

MARCH 2005

MÁRTA 2005

# SCÉAL ÉILE

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



## From the Chairman



*Dear Friends and Members,*

Since space is at a premium, I'll keep this month's installment rather short.

March promises to be a very exciting month for us all and we will find that our resources are being stretched to the limits. There are many events to choose from including the Grand Marshal's Dinner, The St. Patricks Day parade, a céilí or two, special nights at the U.I.C.C. and dancing at various hospitals and homes in the area (more on all of this later in the show). Add all this to our normal nights of dancing and music and you will see that March is indeed a busy time!

Tim Sullivan is on holiday, so I am putting the Scéal together this month. I have taken the opportunity to update the graphics and make new templates. I hope that you like the change.

I've also included a short story, 'The Headless Coach' on page 3, I hope that you like it.

And now, on with the show!

Slán,  
Michael Duffy



## General Meetings



The next two General Meetings of the Membership will be on Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> and April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm at the United Irish Cultural Center.



## Special Thanks



We would like to thank Cormac Gannon & Kenny Sommerville of the Gasmen and Michael Riemer for sharing their musical talents for the Children's Céilí on February 20<sup>th</sup>. It means so much to have live music to accompany us. Sean O'Donnell also joined in a few tunes as we set the dancers thru their paces.

We also would like to thank Florence & Kasey for all their hard work. And thanks to the many families that came to support the céilí. We had many fine dancers & singers. Thank you all, and we hope to see all again in April / May.

Thanks to the U.I.C.C. for providing the space for our céilí - without their support we could not hold the céilís at all. With this in mind, I'd like to remind everyone that this works both ways, and the U.I.C.C. really does need our support as well. They are open for business on a limited basis and we should try to make it a point to patronize them as often as we are able. Let's not lose this great resource!

And Lastly, an extra big thanks to Sean Heaney at the Plough and Stars for his most generous donation to our St. Patricks Day Parade Fund. He has offered to pay for the costuming for our dancers. The next time you find yourself at the Plough, please thank him personally.



## Childrens' Céilí



Due to a rather full schedule, there will be no Childrens' Céilí in March.



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

## The March Line-up

### **Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>:**

- United Irish Cultural Center 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration - 5:00 to 11:00pm. CCÉ to provide entertainment from 6:00 to 9:00pm. Please make it a point to come and show our support to the U.I.C.C.!!

### **Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>:**

- Grand Marshall Dinner at the U.I.C.C. Honoring Pat and Kitty Dillon. Tickets are \$60, pre paid. Please contact Joannie O'Leary at (415) 664-6579 if you would like to attend.

### **Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>:**

- Parade Float Assembly!!

### **Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>:**

- St. Patrick's Day Parade - starts at noon, beginning at 2<sup>nd</sup> & Market and continuing to City Hall. Contact Michael Murphy at: (415) 564-7188 for information on this.

### **Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>:**

- Oíche Airneáin at the U.I.C.C. Please contact Nikki at (510) 881 5958 or [gaeilge@ccewest.org](mailto:gaeilge@ccewest.org)

### **Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>:**

- Céilí at the I.O.O F. Hall, 113 S.B. Street, San Mateo. Comhaltas musicians will provide the music. We should all try and make this event to make it a successful evening. Please contact Michael Murphy for more information on this event.

### **Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>:**

- U.I.C.C.  
Come for dinner, stay for the music. It's CCÉ's night at the center. Join us as we dine and then spend the rest of the evening for music, dancing, and a fine evening of socializing. Music will be provided by CCÉ musicians. Please contact Michael Murphy for details.

## Gaeilge - Irish Language

Dé Céadaoin, 16 Márta. (Wednesday, March 16.) CCÉ sponsored event for Seachtain na Gaeilge 2005: Oíche Airneáin (night visiting), 8pm, UICC. Fear an Tí: Breandán Ó Tuairisg. Abair do phársa speisialta fhéin linn! (Your own 'party piece' as Gaeilge very welcome!) Fógra, ar leathanach 3.

Oíche Ghaeltachta, Dé Domhnaigh, 20 Márta. Hayward, 6:30 i.n. (3ú Domhnach de mhí) - comhrá as Gaeilge agus seisiún ceoil agus amhránaíocht ar an tsean-nós. "Adh an phóta" don dinnéar: 6:30; seisiún thart fá 8:00 i.n. An chéad ceann eile: 17 Aibreán 2005, in Hayward. Seoaladh agus treoreacha le fáil: [gaeilge@ccewest.org](mailto:gaeilge@ccewest.org), (510) 881-5958.

