



IRISH INSIGHTS

Celebrating Ireland's Rich Legacy

No. 4 • May 2010



PIA CHRISTMAS PARTY 4

QUIZ NIGHT 6

ASIAN GAEILIC GAMES 8

"ACCENTUATING THE POSITIVE" 12

ST. PATRICK'S BALL, KUALA LUMPUR 18

HOWLS FROM THE HOUNDS 19

PUB NIGHT AT E&O HOTEL 20

"MAN ABOUT TOWN" 21



WELCOME TO WHERE THE OLD WORLD
MEETS THE NEW

ESTABLISHED SINCE 1885

Times may have changed.
But, at the E&O, we still hold our traditions dear.
Traditions that are steeped in opulence and hospitality,
charm and generosity.

STAY WITH US FOR AN EXPERIENCE
THAT STAYS WITH YOU.



United Kingdom Representation
Eastern & Oriental Hotel Representative
c/o Supereps International
High Holborn House
52-54 High Holborn, London WC1V 6RB, United Kingdom
Tel : +44-20 7242 3131 Fax : +44-20 7242 2838
E-mail : allen@supereps.com

EASTERN & ORIENTAL HOTEL
10 Lebuhr Farquhar, 10200 Penang, Malaysia
Tel: +604-222 2000
Fax: +604-261 2966
Email: reservations@e-o-hotel.com
Website: www.e-o-hotel.com

Japan Representation
Eastern & Oriental Hotel Representative
c/o nk8
3-3-6, Nihonbashi Honcho, Chuo-Ku, Tokyo 103-0023 Japan
Tel: +813 5858 8360 Fax: +813 5858 8370
E-mail: nk8@gray.plala.or.jp
Reservation: reservation@nk8web.com
Website: www.nk8web.com/





Penang Irish Association

552 10-1 Skyhome, Jalan Tanjung Bungah,
11200 Penang, Malaysia.

Fax: 604-899 1007

Email: info@penang-irish-association.com

www.penang-irish-association.com

FEATURES

- 3 Letter from the President**
- 4 PIA Christmas Party**
- 6 Quiz Night**
- 8 Asian Gaelic Games**
- 10 Irish Recipes**
- 12 "Accentuating the Positive"**
- 18 St. Patrick's Ball, KL**
- 19 Howls from the Hounds**
- 20 Pub Night at E&O Hotel**
- 21 Man about Town**
- 22 PIA Membership & Calendar of Events**

Produced by Penang Irish Association
© Penang Irish Association, May 2010

Designed by Adrian Cheah,
Neo Sentuhan Sdn Bhd. 04-281 5289
Pre-press services by Ee Far Lithographic
Printed by Jutaprint. 04-282 0327

The views expressed in this publication are not
necessary the views of Penang Irish Association. The
publisher shall not be held liable for any omission,
error, or inaccuracy. No parts of this publication may
be reproduced in any form without the publisher's
permission.



EMBASSY OF IRELAND

Ambassador: HE Mr. Eugene Hutchinson
Ireland House, The Amp Walk,
218 Jalan Ampang,
50450 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Tel: 603-2161 2963 Fax: 603-2161 3427

Letter From The PIA President

A cairde gael agus a cairde Idirnáisiúnta.

Our theme for the year is "Accentuate the Positive" so eliminate all the negativity and you will find life much more fulfilling and rewarding. It is true what Elaine wrote in her article on page 12 – "we Irish can create a community anywhere" – and PIA is very happy to note that we are growing in numbers and support.

A memorable moment for me this year was on 14th February at Amee and Drew's Chinese New Year gathering. Upon entering their apartment, I heard a guest saying, "great Irish Stew, Amee". Amee explained that it was easy as she followed my recipe from last year's *Irish Insights*. She also noted that she makes the stew quite often for her guests and family. It is not surprising that Amee has become rather famous for her Irish Stew! We all have fond memories of our own culinary heritage. For us Irish, a bowl of steaming Irish stew or beef in Guinness will be fondly remembered for warming us up after a chilly walk home from school on a cold, grey and wet winter day. For me recipes such as these are what I relate to as my comfort food. When I miss my family and homeland, I make these dishes and find refuge in them. Two popular Irish recipes are on page 10. Try Ann Marie's traditional Irish whiskey ring cake. It goes well with a relaxing cup of tea.

Each year we get busier with new events being added to the PIA calendar. In 2009 we started with our intellectual Quiz Night (full story on page 6). Mark 17 June 2010 on your calendar and join us at E&O Hotel. This year we promise to make the questions less obscure and more fun. In October 2009 we supported the Gaelic Games in Bangkok (travelling at our own expense of course) and had a great time at this fantastic gathering of Irish from all around Asia. We are looking forward to the games in Hong Kong this year and hope you will join us for a fun-filled weekend. In late November 2009, we hosted the PIA Christmas party at the Wine Shop which was filled with traditional festive goodies. Everyone who attended the party had a very merry time. Special thanks to Dr. Aaron Lim and his wife, Hwang Yee who sponsored the first round of wine for all our guests. Also November saw the start of our "Movers & Shakers" Club. Join us for a Margarita or two at the G Hotel.

