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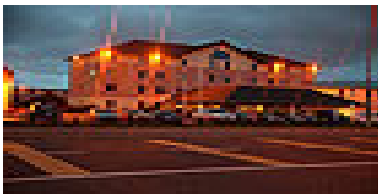
May 2008

Volume 4 Issue 2

GRSG NEWSLETTER

Lisbrook House

In early February of this year Lisbrook House opened its doors, The former Ibis Hotel is now home to approximately 280 asylum seekers.



GRSG would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new residents to Galway and we hope to work closely with them in the future.

Immigration, Residence and Protection Bill 2008

The Bill will replace all existing legislation and practice in immigration and protection. It is still being debated in the Oireachtas committee. GRSG in partnership with Integrating Ireland, the Refugee Information Service and the Galway Migrant Service held two information evenings on the Bill in February and again March. Noel Tracey Galway East TD sits on the Oireachtas committee & people should contact him with their comments and/or concerns surrounding the Bill. Noel Treacy TD, Cross Street, Athenry, Co. Galway Tel: 091-844360 Fax: 091-844360



GRSG welcomes the recent appointment of Dermot Ahern as **Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform** and we look forward to a positive & productive working relationship.

Meeting with Galway TD's and Senators

Members from Local NGOs including GRSG, the Refugee Information Service, Integrating Ireland, and the Galway Migrant Service invited Galway TD's and Senators to meet and discuss the Immigration Bill. Groups met with Michael D. Higgins, Frank Fahey and a representative from Senator Fidelma Healy Eames Office.

GRSG News



Homework Club



The Eglinton Homework Club came to an end this April with a small party. The club relied completely on the hard work of GRSG volunteers and we would like to thank them on behalf of GRSG and all the children and parents in the Eglinton.

Anti-Racism Week 2008



GRSG marked this year's Anti-Racism week by participating in the second Information session on the Immigration Bill.



And

by inviting residents from Eglinton and Lisbrook to a talk with Hannah McGinley from the Galway Traveller Movement. Hannah spoke on her time spent working in Afghanistan. This was followed by a tour of Westside Library and chance to chat over tea and cake.

CLASSES

Great Western Residents have been participating in Stress Management classes with a tutor from the Health Promotion Dep.

Thanks to the Community Foundation Great Western Residents will soon start a course in Home Management course.

The Eglinton Residents Committee have secured funding to continue the on-site sewing class.

Deo Ladislas Ndakengerwa
Policy and Campaigns Officer,
Irish Refugee Council came to
Galway on April 21st to meet
with residents from
Lisbrook House and
the Great Western.

Other news

On April 18th **Minister Éamon Ó Cuív** launched the new computer room at the Westside Resource Centre.

Amongst other things this computer room provides people with the opportunity to practice for the driving theory test.

Residents from Lisbrook House also participated in the festivities.



Above children enjoying the talents of the Storyteller at the launch in Westside Resource Centre.

The Galway Volunteer Service has moved from Westside to No. 17/18 Mill Street, Galway. The volunteer service were in **Lisbrook House** on **Tuesday May 6th** to talk to residents about volunteering opportunities. They also attended the last Residents Support Committee meeting for the **Great Western**.

Aids West Welcomes two new members of staff
General Manager **John Flannery** and
Education Co-ordinator **Afra Thornton**.

Aids West is located in Ozanam House Augustine St., Galway. It offers an information help line, education / prevention services & support to people affected by HIV & to those concerned about their sexual health in counties Galway, Mayo & Roscommon. Services are completely confidential and can be accessed via the helpline; **091-562213** office **091-566266**
Or email; **info@aidswest.ie**

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COMING UP

MAY

Africa Day Celebrations

New Communities Partnership NCP along with local African groups will be holding celebrations in Westside Resource Centre

The Nigerian Association has invited speakers from **National Qualification Authority of Ireland** and **FAS** to talk on having foreign qualifications recognised in Ireland. **Saturday May 17th** 2pm the Days Hotel Dublin rd.

Spirit of the Voice will also be holding celebrations on Sat. the 24th from 1-8 in NUIG & on Sun. the 25th with a free concert in Eyre Square 1-6pm.

REAP THE RUNWAY



Fashion show, Thursday May 29th 7pm Flannerys Hotel

Participants are getting ready for the big day making clothes and accessories and practicing their moves!

Picture 3 of the *Reap the Runway* models showcase their wares at the Westside launch on the 18th of April.

JUNE

- **The Intercultural BBQ Saturday June 29th.**

Fun for all! This cook off will see teams representing different countries competing for the title of Best BBQ Griller in the West.

To enter contact; Ernest Bishop at the Galway City Partnership.

- **Galway African Film Festival June 1st & 2nd**
- **World Refugee Day Fri. June 20th**
- **The next Garda Ethnic Liaison Forum meeting is in June 2008.**