisiún</u> 8:30 Plough and Stars		<u>Set Dancing</u> 7:30 Sunset Rec Center 9:30 Plough and Stars		
29	30	31	<b>September 1</b>	2	3	4
<u>Seisiún</u> 8:30 Plough and Stars	<u>Slow Seisiún</u> 8PM Ireland's 32		<u>Set Dancing</u> 8PM Scruffy Murphy's Sunnyvale	<u>Set Dancing</u> 8:00 Plough and Stars	<u>Singing Seisiún</u> San Francisco	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<u>Seisiún</u> 8:30 Plough and Stars		<u>CCE Meeting</u> 7:30 UICC		<u>Set Dancing</u> 7:30 Sunset Rec Center 9:30 Plough and Stars		

### Set Dancing

**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday** - 8PM - Shannon Ceili Band at the Plough and Stars **except for August 5<sup>th</sup> when there is no dancing.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> through Last Thursday** - 7:30 to 9:30 Lessons at the Sunset Recreation Center (on Lawton at 28<sup>th</sup> Ave.)  
Following the lessons 9:30 - Topsy House performs at the Plough and Stars. Dancers are encouraged to contribute about \$5 to help support this great opportunity

**Wednesday's** -- Josephine Moore's classes at the United Irish Cultural Center are on hiatus and will start up in September. Contact Josephine at 650-372-9659 for details

**1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday** - Scruffy Murphy's in Sunnyvale. Michael Murphy teaches. Lessons begin at 8PM with live music beginning at 9:00. Call 415-564-7188 for details.

### Music Seisiún

**Slow Seisiún** – 8PM Ireland's 32 Pub (3920 Geary Blvd. Between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.) Intended for beginners learning to play traditional Irish tunes. Starting at 9PM more experienced musicians are encouraged to join in on the faster paced more Traditional Seisiún which follows. All are welcome to come listen as well. Contact Michael Riemer or Michael Duffy for more information.

**Slow Seisiún** – 8:30 Plough and Stars -- Michael Duffy is also hosting a Slow Seisiún one Tuesday each month.

**Seisiún** – 8:30 Sundays at the Plough and Stars, various hosts.

**Song and Storytelling Seisiún** are normally held on the first Friday. **There will not be a Seisiún for August.**

For September it will be at Dan (& Maureen) Clarke: 1625 North Point St., San Francisco, 415-775-7773.

For October, Michael Murphy will be the host.

Cooley-Keegan Branch of  
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