In March 2010 we organised three very successful St. Patrick's celebrations in Penang. A group of us also attended the St. Patrick's Annual Ball in Kuala Lumpur. The well-known Irish talent for having a good party – lasting friendships, fun entertainment, great food and drinks – made this year's St. Patrick's celebration our most successful ever. Special thanks to Mr. Desmond Hatton and his team from Shangri-la's Rasa Sayang Resort & Spa.

The PIA committee extends a sad goodbye and heartfelt thanks to our ambassador Eugene Hutchinson and Adele for their fantastic support and friendship throughout the years. Also a warm welcome to the new Irish ambassador to Malaysia, Declan Kelly who is currently serving in Canada.

A special thanks to the dedicated committee members and their husbands. Our PIA committee works hard to share with you our Irish traditions via our events. We are planning an even more interesting year for 2010. We hope you will join our celebrations. As always, bringing Ireland closer to you. *Slainte.*

Maggie T



PIA Christmas Party

It was time to party again on Thursday, 19th November at the PIA Christmas Get-Together cum Annual General Meeting. The party was held at the Wine Shop with guests arriving from 7:30 pm. PIA prepared some scrumptious snacks for the party which included honey glazed ham, smoked salmon, a variety of cheese, Davina's famous cheese balls and FoodFriends' pâté. All was served with fresh Rainforest bread and crispy crackers. Included in the buffet line that evening were also traditional Christmas cake, minced pies and Ann Marie's moist Whiskey cake. Thanks a bunch to all those who contributed their time for preparing such delectable delights. Members enjoyed the delicious food at no cost.

The AGM was held before the party began. Arron Lim and his wife, Hwang Yee bought the first round of drinks for all the guests. It was a fabulous evening of merry making among friends with good traditional Irish food and lovely tunes all within the cosy atmosphere of the newly opened Wine Bar.

Many thanks to Michael and his team for working hard behind the wine bar and for hosting the event.

TRADITION TURNS A CORNER




AMEE PHILIPS
EXCLUSIVE JEWELLERY

109, Kelawei Road, George Town, 10250 Penang, Malaysia. • Tel: +60 (0)4 229 5755
Fax: +60 (0)4 229 7759 • Email: amee@ameephilips.com • www.ameephilips.com



We're Graicing Up North!

Malaysia's leading chain of Irish pubs and restaurants
is coming up North to Penang!

Synonymous with great service, excellent pub grub
(recently awarded The Best Pub Grub in The Food
Awards 2009 by TimeOut Kuala Lumpur) and bars
boasting an extensive range of fresh, quality beers,
premium spirits and wines FINNEGAN'S Irish Pubs
and Restaurants looks forward to bringing all these
great qualities to Penang's newest prime seafront
location that is Seri Tanjung Pinang.

See you in May and till then, Sláinte!

For more information on happenings at FINNEGAN'S,
subscribe to The Irish Calling via
www.finneganspubs.com

QUIZ NIGHT

MAGGIE T

The Second Annual PIA Quiz was held in the E&O Hotel on 25th June 2009. The contestants gathered to discuss tactics and lubricate their brains in the Farquhar's Bar before the quiz, and a motley crew they were. Indians, Chinese, Irish, English, Dutch and several other nations represented. Teachers, engineers, doctors, housewives, scientists, nurses, footballers, runners, cyclists and swimmers, could be found mixing there.

However the serious business was in the Cornwallis Suite, and the PIA police managed to get the quizzers to leave the bar and enter the chamber. The following account is provided by Ian Johnston from Expatriate Lifestyle KL who entered as a good sport to make up a team on the night:



"Ireland!" the crowd shouts for the eighth time toward six bottles of whiskey at the front of the room. They're not calling to the liquor though. Instead, at the head of the hall stands Eugene O'Neill, quizmaster for the Penang Irish Association's second quiz night. We've just had a warm-up round of questions and, as if the wine and beers weren't enough, Eugene has devised 20 questions with the answer to each either Ireland or something typically Irish. The crowd loves it, and it's not just Irish expats here. In front of my team-Strolling Bones, consisting of two Irishmen, one Englishman, and one that's not quite sure-gathers a group of Indians; to the right are The Internationals and behind, on the table that eventually wins, I spot at least one Englishwoman, and probably a few Irish too.

The ruckus recedes and up steps the President of PIA, Maggie T. There's a huge cheer, partly because many have had a few drinks and partly because Maggie is a very popular woman here, and she introduces the format and



rules: ten rounds of ten questions; one point per fully correct answer; and teams can buy two answers for RM10 each per round. We shan't be doing that, my competitive streak brags, before admitting defeat shortly after hearing the first ten questions.

We've not done particularly well but that shouldn't matter. I've had a glimpse into expatriate activity in Penang, and as Eugene closes the quiz and hands out the whiskey, it seems natural for this close-knit community to come together for a midnight celebration. It's Maggie T's birthday and her role in this community is evidently appreciated so it's with a great cheer from the crowd that she receives a bunch of flowers from the Vice President Ann Marie. Everyone is in support; even the bitterest of the losing teams: ours.