Gaeltacht Night, Hayward, Sunday 20 March, 6:30p.m. (3rd Sunday of the month) - conversation in Irish and a music and sean-nós singing session. "Pot luck" dinner: 6:30; session: about 8:00 p.m. Next one: 17 April 2005, in Hayward. Address and directions: [gaeilge@ccewest.org](mailto:gaeilge@ccewest.org), (510) 881 5958.

## Song and Storytelling

The next Irish Song and Storytelling Seisiún will be hosted by Michelle Valdez on Friday March 4<sup>th</sup> from 8:00pm until 11-ish. Admission is free. Beginners, intermediates, and veterans of Irish and other types of Celtic songs and stories are all welcome. Michelle will provide light munchies. Bring your song books, stories and be ready for a good time.

Michelle's address:  
220 Bayview Ave, San Jose, CA 95127  
(408) 254-2252, [valdezma@att.net](mailto:valdezma@att.net)

## The Market Place

### **For Sale:**

- One pair of set dancing shoes, size 7 Irish. Please contact Maureen at (415) 661-0351 for more details.
- Waterford Crystal and Belleek from her family treasure chest for Sale by our member. Contact Eileen O'Leary at 415 587-3704."



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## The Headless Coach

Did you ever hear about the Headless Coach?  
Well, I did more than hear about it, for I was as near to it as I am to you now.

I was only a garsún at the time, and one night in the winter time my mother told me to go out to the rick of turf and to bring in a bag of dry turf to keep the fire going, on account of the cold that was there. Well, it was a bright moonlight night, and I was not one sign afraid, and off with me and my bag on my shoulder, and, sure, it was only about fifty yards to the rick, where the turf was at the side of the road. It was not really a rick but a heap, for it was only just after being brought from the bog.

Well, I had it full when I heard the noise of the wheels. And there was more noise than you'd have from a trap or a common car, and I thought that it must be a threshing machine, for this was early in the winter, and the threshing machines were still on the go. And it was coming nearer by the sound of it, and I hove in against the hedge, because the road was narrow, and I was afraid that it might hit against me. And, may the Lord save us! The noise came apast me on the road. And I could feel the shake in the road the same as you would any time a heavy load was passing you out. And I could not make out what it was. I was not a bit in dread then, I thought all the time it must be a threshing machine or some other heavy load.

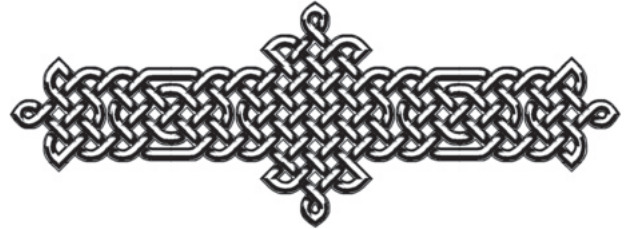
And I bent down on my knee to see it against the moonlight. And the noise and the shaking went apast me, and there was not a sign of anything to be seen. And you wouldn't see me running home with the speed I made. If there was a hare or a hound out in front I'd have passed him before he was half way to the house. And they refused to believe me at home, but I wouldn't go back for the bag, and my father had to go for it.

A couple of days after that I was talking to an old man that lived near us, and I told him about the noise. 'Go bhfóiridh Dia orainn!' says he, 'but that was the Headless Coach. And anytime it comes, it is sure to leave some mácaíl behind it.'

And there was a young lad going the road a few weeks after that. And he was passing our turf, at the very place I heard the noise, and he didn't get a stumble and fall and cut his knee. And it wasn't much of a cut, but he neglected it, and he got blood poisoning in it and within a fortnight he was dead in spite of all the doctor was able to do. And the old man that lived near to us always said to me that the noise I heard was the Headless Coach, and that it was a sign that someone was going to get his death in that place. And it was a long time before I plucked up courage enough to go out for turf at night.

## North American Convention

The Annual CCÉ North American Convention is in Ottawa, Ontario from March 31<sup>st</sup> thru April 3<sup>rd</sup>. It looks to be a good event and several of our members will be traveling to the convention. For more information, visit the CCÉ Convention website at:  
[www.cceottawa.com/nac.htm](http://www.cceottawa.com/nac.htm)



### Seachtain na Gaeilge 2005

5-17 Márta ♦♦♦ 5-17 March

Imeachtaí Gaeltachta

Cheantair Bhá Naomh Phroinsias.....

San Francisco Bay Area

.....Gaeltacht Events

Is í Seachtain na Gaeilge an fhéile chultúrtha agus teanga is mó in Éirinn gach bliain. I mbliana tá an tSeachtain leathnaithe go hidirnáisiúnta don dara uair!

