



Cambridge Musicians at the celebration session in the Rathmore club

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Cambridge session

On the 27th of September, members of the Cambridge branch were involved in celebrations for Paddy and Nellie Munnely, landlord and landlady of the Rathmore club. who have been Licensees in the city for forty years. The Rathmore club has been central to the branch in Cambridge for many years. Classes are held there along with sessions and concerts. The branch invited musicians from all

of the branches in the London and Southern region, to join them for a session on the Sunday afternoon as part of a weekend of celebrations. There was a fabulous Buffet and BBQ laid on and a large number of musicians met for a tune. Branch Chair, Kathleen Collins took the opportunity to make a special presentation of cakes, fruit and a certificate, to Piper Grace Lemon, for her recent



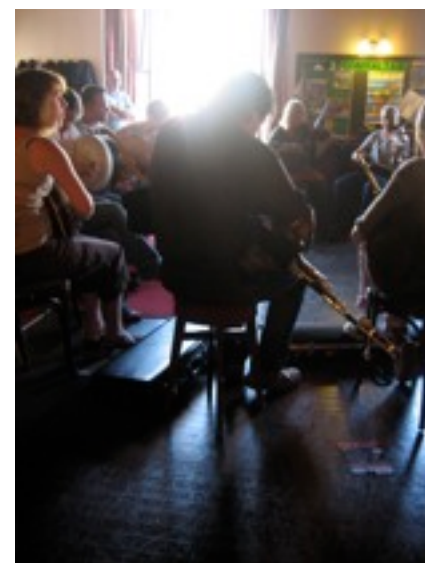
achievement of second place in the under 15 pipes, and third in the



Pipes slow airs, at the All Ireland in Tullamore in August. Later in the evening Paddy and Nellie were honored by everyone singing “The Red and Green of Mayo”, being presented with The Cambridge City People’s Degree, two batches of 40 Red tulips (mayo colors), and some Orange and white miniature daffodils, to represent the Irish flag colors, to be planted in their garden. Cambridge branch secretary Marian Brown then performed a specially commissioned Ballad, that moistened every eye in the house.



Grace Lemon is honored by branch Chair Kathleen Collins



Regional chair Micheal Nevan and Family, Sean Parsons, Thomas Beaumont, and James McDonald, to name but a few. Many had come to share a tune with their Tullamore experiences still fresh in their minds. A good many of the young adult players took the opportunity to share a tune with friends before all going their separate ways to attend University. Whatever the reason, it all made for a very lively and enjoyable evening. The branch hold a regular monthly session in the

West London session on the 11th of September I had an opportunity to attend the West London monthly session. There was a large crowd in attendance and a large group of musicians from across the region, that included Sharon Kelly, Martin Murray, the Farrell family,



Hammersmith Irish centre on the third Friday of each month. The sessions are usually hosted by Fiddle virtuoso and branch chair, Aidan Burke.



East London fund raising. On the 12th of September I attended a night of music in St. Cedd's catholic club in Ilford. The evening had been organised by Irish music group, The Jones Boys. East London music teacher Sam Sloane is a member of the band and she took the opportunity to run a raffle during the evening to raise funds for the East London branch and Music class. East London Musicians Noel and Sean Angland, were joined by St.Albans Fiddle player Siobhan Reynolds, and Guitarist Joe Devine, to play support.

Halfway to St.Patrick's Day in Bedford On the 13th of September I was invited to play at the Half way to St.Patrick's day event at the Entshed, Gordon Arms, Bedford. This was the



The Jones Boys

second year that organiser Andrew Miller had invited me to take



part. This also gave me an opportunity to promote Comhaltas and raise awareness of the local branch. The afternoon event lineup, included Andrew's band, an Broc, which features his daughter Chrissy, from Fearies Wear Boots, and the amazing Hair of the Dog. A great time was had by all.



Westminster Cathedral

Memorial Mass in Westminster Cathedral For Frank McGarahan

On the 29th of September I had the honor of playing at a memorial Mass, to celebrate the life of Frank McGarahan, in Westminster Cathedral. Mr McGarahan was tragically killed in Norwich, in September 2008 whilst going to the aid of a homeless man that was being attacked by a group of thugs. In the confrontation that ensued, Mr McGarahan received a blow to the head that proved fatal. He left a wife and two young daughters. It was a very moving service with many tributes from friends and work colleagues. The mass had been organised by his colleagues from Barclays bank, for whom Mr

McGarahan was a senior executive, and by whom he was highly regarded. The initial enquiry for a Piper to play at the service, was made to Comhaltas Head Office in Dublin.

Annual appraisal meeting On the 26th of September we had the yearly appraisal meeting for the development workers, which was held in the Irish centre, Camden Town. We met with the management team to evaluate our performance and achievements over the past year and to discuss how to continue the development of the organisation. The management team have prepared a well thought out and coordinated development strategy, with specific individual, and collaborative tasks, for each of the development workers. I have been charged with responsibility for looking in to the development of graded traditional Music exams, developing brach and regional Fleadhanna and broaden the range of activities around them. I also have several tasks to work on with my colleagues and will give more details of this in coming issues of this newsletter.

Harp Teacher training begins. In early September London Music teachers Colette Keaveney and Sharon Kelly began receiving tuition on the Harp from Harpist Steph West. I plan to visit the ladies soon, and will let you know how they're getting on thereafter.