Many thanks to our sponsors:



QUIZ NIGHT 2010

DATE: 17 June 2010

VENUE: E&O Hotel, Penang

TIME: Meet in the Bar at 7.30pm

PRICE: Teams of four or six players
RM100 per team
(need Team name)

- Happy Hour prices all night – Beer & Wine RM11 nett, Spirits with soft drink RM15 nett
- A snack menu available at Bar

FORMAT FOR QUIZ: 10 rounds of 10 questions. on General and Local Knowledge, Art & Literature, Science & Nature, Geography, History, Films, Music, Sports and Pictures.

Great prizes must be won!

A fun-filled evening for team building, bonding and socialising! Join us by signing up before Friday, 11 June 2010.

For more info, call **Maggie T** at 012-4625596, **Triona Chelliah** at 016-4228817, **Ann Marie O'Toole** at 012-5518154 or **Rosie Murray** at 016-4860951.



Asian Gaelic Games

ANN MARIE O'TOOLE



In October 2009 the Asian Gaelic Games came to Bangkok for the first time. Six hundred players and forty teams from sixteen countries across Asia and the Gulf travelled to Bangkok to compete in the regional championships of Hurling and Gaelic Football, the national sports of Ireland. This was the biggest Gaelic games event ever held in Asia.

Gaelic Football is played by both men and women, and is the most popular sport in Ireland. With

a three thousand year history, Hurling is said to be the world's fastest field game. The sport is governed by the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA).

These sports have reached every corner of the world through the widespread Irish Diaspora with hundreds of clubs in cities in USA, Canada, Britain, Asia, Australasia and Europe – wherever a group of Irish expatriates are likely to be.

The Asian Gaelic Games have grown into more than just a sporting event and are now a celebration of sport, culture and business success. The third annual Asia Pacific Ireland Business Forum was addressed by the Thai Finance Minister.

PIA's intrepid reporters, Maggie, Rosie and Ann Marie flew up from Penang to be present at the opening event on Friday, 16th October in Bangkok's Dusit Thani Hotel. There was food and drink galore, an excellent traditional Irish band and the compere for the evening was the one and only Micheál Ó Muirchéartaigh who is known and loved by generations of GAA football and hurling aficionados for his distinctive accent and unique style of TV and radio commentary. Also in attendance were the president of the GAA and a number of well known Irish sporting personalities.



The draw for the fixtures was also made at the opening ceremony.

We met people we knew from back in Ireland whom we hadn't seen for years and who turned out to be expats now as well. Acquaintances from around the region were renewed and a great night's *craic* was had by all.

The Games themselves were played out over the Saturday and Sunday at the playing fields of Bangkok Patana School in Sukhumvit.

The weather was appalling and might have made the weekend a washout in terms of hurling, but Hong Kong emulated Kilkenny's hurlers by winning the Asian Gaelic Games' Derek Brady Cup for the 4th successive year, beating out a young Seoul Gaels team from Korea.

In the women's football the Singapore Gaelic Lions set the standard, doing the double by winning the women's cup and plate competitions. In the kid's football competition, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok entertained during breaks in the torrential tropical rains!

It wasn't all football and hurling for the terrible threesome and we managed to get in a bit of shopping at the famous Jim Thompson silk stores in the city. A great trip, and we're looking forward to the next games in Hong Kong in October.





PIA Girls weekend in HONG KONG for 2010 Asian Gaelic Games

24-26 September 2010



Join us for great
games and
superb shopping
in Hong Kong
this October.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT PIA COMMITTEE



BEEF & GUINNESS STEW

Serves 6 to 8

Ingredients:

1 kg cubed lean stewing beef
2 tablespoons of cooking oil
2 carrots sliced
2 celery ribs sliced
2 leeks sliced
2 large onions coarsely chopped
2 sprigs of fresh thyme
3 garlic cloves chopped very thin
2 bay leaves
2 cups of beef stock
1 cup chopped tomatoes, fresh or canned
1 can of Guinness
Salt and freshly milled pepper to taste.



Method: Trim the meat of any fat or gristle, cut into cubes of 2 inches (5cm) and toss them in a bowl with 1-tablespoon oil. Season the beef with salt, freshly ground pepper.

Heat the remaining oil in a wide frying pan over a high heat. Brown the meat on all sides. When beef is finished, put aside, put in the vegetables, garlic, bay leaves and thyme. Sweat until onions are clear and beginning to turn brown. Add the Guinness and cook to reduce by 60%. Put in the beef stock, beef and tomatoes and bring to a simmer.

Cover with the lid of the casserole and simmer very gently until the meat is tender – 2 to 3 hours. The stew may be cooked on top of the stove or in a low oven at 300°F. Season to required taste. Serve hot with mashed potatoes.

ANN MARIE'S IRISH WHISKEY RING CAKE

Ingredients:

6 oz / 175g margarine (at room temperature)
6oz / 175g caster sugar
6oz / 175g plain flour
½ level teaspoon baking powder
3 eggs (size 3)
4oz / 125g sultanas
Rind 1 orange (and little juice)
1–2 tablespoons Irish Whiskey
For icing: (optional)
8oz / 225g icing sugar, sieved
Finely grated rind, & juice 1 lrg. orange



Method: Pre-heat oven to gas mark 4 / Elec. 350°F or 180°C. Sieve flour and baking powder together in mixing bowl and add all other ingredients. Beat together until smooth for 2 to 3 minutes. Place the mixture into a greased and floured ring tin (8 inch /20cm) or use a non-stick tin. Smooth the top. Place in middle shelf of pre-heated oven for 1-hour approx, until well risen, golden and firm to touch. Cool for 10-15 mins in the tin, then turn out and cool on wire tray.

