Transcription
"You could walk from one job into another. I came over on a Friday and my auntie – Lord have mercy on her – she lived beside a big tower block that was getting built. And she knew the foreman in charge. Well, I was working on the Monday. And if you didn't like it, if you didn't like it, Tuesday you could walk into another job! And if they were paying more money down the road ....

Eventually I went on to be a hod carrier, carrying bricks, right? For twenty years I carried bricks. And you could walk: 'Oh yes, I'll give you X amount of money a day, McGinty' and you'd go! You'd leave. And then I went on to brick-laying, I took up brick-laying. And then I went on to building extensions. Then I went on and had three or four blokes working for me."

Michael Troy is a musician also known by the stage name 'McGinty'.

Born in 1945 in Co Offaly, he left school at 14 to work on the farms. He worked for several years, although he wanted to leave. He had three brothers, including an elder brother who'd already left home, and their mother was not keen on all her boys leaving.

But in 1966 Michael came over to join his aunt who lived in Weybridge, Surrey. Michael worked on the building sites before setting up as a contractor and running his own building firm. He was also a successful musician, playing in many of the Irish clubs in and around London under the stage name McGinty.

McGinty performed many times at the Galtymore in Cricklewood and recalled long queues of people waiting to get in to listen to the big music stars of the day. A life-long Pioneer, dedicated to abstinence from alcohol, Michael continues to promote music and dance as a way of bringing the Irish community together. He now runs a regular dance night at the Mazenod Social Club, at the Sacred Heart Church on Quex Road, Kilburn.