(Seachtain na Gaeilge is the biggest Irish language and cultural festival in Ireland each year. This year the Week has been extended internationally for the second time!)

**Clár (Program):**

**13 Márta: Aifreann Gaeilge, le cór, rinceoirí agus ceoltóirí** (Mass in Irish, with choir, dancers, musicians). St. Joseph's Church, 582 Hope Street, Mountain View. 11.30AM.

**13 Márta: An Chéad Fheis Scannáin Éireannach Bhá Monterey. Saor in Aisce!** Togha scannán agus gearrscannán cliúiteach, go háirithe ceithre ghearrscannán as Gaeilge: Fluent Dysphasia, Tubberware, Yu Ming Is Ainm Dom, agus Clare sa Spéir. (First Annual Monterey Bay Irish Film Festival. Free! Enjoy a fine selection of acclaimed features and shorts, including four in the Irish language.) Eolas (Info): [www.folkplanet.com/cce](http://www.folkplanet.com/cce). Forum, 450, Cabrillo College, 6500 Soquel Dr., Aptos, 12:00PM-9:30PM.

**15 Márta: Scéaldrámaíocht agus Cóisir Tae ag an bhreacGhaeltacht!** Sceitse greann: 'An Haitéir Gealt'; agus Scéaldrámaíocht: Mise Éire—tabló bunaithe ar pháiosa filíochta le Pádraig Mac Piarais. Amhráin, ceol & damhsóireacht chomh maith (Drama night and Pot Luck Tea Party. Humorous sketch: 'The Mad Hatter'; and Mise Éire: a tableau based on poetry by Patrick Pearse). Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 4025 Martin Luther King Jr. Way (at 40th St.), Oakland. 7.00PM.

**16 Márta: Oíche Airneáin. Ceol, scéalaíocht, amhránaíocht, spraí & craic.** Abair do pháiosa speisialta fhéin linn! (Night Visiting—music, stories, singing, fun & chat), United Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45th Avenue, San Francisco. 8.00PM.

Tuilleadh Eolais (more information):  
[gaeilge@ccewest.org](mailto:gaeilge@ccewest.org)  
510.881.5958  
[www.snag.ie](http://www.snag.ie)



## Song and Storytelling

I've been "volunteered" (by Deirdre) to write a few words on our little monthly gatherings to sing and tell stories. I don't really know what to say, so here's some random drivel at 1am...

We meet at somebody's house on the first Friday of every month. The host house changes each time, and myself and Miriam had the fun of hosting the January session in San Carlos. There were sixteen of us in all – a jolly good show. Actually, recent sessions have all been well attended – better than one of the sessions last summer when so few people turned up we decided to go see a movie instead. That's only happened once, luckily. We've been starting around 8pm and going on until midnight or more for those night owls.

There are certainly the "usual suspects" who show up almost every time, but to keep us honest we also have new people show up now and again. In January, Oceanlight and Micheal graced us with their presence. We're not all Irish musicians and dancers, either: we usually get a nice sprinkling of other friends too. Yes, we all have friends who are outside of the usual Irish circles ; what better way to bring them in than to invite them along to a friendly sing-song?

We are all bad-to-mediocre singers, so everyone will fit right in. Even if you only sing in the bathtub and don't know any words you'll have a good time. You can always "pass", so come try it out! What have you to lose? We are not a traditional session in that we make a lot of use of books and encourage everybody to sing along. But if you'd like to do something unusual, that's fine too. Sometimes folks bring photocopies of songs they want to share. It's all very flexible and easy for the memory-impaired (=PC for brain-dead).

Past experiments to expunge the books have been abandoned.

So, what do we sing? Mostly well-known traditional Irish songs, including those that would have been sung by the Irish abroad. Except when Nikki is around, we always sing in English. We also sing that occasional Scottish or Nova Scotian song. When Michael Murphy isn't there to keep us in check, we've even been known to sing songs from those naughty folks in England. And sea shanties.

"Red is the Rose", "Star of the County Down", "Spanish Lady", etc are all favorites of the group. Of course, we never quite agree on the words because every source has a variation... But that's folk music, folks. Very few of us read music, so tunes are very much "by ear" and approximate. I don't read music myself and have no idea what key I sing anything in.

As well as the singing, we also have storytelling – at least when Dan is around! He regaled us with "The Poor Scholar" folklore story in January. Poetry is welcome too.

The sessions were started a couple of years ago by Michael Murphy, but he's now handed over the reigns to Deirdre McNamara, so ask her any questions – that'll teach her for getting me to write this. Or ask myself. Or Michael Duffy. Check the [sf.ccewest.org](http://sf.ccewest.org) calendar for locations, or contact one of us. Better, ask to be added to our email list to stay informed.