To make icing: Mix icing sugar, orange rind and juice together with a little warm water, if necessary. Pour over the cake and decorate, as you like. Decoration in centre optional – we used green cherries for St. Patrick's, can use Red Cherries for Christmas.

Hint: Ideal for afternoon tea/ coffee.

Serve with Baileys, cream or ice cream.



For more recipes, check out Gourmet Secrets Online at
www.gourmetsecretsonline.com

*Adding Flavour
To Your Life!*



The Wine Shop

Australia:
Annie's Lane
Cranswick
Delatite
Half Mile Creek
Heritage
Hutton Vale
Leconfield
Peter Lehmann
Plunkett
Red Nectar
Richard Hamilton
Saltram
Stonier's
Three Hills
Wise Wine

Argentina:
Bodega Caro
Catena Zapata
Familia Zuccardi
O. Fournier

California:
Beringer
Ch. St. Jean
Stag's Leap

Chile:
Altair
Carta Vieja
Los Vascos
Sideral
Terramater
Trewa

French:
Chateau De Seguin
Chateau St. Cosme
Domaine Faiveley
Duval Leroy
Terra Burdigala
Zind Humbrecht

Italy:
Brancaia
Caparzo
Cerreto
Cesari
Corte Viola
Gianni Gagliardo
Limocello
Ornellaia
Principe
Tenimenti
Tenuta Sette Ponti

New Zealand:
Fire Road
Konrad
Mussel Bay
Mount Fishtail
Saint Clair

Portugal:
Real Compania Velha
Royal Oporto

Spain:
Alion
Emilio Lustau
Espectacle
Faustino
Felix Callejo
O. Fournier
Pintia
Portia
Vega Sicilia

South Africa:
Anthonij Rupert
L' Omarins

**The Wine Shop Penang Drink In Shop
has over 600 labels of wine products
from Australia, Chile, Argentina, France,
New Zealand, Italy, Portugal, South Africa
and Spain.**

If you fancy a bottle or a glass we serve it a very affordable price.
We also have imported Beers from Germany just in case
you don't fancy having Wines for the evening.

Operating hours & days :-
4pm - 1am Monday to Saturday & On Public Holiday's
unless the Public Holiday falls on a Sunday
Closed on Sunday's

For reservations or inquiries :-
The Wine Shop Penang
15 & 1A, Lintang Burma, 10250 Penang.
Tel : 604-226 1826 Fax : 604-228 5262
Email : michael@milawa.com



URL: <http://www.milawa.com>

"Accentuating the Positive"

at the St. Patrick's
Day Ball 2010 held
at Shangri-La's Rasa
Sayang Resort & Spa

STORY BY ELAINE COSTELLO
PHOTOS BY ADRIAN CHEAH



As it was my first time in Penang as well as my first time attending the St. Patrick's Day Ball, I really didn't know what to expect when arriving to the PIA (Penang Irish Association) festive annual event. However, as the taxi pulled up to the front entrance of the Shangri-La's Rasa Sayang Resort and I walked into the lobby, I couldn't help but be impressed with the elegance that stood in front of me. In the background I could hear the traditional Irish music which led us into the lounge for our pre-dinner drinks reception. The live Irish music was certainly setting the mood for a great night ahead.

In the lounge we were greeted by the staff who presented us with a shamrock to wear – a badge of honour representing our Irish pride. The room was a wave of vibrant greens from bottle to pale to lime to turquoise. I never realised there were so many shades of our Emerald colour. The green theme continued when we were offered Maggie's "Green Mamba Cocktail" which was 'go halainn'. For those who weren't that adventurous there was also bubbly pink champagne or a pint of the "Black Stuff". The drinks flowed right into the night.

Before we knew it there was a call for us to proceed into the ballroom. On the way it was hard not to notice the shamrock ice sculptures which stood guarding the doors to the room.

The tables themselves were named after famous landmarks and towns and villages in Ireland, for example "Dromoland Castle" and "Malahide". As everyone was making their way to their respective tables to take their seats "Ireland through the Years" was projecting onto the big screen in the background. At our table it was great fun trying to guess names of the locations that were appearing before us.

Not one detail had been left out from the ice sculptures to the wall hangings representing the depiction of Irish history on the centre pieces in the middle of the tables adorned with an array of white flowers and decorated with a ribbon of our tri-colour to the Irish band that had been specially flown in from Kuala Lumpur, every last detail had been thought of.

Just before dinner commenced Maggie Territt (President of the PIA) formally welcomed members, sponsors and friends to the perfectly themed "Accentuating the Positive" St. Patrick's Day Ball. She also thanked everyone for their continued support over the last year. Maggie was pleased to report the success that the PIA had had over the last 12 months which was reinforced that evening with the highest attendance at a St. Patrick's Day Ball of 286 people which was great to see especially it was also the 10th year of this great event. Maggie then called upon her colleagues, Ann Marie O'Toole and Rosie Murray, to join her in recognition of their hard work and commitment to the PIA. They also thanked Triona Chelliah who couldn't make it on the night owing to personal commitments.

