

## ANNUAL REPORT 2013– 2014

### Staff Team

Ellen Stafford	Director
Anne Ryan	Elders Outreach Manager
Pat Richardson	Elders Outreach
Eileen Taylor	Family Carers Manager
Carol Moran	Advice & Health
Mary Pegler	Out & About Coordinator
Sarah Sheehy-Jenkins	Finance Officer
Ann Marie Kiely	Lunch Club Coordinator
Debbie Fitzpatrick	Lunch Club Cook
Mary Pegler	Volunteers

### Trustees

Agnes Forde	President
Cal OHerlihy	Chairman
John O'Regan	Vice Chairman
Partick Burns	Treasurer
Ann Lucas	Secretary
Paul Ewings	Trustee
Mary Twomey	Trustee



AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA AGUS TRÁDÁLA  
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE



## ANNUAL REPORT

2013 – 2014



Charlie Flanagan, TD Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade talking to Agnes Forde President ICS on his recent visit to Falconwood Lunch Club.

### Irish Community Services

No 1 Street, The Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, London SE18 6ST  
Charity No 1085033 & Registered Company No 3890639

## ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

### Chair Annual Report



2013/14 has been a significant year for Irish Community Services as it saw us celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and enjoy a most successful year in terms of raising our public profile and increasing our membership.

Irish Community Services has come a long way from those difficult days in the early 80's; a time when the experience of being Irish in Britain was at the mercy of the forces well beyond the control of those determined souls who gathered to form what became known as The Irish in Greenwich project.

From such small and fragile beginnings a solid organisation has emerged, one that employs 9 staff providing services to over 2,500 people across three Boroughs.

Central to what we do are our Lunch clubs. These have proved unfailingly popular with our community over the years. We did not plan it thus, but these clubs, operating from rented premises, and opening, closing and moving as the demand emerges, recedes and shifts, have become an alternative model of how a community development group can have a significant presence without an expensive centre or headquarters.

The Lunch Clubs anchor all the other services we provide and give Irish Community Services the right to call itself a community organisation. Statistics are dull creatures but they evidence our achievement and so I repeat a few of them here.

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Accounts for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014

Apr '13 - Mar 14

### Ordinary Income/Expense

<b>Income</b>	
INCOMING FRM CHARITABLE ACT	246,533
INVESTMENT INCOME	486
LUNCH CLUB INCOME	63,461
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS.	24,581
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>335,061</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
Lunch Club Expenses	59,600
Overheads & Office Expense	48,575
Projects Other Expenses	5,200
Salaries & Wages	216,141
Staff Expenses	5,568
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>335,084</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>(23)</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Other Income</b>	
Welfare Payments Received	600
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Other Expense</b>	
Welfare Cheq - Paid Out	598
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<b>598</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Profit for the Year</b>	<b>(21)</b>

**Full set of accounts available on request**

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**A few photos of Charlie Flanagan TD, First Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade and Dan Mulhall Ambassador meeting staff and members of the Falconwood Lunch Club. Also photos from the 30th celebrations at the Irish Embassy**



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I start with our valued volunteers of whom we have 93. They are the ones who enable us to keep running the lunch clubs, the out & about project, the carers' 'sitting-in' scheme, happy days dementia group, various self-help and support groups and who between them contributed over 15,000 hours of their time in order to do so.

Our dedicated staff, led by Ellen Stafford our project Director, have worked tirelessly to meet the needs of our community.

Our membership currently stands at 766 and we hope to grow this in the coming year.

Highlights of the year were the St Patrick's Day event at Greenwich Town Hall, the launch of a film showcasing the work we do at the Irish Embassy last September and the very successful party we held at Charlton Football Club to celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with our members. I was personally delighted to be invited to the reception at Buckingham Palace on the occasion of the historic visit of President Higgins in April 2014.

We have had some small success in expanding our funding base but a lot more needs to be done and this will continue to be a priority for the Trustees in the year ahead. I am pleased to report that our financial statement for the year has shown a significantly smaller deficit that we expected.

We are grateful as always for the financial support of the Irish Government and huge moral support we have received from the Embassy staff and especially the Ambassador.

Our list of benefactors continues to grow as does our list of members and on behalf of the Trustees I want to thank all of you who have supported our work in many different ways over the last year.

**Cal OHerlihy**



## ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

### Treasurers Report

This report relates to the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014, which is the latest year for which we have audited accounts. The accounts have been prepared by our auditors Simpson Wreford & Co.



- Turnover in 2013/14 was £417,182.
- Our Net Total for the year 2013/14 was a deficit of (£21) which was unfortunately anticipated.
- Reserves currently stand at £50,309 which is unrestricted funds. The Unrestricted Reserves amount to one quarter of our total annual salary costs, and provides some protection for our staff budget in the event of a sudden or unexpected drop in our income. Maintaining this safety net is in line with our Reserves policy.
- The accounts show the Project is solvent and able to meet all its current and anticipated commitments. It gives me particular pleasure to note that the independent auditors have again approved our accounts without qualification.
- Securing and consolidating funding continues to be a priority for the committee and project management.

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- It is particularly challenging in the current economic climate and we are acutely conscious of the situation in Ireland from where we receive most of our funding. In view this we are deeply grateful for the continued financial support of the Irish Government through the Emigrant Support Programme (ESP), which we see as continuing recognition of the vital work our staff is engaged in with the Irish communities of South East London. We also gratefully acknowledge the continued financial support of City Bridge Trust, Ireland Fund of Great Britain, Lloyds Foundation, The Helen Hamlyn Trust, 29<sup>th</sup> May 1961 Charitable Trust, The Albert Hunt Trust-Coutts, East Wickham and Welling Memorial Trust, LB Bexley, LB Greenwich, John McDonnell, membership fees and individual donors.
- As the economy started to claw back the ground it had lost during the recession, our forecasted deficit for the year seriously receded and we were delighted to almost break even for 2013-14. We remain committed to avoiding a deficit in our revenue budget and continue to explore all possible income streams aiming to diversify our funding base as much as we can. While we have had to have some painful cuts, we have striven to ensure the impact on our services and our venerable optimistic that our front line services will continue to meet the demands placed on them in the coming year.

**Patrick Burns**