



St. PATRICK'S SOCIETY OF HONG KONG LIMITED

G. P. O. BOX 615 HONG KONG

March 2002

A Chairde,

Annual Ball - Saturday 16th March

Members who were successful in their application for tickets should have received them by now. With some skillful manoeuvring, the committee has been able to accommodate most applications, on a first-come-first served basis. If there are any queries re ticket allocations please email me at mulvey_hkfws@yahoo.com

The Society's Guest of Honour this year is Michael Smith, the Irish Minister for Defence, who will attend the Ball together with his wife. We are delighted that HE Declan Connolly, Irish Ambassador to China, will also join us. The Minister will be accompanied by a number of senior Defence officials of the Irish government. Senior officers of the Irish naval vessel, LE Niamh, which is visiting Hong Kong from the 15th March, will also attend, as will as senior representatives of Enterprise Ireland.

The Society will also be pleased to welcome the President and members of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, who are hosting an International Conference week in Hong Kong beginning Sunday, 17th March.

Flying in from Ireland, the popular and versatile **Celtic Fusion** is the band for the Ball. Fronted by Tony Brennan, a versatile singer of haunting ballads and contemporary



Irish songs, the band will play a popular blend of classic Irish songs and the best traditional music. The other members of the group include world-class tenor banjo player, Christy Sheridan, and his son Stephen who is a gifted guitarist and songwriter. The fourth member is Mike Smith, (Smithy), a bass guitarist and vocalist who, together with Christy, has been on the world touring stage as a member of "The Bards".

The Society will have its annual Mass in honour of St. Patrick, on Saturday morning the 16th at 9:30a.m. at St. Joseph's Church, Garden Road, Central.

Mass will be followed by a wreath laying service at the Cenotaph at 11a.m. sharp!

Everyone is welcome to attend this service and members should arrive before 10:45a.m. Jack Edwards of the British Legion and members of the Hong Kong Ex-Servicemen's Association will join us for the service.

As mentioned in our earlier Newsletter, the Society's Childrens' Party, will run from 12 noon to 2 pm at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. Thank you to all members who have submitted their childrens' names - the party is now fully booked and we look forward to another great get-together of our members and their families. Clare Fogarty, Anne Noonan and Therese Beresford have put together a fun afternoon of creativity for the children. Guest appearances by **Celtic Fusion** and **Catherine O'Brien** and her **Irish Dancers** promise to make the afternoon a very lively and entertaining one.



LE Niamh –  On St. Patrick's Day, Sunday 17th March, this Irish Navy coastal vessel will have a 'Family Open Day' for the Irish community in Hong Kong from 2:30 – 5:00 pm. Moored to the east of the HK Convention Centre, access will be via a 10 minute journey by sea taxi from Fenwick Pier.

St. Patrick's Day, will also see Celtic Fusion at Delaney's in Wanchai, in the afternoon and evening. Delaney's will again be the place to enjoy lilting sounds from the four 'boys' on Monday night 18th March.

Jason Lee, the manager of Delaney's "Pad Thai" restaurant on the 2nd floor will ensure that you experience more than hot music if you wander up the stairs for a bite to eat. To make reservations Contact Delaney's (tel: 2804 2880)

Don't miss another exciting and exclusive event in the 2002 St. Patrick's Festival calender - the "Spirit of Ireland" lives on in a programme of traditional Irish music brought to us by the  City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong at the City Hall

on Monday, March 18th at 8pm. The Orchestra will be joined by a group of talented folk instrumentalists, including guest artist **Richard Harvey** who will perform on tin whistle. Our own Ian Candy will act as Master of Ceremony for the evening. (See Website <http://www.ccohk.com> for more information).

Other News

The Hong Kong Folk Society has a new Committee, with Marshall Hughes in the

chair. Contact HKFS at Box 4370 G.P.O. Hong Kong or email folk society for details of membership and concerts!

Willie John MacBride, former Irish and British Lions Captain, will be in Hong Kong and will speak at the British Chamber lunch on Wednesday 20th March at the Ritz Carlton.

Jointly with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, the British Chamber will have Peter Sutherland speaking at lunch time on Friday 22nd March at the HKCEC.

For details, contact the British Chamber, c/o tel: 2824 2211, or email :orla@britcham.com

The Quiz Night on the 22nd February 2002 at the Cricket Club was a resounding success. With good representation from academia, the horse racing fraternity and the HK G.A.A, taken to some heights by the enthusiasm of the Society's Vice-President, Ronan Delaney, our erudite Quiz Master Harry O'Neill kept everyone on their toes, with pencils raised. Thanks to Mary Taylor who looked after the scoring. Thanks to Dave Bage and Guinness, the Grand Hyatt and JJs Nightclub, Delaney's Group, and Eclipse for sponsoring a range of great prizes.

Delaney's, that well known "watering hole", have asked us to remind you that they have live music every Tuesday in Wanchai, and every Wednesday in Kowloon. They also host a general knowledge quiz every Tuesday night for those brain teasers. Resident D.J. Anthony Oliver spins the discs on Thursday in Kowloon from 8p.m. till late!!

'Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig' to all our members.....

Slán go fóill

Tom Mulvey