Grace was said in our native tongue by Ann Marie O'Toole (Vice President of the PIA). It was then time for the feast that the Rasa Sayang Resort & Spa had prepared for us. The band sung us through dinner. The menu included from soup and salads to the beef and salmon fillets to the lamb stew and the colcannon potatoes, not to mention the 'caca milis', my favourite being the bread and butter pudding accompanied with creamy custard. The food was 'go han mhaith'. As the old Irish proverb says "Laughter is brightest where food is best" and this evening was certainly no exception.

The live traditional music throughout dinner was energetic and the company was wonderful. Once all the plates were cleared it was time for the toasts. Mr. Eddie O'Toole acknowledged the King of Malaysia, followed by Ann Marie O'Toole with a toast to Ireland. Mr. Eugene O'Neill gave his account of St. Patrick coming to Ireland





(with a twist) and reminding us of the true reason behind this great affair.

The Ambassador of Ireland, his excellence Mr. Eugene Hutchinson was welcomed to the stage to address the guests. He spoke about the letter he received from President Mary McAleese acknowledging all of the Irish people both at home and abroad at this celebratory time. He also on behalf of himself and President McAleese thanked Maggie and the rest of the committee for all they do for the PIA not only on this particular night but all year round. The toast was saluted with either a baileys or a drop of whiskey. The final thanks of the night went to the sponsors of the evening who came to the stage to be recognised. A special mention was given to Pinky (Rasa Sayang's Event Co-ordinator) for all her hard work and partnership with the committee in the run up to the event.

Now that the formalities were over it was time for the 'ceol' to start and no better way than a rendition of "Young Sin and How Soon" in the melody of "In Dublin's Fair City" sung by none other than Nick Ridley. It was now time for the trad band to pack away their baron and tin whistle and the DJ to start playing the tunes. You name it and he played it. From The Commitments "Mustang Sally" to Madonna's "Material Girl" to Black Eyed Peas "I Got a Feeling Tonight's Gonna Be a Good Night" and that it certainly was. The DJ played until our feet were sore and we could dance no more.

So when I look back on my St. Patrick's Day 2010 experience with fondness, I thank the PIA committee on behalf of everyone for the wonderful evening they organised and for their hospitality. Even though us Irish like to say that "There's no place like home" which is true, however it just goes to show that we can create a community anywhere.





Slán leat agus Lá Fhéile
Pádraig

A sincere “Go Raibh Maith Agaibh” to our sponsors

ESB INTERNATIONAL, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Electricity Supply Board, Ireland’s main electricity utility. ESB builds, owns and operates power stations, as well as providing a full range of engineering and consultancy services to clients in the power sector worldwide. With over 1,000 staff, ESB’s expertise covers all aspects of energy projects, from concept to development to operation and maintenance. To date ESB has carried out projects in over 115 countries. ESB has a proven track record in investing and running major power projects and is a trusted partner in the industry.

IRE-TEX CORPORATION BERHAD’S principal activities are the design and fabrication of polymer-based protective packaging products. Other activities include contract manufacturing services, preparing sub-assembly of chasis, manufacturing polymer-based materials, conversion of corrugated paper boxes, trading of raw materials, computers and finished goods, providing testing and calibration services, generation of biomass energy and investment holdings. The Group operates in Malaysia and China.

PATHFINDERS RELOCATION SERVICES offers a total relocation service, tailored to the specific needs of expats and their families. Our team has a thorough understanding of Malaysian and Western cultures, people and systems. This enables us to cover all aspects of the relocation process. A member of the RELOC8 Asia Pacific Group.

AMEE PHILIPS EXCLUSIVE JEWELLERY is an independent jewellery company, designing, crafting and marketing exclusive jewellery. Amee, married to an Irishman Drew Philips, has been producing exclusive jewellery for over 15 years and has established herself as a connoisseur of genuine gemstones and an innovator of versatile jewellery with her award winning V-Clip. Her creations are the essence of style, and sophistication treasured by the elegant women of the 21st century.

SHANGRI-LA’S RASA SAYANG RESORT & SPA, offers vacationers an expansive luxury retreat in traditional Malaysian style, nestled beside the emerald waters of world-famous Batu Feringgi Beach.



FINNEGAN’S, Malaysia’s leading chain of Irish pubs and restaurants is now in Penang. Synonymous with great service, excellent pub grub and bars boasting an extensive range of fresh, quality beers, spirits and wines.

ETIHAD AIRWAYS, the National Airline of the United Arab Emirates offers flights to Abu Dhabi and from there to the world.

ALLIED PICKFORDS: The Allied Pickfords brand is known throughout the world as a premier supplier of moving services. Our history goes back almost four centuries and our “Pickfords” name has been long synonymous with high quality home moving. From the pack horses of the early seventeenth century to the most advanced shipping and transport methods of today, Allied Pickfords has grown to become the largest dedicated home moving organisation in the world.

THE WINE SHOP supply wines for retail & wholesale, weddings anniversaries, wine tasting and training, corporate functions and events. Also sells a variety of gourmet products.