Slán,  
- Michael Jones

## Clifford-Hoban

There are a few things happening down south of here that are of note:

March 13th: Irish Film Festival at the Cabrillo College in Aptos. Contact Janet Herman ([fasola@cruzio.com](mailto:fasola@cruzio.com)), or visit their web site: [www.folkplanet.com/cce/](http://www.folkplanet.com/cce/)

They are also planning a tour of local sites of Irish interest in the Santa Cruz area. For more information, please contact Janet Herman ([fasola@cruzio.com](mailto:fasola@cruzio.com))



**PLOUGH & STARS**  
IRISH PUB  
home of  
Irish Music  
in San Francisco

SEAN HEANEY  
415/751-1122  
116 Clement St.  
San Francisco, CA 94118

# MARCH 2005

DÉ DOMHNAIGH SUNDAY	DÉ LUAN MONDAY	DÉ MÁIRT TUESDAY	DÉ Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	DÉARDAIN THURSDAY	DÉ h-Aoine FRIDAY	DÉ SATHAIRN SATURDAY
		1 <u>CCÉ Meeting</u> U.I.C.C.	2 <u>Set Dancing</u> Fiddler's Green	3 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars	4 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Michelle Valdez	5 <u>Seachtain na Gaeilge</u> Begins today
6	7 <u>Slow Seisiún</u> Ireland's 32	8 U.I.C.C. 30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration	9 <u>Set Dancing</u> Fiddler's Green	10 <u>Set Dancing</u> Sunset Rec Center Plough and Stars	11 <u>Seachtain na Gaeilge</u> Mass in Irish & Irish Film Festival	12 <u>Float Assembly</u> <u>Seachtain na Gaeilge</u> Mass in Irish & Irish Film Festival
13 <u>St. Patrick's Day Parade</u> <u>Seachtain na Gaeilge</u> Mass in Irish & Irish Film Festival	14	15 <u>Seachtain na Gaeilge</u> Drama Night	16 <u>Set Dancing</u> Fiddler's Green  <u>Seachtain na Gaeilge</u> Oíche Aireáin	17 <u>Céilí Dancing</u> I.O.O.F  <u>Seachtain na Gaeilge</u> Ends today	18	19 <u>CCÉ Night</u> U.I.C.C.
20 <u>Oíche Ghaeltachta</u> Nikki's House	21	22 <u>Slow Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	23 <u>Set Dancing</u> Fiddler's Green	24 <u>Set Dancing</u> Sunset Rec Center Plough and Stars	25	26
27	28 <u>Slow Seisiún</u> Ireland's 32	29	30 <u>Set Dancing</u> Fiddler's Green	31 <u>North American Convention</u> Ottawa, Ont.		

**Fiddler's Green** - 333 El Camino Real, Millbrae, (650) 697-3419

**Ireland's 32** - 3920 Geary Blvd. (Between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>), San Francisco, (415) 386-6173

**I.O.O.F. Hall** - 113 South B Street, San Mateo

**Nikki's House** - Call or e-mail for directions: (510) 881 5958 or [gaelge@ccwest.org](mailto:gaelge@ccwest.org)

**Plough and Stars** - 116 Clement Ave. (Between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>), San Francisco, (415) 751-1122

**Sunset Rec Center** - 2201 Lawton St. (At the corner of 28<sup>th</sup> Ave.), San Francisco, (415) 753-7098

**U.I.C.C.** - 2700 45<sup>th</sup> Ave. (At Sloat Blvd.), San Francisco, (415) 661-2700



## Set Dancing



**Every Wednesday:** Fiddler's Green in Millbrae at 8:00pm. Please contact Josephine for information (650) 372-9659.

**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday:** Plough and Stars in San Francisco at 8:00pm. Music by the Shannon Céilí Band.

**2<sup>nd</sup> through last Thursdays:**

- Lessons at the Sunset Recreation Center in San Francisco at 7:30pm. At Lawton and 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Taped music.
- Plough and Stars in San Francisco at 9:30pm. Music by Topsy House. Dancers are encouraged to contribute \$5 to help support the band.



## Seisiún



**Slow Seisiún:**

- Ireland's 32, starting at 7:30pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and last Mondays of each month. This is intended for beginners learning to play traditional Irish tunes. Starting at 9:00pm 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.
- Plough and Stars, starting at 8:30 on the *second to last* Tuesday of each month. This Seisiún follows the same format as the Ireland's 32 Slow Seisiún.

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

**Song and Storytelling Seisiún:** Held on the first Friday of each month, check the for exact details.

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