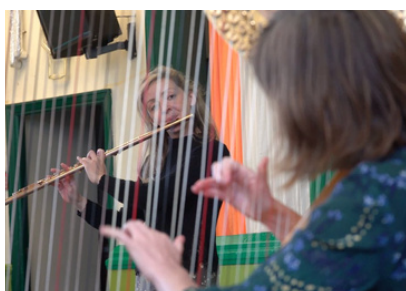




Lewisham Irish
Community Centre

Celebrating 30 Years
of service



Annual Report 2021/22

lewishamirish.org.uk

CEO

These past two years have challenged us all both individually and as a community. Through the dedication and generosity of the community, trustees, frontline staff, and volunteers we met the challenge. LICC had the local knowledge to adapt quickly to meet needs and ensure our community remained supported. Weekly welfare checks, meal deliveries, and online activities kept the most vulnerable connected. We also witnessed the resilience of our Irish Elders; learning new digital skills to stay connected with each other and with family in Ireland.

There was a renewed sense of community spirit, a need for belonging, a reconnection, with many young volunteers coming forward on a weekly basis to deliver meals, play music, set up Irish language schools to bring the community together. In the past year, LICC has worked collaboratively with local businesses, grassroots groups, and charities to retain the online and outreach initiatives while beginning the process of rebuilding and recovery in what remains a time of continued uncertainty. In September '21, we were delighted to reopen the facilities for children and families and relaunch our Irish Elders program onsite.

After an absence of two years, we celebrated a festival of St. Patrick's Day activities attracting over 180 community members. We were delighted to be joined by Rachel Ingersoll, Irish Embassy, and Damien Egan, Mayor of Lewisham. Later this year LICC will have a special event to mark 30 years of community service.

I look forward to the year ahead building on our collaborative approach, supporting the welfare of the Irish and Gypsy Roma Traveller communities, continuing to strengthen our core services, and developing and adapting our approach to meet the challenges ahead including a sharp increase in costs of living and longer-term impact of COVID on mental health.

I want to thank the staff team for the continued hard work, dedication, and care, our volunteers for the vital support during the most challenging of times, our partners for their continued support and expertise, the community for their support and involvement, and the trustees for their guidance, support, and encouragement.



Kathleen Sheridan - CEO

CHAIR

Our annual report gives us a chance to pause and reflect on all that has been achieved with our community in the past year. In the face of very difficult external circumstances, the Lewisham Irish Community Centre has evolved to meet the needs of service users.

This year we've seen a number of new staff join the team to support our work. Shanique Thompson has taken on the role of Youth Club Coordinator. Doreen Loughney extended her role to Premises and Finance Administrator. Vincenza Della Camera and Robyn Chamberlain joined the Youth Service Team and Winnie Roubians took on the role of Elders Wellbeing Officer.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our Board of Trustees. Eight members of the community give their time and expertise to assist in the governance of the charity. Our board has grown over the past year, we have welcomed three new trustees: Dominic Fox, Michael McDonnell, and Anne O'Rourke. Our Treasurer, Eamon Martin will be leaving the Board this year, I want to extend a special thanks to him for his contribution as an officer and wish him well in the future.

On behalf of the Board, I want to take this opportunity to thank our CEO, Kathleen for her continued leadership and professional management of the Centre. We are looking forward to the next stage in the charity's development as we continue to implement our strategic plan and celebrate our 30th year.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our funders for their support and continued flexibility this past year. Thanks to the Irish Government's Emigrant Support Programme, Lewisham Council, Ireland Fund of GB, National Lottery Community Fund, and London Youth for their continued support.

My final thanks go out to everyone who continues to use our services and support our work. The center is a community resource and I'm glad to see we can continue to serve the community it was set up to support almost 30 years on.

Colum Mackey - Chair



ABOUT US

Established in 1992, Lewisham Irish Community Centre is an organisation with an enduring passion for transforming the lives of the people it works with. Primarily we have been focused on the needs of Irish, Irish descent and people from the Irish Traveller community. LICC enables people to build resilience, retain independent and fulfilled lives and access the right kind of support when required.

Vision

A confident empowered Irish community

Mission

An engaged Community Centre enriching lives by providing accessible services and facilities to the local community

Strategy

We will achieve our Vision by focusing on four key areas of delivery and growth

1. Welfare of The Irish Community
2. Keeping our Community Connected
3. Collaboration
4. Rebuilding and Sustainability Post-COVID

Governance

Our Board of Trustees, support the effective running of LICC and oversee the implementation of our strategy. Our trustees for 2021/22 were:



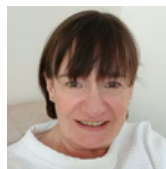
COLUM MACKAY
CHAIR



EAMON MARTIN
TREASURER



CONOR D'ARCY
SECRETARY



ANNE O RORKE



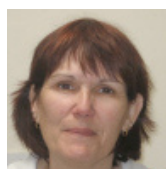
DOMINIC FOX



JAMES FARRELL



PAULINE MATON



KAREN DUGGAN



MICHAEL MC DONNELL



SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Advice and Support Services

The advice and support service has continued to adapt its way of working with clients by combining weekly welfare calls, doorstep visits, telephone appointments and face-to-face appointments. During this period 264 individuals accessed the service, 174 clients accessed the advice and advocacy while 90 individuals accessed welfare calls or community meals. 209 clients were Lewisham Irish Community Centre clients, and 55 clients were part of the joint partnership with the Southwark Irish Pensioners Project. The welfare team made 2969 welfare calls during this period.

