



### Saint Patrick's Day

Ar an 16ú Márta, le linn Seachtain na Gaeilge, d'eagraídh Ceantar Naithí, Glór na nGael oíche Ghaelach sa Glenside, Baile an Teampaill. Bhí na-oíche go deo ann idir ceol, amhránaíochta agus damhsa le líon mór ceoltóirí, roinnt mhaith acu as Craobh Naithí.

Members of the branch began celebrations a day early by taking part in an 'Oíche Ghaelach' organised by Glór na nGael's 'Ceantar Naithí. As part of Seachtain na Gaeilge it took place in The Glenside, Landscape Rd. in Churchtown. Branch members joined with the house band 'Pío and Friends', set dancers and singers for an evening of fun.

Starting off early on the day itself Craobh Naithí musicians provided music for the Irish mass in St. John's, Ballinteer. This was appreciated by the mass goers and is part of the ongoing commitment to the weekly Irish Mass there. A cup of tea later and then some of the musicians went on to play at an Irish Mass in St. Attracta's, Ballinteer, two even doubled up and also sang in the choir.

### Marie ní Bhriain

We were saddened to hear the news of the death of Marie ní Bhriain. Maire was a good friend and supporter of Craobh Naithí as a parent and a committee member for many years. As Treoraí na Gaeilge she brought to the branch her interest in the language and its culture.



Marie ní Bhriain

With her husband Muiris she took part in many of the trips and she was a member of the branches first senior grupai cheol. Her love of the music was displayed by her regular attendance at the 'Rosie's' sessions, her trips abroad and by the encouragement of her children to take part in branch activities. A warm person, she will be missed by many.

### Tribute to the late Brendan McCabe

Craobh Naithí paid tribute to the late Brendan McCabe in the Divine Word Parish Centre, Marley Grange on Sunday 24th January.



Brendan McCabe

Brendan's family were joined by friends from Craobh Naithí, The Pipers Club, Fódhla Céilí Band and other branches who spoke fondly of Brendan and remembered him in music and song.

A framed manuscript of Brendan's composition, Hannah's March, was presented to Mary McCabe.



Wrengirls

### Wedding of Sarah-Jane Woods and Aidan Dundon

Congratulations to Sarah-Jane Woods and Aidan Dundon on their wedding which was celebrated in fine style in Cultúrlann na hÉireann on 28th December 2009.

### The Wren, 2009

*The Wren, the Wren,  
The king of all Birds.  
On St. Stephen's Day  
It was caught in the furze.  
Up with the kettle.  
and down with the pan.  
Give me a penny to bury the wren."*

On Saint Stephen's Day a group of Craobh Naithi musicians braved the December cold and assembled in Churchtown with their instruments. Masks and wigs, paint and enthusiasm, reels, jigs, polkas and slides were in abundance.

The age old tradition of The Wren, *Lá an Dreoilín* was underway for 2009.

There were accordians, fiddles, flutes, whistles, concertinas and a mini bodhrán.

We headed on our way via Churchtown, Rathfarnham, Firhouse, Tallaght, Greenhills and back via Templeogue. Patrons of the many bars and GAA clubs were treated to selections of music and dance and all were well received with shouts of "Here's the Wrenboys".

The Wren is now established as an annual event on the Craobh Naithí calendar. We will be looking to enlist some new recruits in 2010. Be Prepared..

**Mick Glynn** *Captain of the Wren*

## Childrens' Christmas Party

The Childrens' Christmas Party took place on Sunday 6th December in Divine Word Parish Centre, Marley Grange. Santa Claus paid a visit and participated in the fun and games. A very enjoyable afternoon with over 50 young children attending.

## The Christmas Concert

Our Christmas Concert took place on the last night of the Autumn Term. In front of an enthusiastic audience of parents, relations and friends our musicians did us proud, particularly the ones performing for the first time on a public stage.

As well as musical items from the Groups and Céilí bands the programme included dancing and some songs. A grand night.

## Scoil Fhómhair 2009

Scoil Fhómhair 2009 - Craobh Naithí's annual traditional music workshop weekend took place on 13th and 14th November – its 14th consecutive year.

The opening session was held in Faughs GAA clubhouse in Templeogue with guest musicians Macdara Ó Raghallaigh and Mícheál Ó Raghallaigh from County Meath and Graham Guerin from Ballyduff in County Kerry providing inspiration to the young musicians who attended. A sincere thank you to



Maureen McGrattan's whistle class

Faughs GAA Club for their hospitality and continued support.

Traditional instrument workshops were held on Saturday 14th November in St. Columille's Community School, Knocklyon from 10am to 3pm. 64 children received tuition throughout the day from 11 expert tutors. Instruments taught included Harp, Tin Whistle, Flute, Concertina, Button Accordion, Uilleann Pipes and Fiddle..In addition to teaching the classes, the tutors also performed a lunchtime recital, where their unique and regional styles were demonstrated to the delight of an appreciative audience of about 100 people.

The final event of the weekend was an evening gala concert held in Amharclann Naithí, Ballinteer. As in previous years, young musicians from Craobh Naithí opened the concert with a lively performance. Following this, all tutors who had worked throughout day with the children, showed why they are regarded amongst the best.

The concert was recorded professionally and a CD produced for archive purposes. As in previous years, a copy was



Outside the New York Irish Center before the concert

also lodged with the Irish Traditional Music Archive.

Many people contributed to the success of the weekend..Craobh Naithí sincerely thanks The Arts Council for their financial support, the principles of Scoil Naithí and St. Colmcille's Community School for providing the excellent venues, the parents and young children who participated in sessions, workshops and concert, and the tutors who shared their talents and skills with the young musicians.

## Craobh Naithí trip to New York October 2009

Craobh Naithí's first branch visit to the United states took place in October 2009 with 60 members enjoying a fantastic week of music and friendship. The New York City branch, Craobh Úil Mór, was very supportive of our trip and worked very closely with Craobh Naithí to bring the whole idea to fruition. In return for their support, Craobh Naithí presented a two hour fundraising concert in the New York Irish Centre in Long Island City, Queens, on their behalf. Craobh Naithí also performed at the Irish Hunger Memorial in Battery Park City, Manhattan and the performance was filmed by the local Battery Park TV network.

Both events received positive reviews from the New York based Irish Voice newspaper.

Later in the week, we travelled to Pearl River where we delivered a number of instrumental and dancing workshops to children from the Martin Mulvihill / Michael Coleman branches, which was followed by an evening of music, song and dance at the Rockland County Irish American Centre. Martin Gaffney, PRO for Fleadh Cheoil na Éireann in Cavan and a member of Craobh Naithí availed of numerous opportunities while in the New York area to promote next year's event..

The trip brought together musicians of all age groups from both sides of the Atlantic who shared music and stories and created friendships which I hope will develop and grow..

At the closing session in the New York Irish Centre on the last night of the tour, Maureen Donachie, Chairperson of Craobh Úil Mór, presented a 'Friends of Úil Mór' shield to Derek Johnston, Chairperson of Craobh Naithí and expressed the wish that both branches maintain contact.