CROWN RELOCATIONS (crownrelo.com) provides expense management, policy consulting and programme administration, online tracking tools, storage, transit protection, home and school search, intercultural services, and domestic and international transportation of household goods and other services. We serve corporations, diplomats and private customers. Crown Relocations, a division of the Crown Worldwide Group (crownworldwide.com) operates from over 200 locations in 50 countries.

EASTERN & ORIENTAL HOTEL (E&O Hotel). A tranquil haven in the bustling heart of Penang, this Grande Dame of historical, colonial charm offers its guests the finest traditions of luxury and service. Celebrating 125 years.

G HOTEL, chic and stylish is Penang’s latest gem located along Penang’s bustling Gurney Drive. With its stunning interiors and contemporary design, the G Hotel offers accommodation with style and substance. The hotel is also an epitome of modernity, with a bold and innovative approach.



Maggie Territt
President



Ann Marie O'Toole
Vice President



Triona Chelliah
Liaison Officer



Rosie Murray
Events & Membership
Officer

INTRODUCING THE COMMITTEE

I was born in Portlaoise, but lived in Dublin for 10 years before leaving Ireland in 1994. My husband, Eugene works in the electricity business for ESBI. We started expat life in West Africa, first in Sierra Leone and then The Gambia. In 1996 we moved to India, and in 1999, arrived in Penang where we are both enjoying life. In all our overseas postings, I have been involved in Expatriate Organisations including being President of IWA for 2003-2005. Now in addition to PIA, I am enjoying my involvement with FoodFriends.

Dia 's Mhuire agaibh. Is Mise Áine Marie O'Tuathail. I come from a place called Clonad, near the town of Portlaoise. I'm here with my husband who works for ESBI. Ed's work has meant we've lived outside of Ireland – UK, South-East Asia, Pakistan and Malaysia – for the last sixteen years. Both of us love Asia, Malaysia, and Penang in particular, so now, we have decided to build our home here on this lovely tropical island of Penang. I was active in the International Women's Association (IWA) and held various posts including Vice-President. Well a *dhuine úaisle*, I look forward to seeing you all at our PIA upcoming functions.

Triona Chelliah, née Keane, born in County Claire Republic of Ireland arrived in Malaysia in 1981. I have lived in Kuala Lumpur and Penang and have been running my own Relocation business since 1996.

I am from Mallow, Co. Cork, Ireland. Before moving to Penang I worked in Dublin as Marketing Manager for BT Ireland. I moved to Penang in 2007 with my husband Damian who works with ESBI in Kulim. We have a son Luke whom we adopted in Malaysia. In Penang I work voluntarily at St. Nicholas' Home for the blind. I was the Entertainment Chair for IWA in 2008 and am now a member of Penang Irish Association.



A BIG THANK YOU TO:

- His excellence Mr. Eugene Hutchinson and his wife Adele for gracing the event.
- Shangri-La's Rasa Sayang Resort & Spa for such a grand evening. Desmond Hatton and his hardworking team, especially Pinky for coordinating the event and the chefs for the sumptuous food.
- IWA Penang, FoodFriends Penang and The St. Patrick's Society Selangor for helping with publicity.
- Bibi van Germet for her kind assistance with the website.
- Adrian Cheah from Neo Sentuhan for designing all our materials and photographing the event.



- All who supported in one way or another in making the St. Patrick's Celebration 2010 a great success.

St. Patrick's Ball, Kuala Lumpur

By ANN MARIE O'TOOLE

Maggie T. and Ann Marie O'Toole from PIA, were delighted to accept a kind invitation from the President and Committee of St. Patrick's Selangor Society to attend their 2010 Annual Ball in Kuala Lumpur.

Held at the Hilton Hotel on Saturday, 13th March, it was the eighty-fifth official celebration of St. Patrick's Day in Kuala Lumpur and is now one of the largest such gatherings in the world.

We stayed at the Hilton and after checking-in on Saturday we went to see how preparations were going, and had a chat with some of the committee members while the ballroom was getting its finishing touches and sound checks in readiness for the big night.

After a leisurely afternoon, Saturday evening found us dressed up in our finery and it was time for these two PIA Princesses to go to the Ball. We were pleasantly surprised to be ushered into the VIP Lounge where we mingled and sipped champagne.

Only when all the other guests were seated, did the VIPs, led by a lone piper and headed up by the Sultan of Selangor, followed by the Irish Ambassador and his wife, proceed along the red carpet to the ballroom, where we were announced to applause on arrival and seated at our tables. We were both very proud to be included in such distinguished company while representing Penang Irish Association and friends of Ireland in Penang.

Society President Olwyn Stewart gave the customary *céad míle fáilte* and the very popular K.L. Irish Nun, Sr. Enda, said Grace in our Irish native language.

We had a very fine dinner, during which we were entertained with traditional Irish Music and by a troupe of very young dancers from K.L. who performed



a selection of Irish jigs and reels.

A traditional Irish band, "The Folksmen" were specially flown in from Dublin, and they delighted the crowd with some rousing Irish music and singing.

Also deserving of special mention is "Cantus Musicus", an amateur choir who performed both the Malaysian & Irish National Anthems among other pieces.