Children and Young Person Projects

We were delighted to reopen our parent and toddler group in September 2021, led by volunteer Karen Duggan. The project currently runs once weekly and is accessed by 13 adults and 24 children.

LICC youth club relaunched onsite in June 2021, the club offered 29 sessions and was accessed by 32 individuals. Weekly activities include craft table, indoor sports, team games table tennis, air hockey and football. During this period we secured additional two-year funding from London Youth's Burberry Programme, we extended our provision to launch Homecooked in partnership with Holbeach primary school, delivering weekly recipes and ingredients to 13 local families.

264

Clients supported through our advice and support services

174

clients accessed advice and advocacy across housing, welfare and disability

Advice Service Quality Mark

retained

2969

welfare calls made

29

youth club sessions supporting 32 young people

37

children and adults supported through our parents and toddler group



SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Irish Elders Project

The Bia Project has run for 94 weeks delivering meals on wheels to those who are isolated or vulnerable. 45 individuals have accessed the project. In partnership with Wheels for Wellbeing and with the support of Found Hope Café and a team of 15 volunteers, 1345 meals were delivered.

Our online project continued each Friday morning in partnership with the Diamond Club, the project has provided music, song, fitness sessions and online bingo to 31 individuals. The project offers an opportunity for Irish Elders and Friends to stay connected throughout lockdown and beyond for those who are unable to attend in person regularly.

We relaunched the elders onsite project in September 2021 offering a program of music, song, chair-based exercise, light lunch and bingo. This is attended by an average of 32 individuals weekly, this increased to 60 for special Christmas and St. Patrick's Day lunches. 97 older individual access the project across all three activities.

94 Weeks

of community meals
delivered to the older Irish
community

31

older Irish and friends
supported every week
online

97

older Irish supported
through our projects each
week

4 Irish Language

classes run weekly

1135

volunteer hours delivered



SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Volunteer Program

We have worked with 19 volunteers supporting the Bia project, Irish Language classes, Parent and Toddler group and Elders projects. Total volunteer hours this period was 1135.

Events

Jean and Fiona Kelly held an online concert of Classical and Irish Music in June 2021 raising over £1000 for LICC. We celebrated Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) History Month online with Irish Traveller, singer, storyteller and recent recipient of TG4 Singer of the Year (2019) Thomas McCarthy.

Our first live event since COVID was Irish Elders Christmas Lunch which was attended by 60 members of the community. More recently we held our St. Patrick's Day festival of activities which ran from the 11th to the 18th of March and was attended by 186 individuals. It was great to be back celebrating in person after a period of two years, we were delighted to be represented at the main St. Patricks Day parade and to hold three events onsite.

Counselling & Psychotherapy

offered to clients through
Immigrant Counselling &
Psychotherapy Service

19

volunteers helping deliver
LICC projects

£1000

raised at our June charity
concert

29 Years

of service our community



Financial Statements - 2020/21

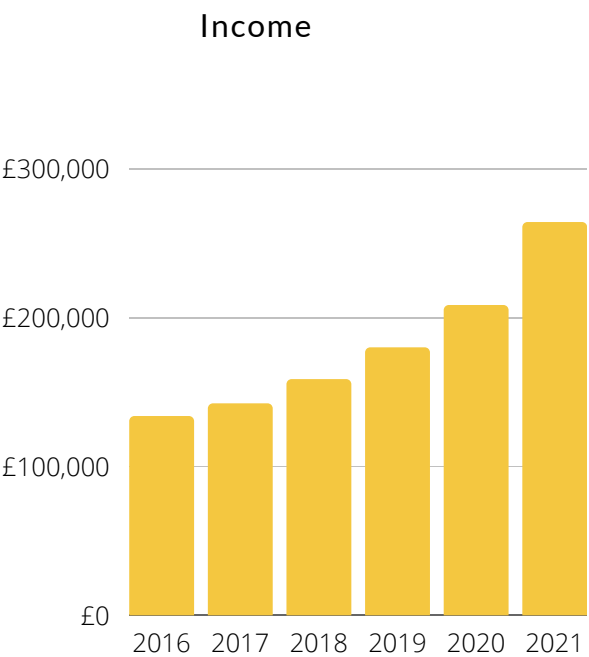
Income increased by 26% this year to £263,988 from £208,246 (2020) - chart below

Expenditure increased 15% from £192,027 to £220,962. Our Net Income was £43,026, Our total unrestricted income was £53,027.

The Lewisham Irish Community Centre is primarily funded by two grants:

One grant is from Supporting People, London Borough of Lewisham, which contributes towards the Gypsy Roma Travellers Outreach service.

The other major grant is paid by the Irish Government (Department of Foreign Affairs Emigrant Support Programme), which pays for the delivery and management of the Irish advice and outreach services and the Irish Traveller element of the Gypsy Roma Traveller Outreach Service.



Our Funders



Our Quality Marks



Our Affiliations



Financial Statements - 2020/21

Income and Endowments

	31.3.20	31.3.21
Donations and Legacies	129,890	221,710
Other activities & fundraising	78,324	42,265
Investment Income	32	13
Total income	208,246	263,988

Expenditure

	31.3.20	31.3.21
Other trading activities	5,624	423
Charitable activities	186,403	220,539
Total Expenditure	192,027	220,962
Net income/(expenditure)	16,219	43,026

The year in review

264

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