The Irish entertainment "guest piece" of the evening was by Mr. Ronan Kelly, who stole the show with his surprise exhibition of Irish Dancing

at its best; "He took sparks out of the floor" as they'd say at home!

Ronan, Penang Irish Association has your number, boyo, and we want you up here for our function next year. No excuses!!

As the meal ended, the top-table dignitaries officially opened the "Shebeen" (pub/bar) and many of the guests filtered out to partake in the free drink. Dancing in the main ballroom was to local band 'Evening Breeze' while there was great *craic* at the *Seisún* (Irish music session) in the Mini Ballroom. What a fantastic evening! We have it on good authority that some revellers/partiers actually made it non-stop through to breakfast time, but these two PIA princesses left the Ball some time after 3:00a.m. in need of some well-earned beauty sleep.

A very big *go raibh maith agat* to President Olwyn Stewart and to the committee of St. Patrick's Selangor Society for the invitation. We quite literally had a Ball and hope you will allow us to return the compliment in 2011.



We would also like to say a special "thank you" to Mary Grant who sent us the invitation. Mary keeps in contact with us throughout the year and helps us with contacts etc. in KL.

"Slán agaibh go léir agus go mbeirimid beo ar an am seo arís"

HOWLS FROM THE HOUNDS

RUN 494 -
20TH MARCH 2010



We had a great turn out for the St. Patrick's Run – 81 members and several guests. Big appreciation to the Irish Wolf Hounds (Iceman, Octopus and Whatever) who put up a wonderful run with a lot of Guinness; a lot of good food thanks to the cook Maggie T; beautiful scoff and a confusing run that most member's came back from without following the paper. Again another great run organised by the Irish Wolf Hounds.

A short scramble up to the normal road, easy on up, gradually climbing. But owing to the dry and hot day, and the trail being out in the open sun, all hashers are pushing very hard to move forward. Half way up on the cement track, bump into Francis Black Hair and Eddie Punk, both stooped over, panting and gasping for air. As usual, these two SCB's are looking for an easy way out. The first one to give up is the stern-looking communist guest brought by Golden Chicken, he is overwhelmed by our tropical climate and have to be escorted down by Tin Tin.

About ten yards onto the hash highway, Fancy Pants is seen running up and down shouting "No Paper". Stopping at the cross road for five minutes and wondering which direction to follow, we decide to use the familiar route on the right leading us to #5 tea station. Texas Ts and I decide not to stop over at #5 for coffee break, but many others did. But we know the Murky Irish Beverage is waiting for us down at the run site so we keep moving.

The food was served by Maggie T from an array of tables sagging under the weight of her renowned Irish Lamb Stew, Beef in Guinness, salads and breads, with the famous Kwai Low Siew Bak at the end, hot and steaming from the oven. There stood Iceman with his Chinese cleaver, carving the juicy roasted pork bellies with rapid chops, to keep pace with the impatiently queuing and drooling hounds. Soon the scene at the youth park was of almost 100 hungry hounds chomping down the delicious food and slurping glasses of draught Guinness as fast as Sammy the beer man could pour them. Darkness fell and the volume of conversation increased again and the place was like a busy Irish pub on a Saturday night.

Another great St. Patrick run by the Irish Wolf Hounds... Slante!!!



Pub Night at the E&O Hotel

on 17th March 2010

The Real St. Paddy's Night

ANN MARIE O'TOOLE

PA marked the official date of our national holiday on 17th March by hosting a Pub Night at the E&O Hotel's Farquhar Bar to ensure that the shamrock was drowned in the traditional manner.

Great credit to staff and management of E&O Hotel for getting into the spirit of things and decking out the bar in the national colours of Ireland, along with plenty of harps, shamrocks, bunting and a few decidedly dodgy looking leprechauns serving pints of *the black stuff*, at happy-hour prices all night. It was a good pint of Guinness, people who know about these things tell me, and Chef Bob turned out some delicious food for the evening.

With the sound of Irish music raining down, both members, tourists and hotel guests started to arrive – it was great to see so many people “going green” and getting into the spirit of the evening.

Our PIA President, Maggie T welcomed everyone and wished one and all – Irish, locals and visitors – ‘A Cead Mile Failte’ a hundred thousand welcomes. She made a toast to all there and of course to St. Patrick.

As people mellowed, both inhibitions and vocal chords were loosened. The inevitable murder of some of Ireland's favourite old songs naturally followed. Being Irish, they were murdered several times and in the morning nobody would have remembered who the guilty parties were.

This was our designated night, March 17th for our big raffle prize – a return ticket to Dublin, generously donated by Etihad Airways. There was great excitement that night as people who bought tickets at RM100 each were hoping to win the prize.

As the night was coming to a close, it was time for the big raffle. Mr. Dick Gillanders, the person who bought the very first ticket was the lucky winner. Congratulations Dick, we are all delighted for you and envious of you.

A fund-raising silent auction of hotel stays, dinners etc. sponsored by E&O Hotel, Shangri-La's Rasa Sayang Resort and Spa and G Hotel proved popular and we still have some sponsored items to auction at our Quiz Night on June 17th.

Drinking, fun and singing in small groups continued until the last few people rolled out of the bar, and could be heard still singing on their way home.

A merry night was had by all St. Patrick himself would have enjoyed it. A big “thank you” to E&O Hotel and to all those who came out to support the event. Until next year, same date. *slan.*



photo gallery

Man about Town



1st Movers & Shakers Club
at G Hotel



... doing our part for
local charities



Ann Marie Freaney going back
to Ireland lunch



IWA Bazaar 2009



Making your very own
Gingerbread House



Lighting
of the
Christmas
Tree
at E&O
Hotel.



Luscious Ladies Day
in Shades of Pink



Christmas Cooking at E&O Hotel



Chinese New Year & Valentine's
Celebration among friends



PIA Membership

ROSIE MURRAY



Calendar of Events 2010

Officially PIA is only three years in existence, but has origins going back 10 years. We are proud to state that PIA now has 140 plus members from more than 20 countries. Members of all nationalities are most welcome to join, as befits the friendly welcoming nature of the Irish nation.

I would like to take this opportunity to mention and welcome a few of our most recent new Irish members; Marguerite McBurney, Jonathan Cosgrove and Elaine Costello.

Membership benefits include reduced cost tickets to our main event which is our St. Patrick's Ball, held in March every year to celebrate Ireland's national day (St. Patrick's Day, which occurs on March 17th). We also host an annual Christmas party and members receive a copy of our magazine, *Irish Insights*, which gives valuable information on all our past and future events.

Events are continually being added to the social calendar so it is important to keep up to date. Visit our website on www.penang-irish-association.com or contact any of the PIA Committee Members – Maggie Territt, Anne-Marie O'Toole, Triona Cheliah or Rosie Murray.

Membership must be renewed annually at a cost of only RM25, this is used to cover expenses incurred as we are a non-profit making organisation. To renew or become a member please contact any of the committee members or email info@penang-irish-association.com.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events. Please check our calendar for details.

MAY

Fri, 21st, evening Movers & Shakers at Sigi's

JUNE

Thu, 17th, evening Quiz Night at E&O Hotel – check out details on page 7

JULY/AUGUST

- Movers & Shakers at G Hotel*
- Breakfast*

SEPTEMBER

- Mid-day Bubbly Brunch*

OCTOBER (Pink Month)

- Asian Gaelic Games - Girls weekend in Hong Kong*
- Join IWA & FoodFriends for a Women's Charity Event*

NOVEMBER

- Breakfast*

DECEMBER

- Support IWA Annual Ball (Fri, 3 Dec at Shangri-La's Rasa Sayang Resort and Spa)
- PIA Christmas Party*

MARCH 3RD 2011 (Green Month)

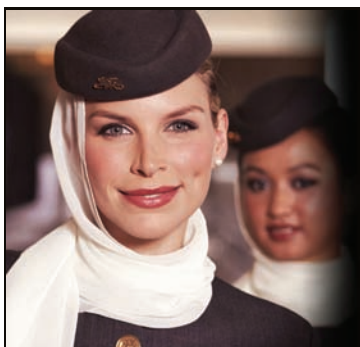
- St. Patrick's Celebration*

* Dates and details to be advised via email or check

PIA website at www.penang-irish-association.com

ALL THINGS IRISH

- May 2010 sees the launch of the first-ever commissioned translation of a book by an Irish author into Bahasa Malayu, '**UNDER THE HAWTHORNE TREE**', an Embassy project.
- **MALAYSIAN-IRISH-BUSINESS NETWORK'S** (MIBN) aim is to strengthen the business links between Ireland and Malaysia. Check out their website for their newsletters and calendar of events at www.mibn.com.my.



Etihad Airways, the National Airline of the United Arab Emirates offers flights to Abu Dhabi and from there to the world.

www.etihadairways.com

Tel: 603- 2787 222

FROM ABU DHABI TO THE WORLD

الإتihad
ETIHAD
AIRWAYS

NATIONAL AIRLINE OF THE UAE

moving?



relax.
we carry
the
load.SM

Door to door moving with Allied Pickfords

Allied Pickfords is one of the largest and most respected providers of moving services in the world, handling over 50,000 international moves every year.

We believe that nothing reduces stress more than trust, and each year thousands of families trust Allied Pickfords to move them. With over 800 offices in more than 40 countries, we're the specialists in international moving and have the ability to relocate you anywhere anytime. Move with Allied to Allied worldwide.

Back to
PIA

Call us now on
+603 6253 6553 - Kuala Lumpur
+604 646 4278 - Penang
www.alliedtoallied.com

ALLIED
PICKFORDS
The Careful Movers™



FERINGGI
GRILL

Modern Grill Cuisine from Chef Adam Roy

Chef Adam Roy brings his inimitable touch to create contemporary creations that complement the classic favourites at the award-winning Feringgi Grill.

An extensive wine cellar, including over 100 fine vintages serves to enhance the dining experience. Two private rooms are also available to accommodate exclusive gatherings for up to 10 or 20 people.

Open daily 6:30pm to 10:30pm

SHANGRI-LA'S RASA SAYANG RESORT AND SPA

Batu Feringgi Beach, 11100 Penang, Malaysia.

Tel (04) 888 8888 Fax (04) 881 1800 Email rsr@shangri-la.com www.shangri-la.com

