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Greenery at the Pierre, Gaelic Fun at Cipriani

Boys' Club of New York's fall dance and the Irish Arts Center gala

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If you were in the mood for a lot of greenery, including little ladylike handbags made out of grassy moss as table centerpieces, then you might have been very happy at the Pierre on Wednesday night.

Here, the Boys' Club of New York held its 68th annual fall dance, underwritten by Dior. This is a charity that continues to attract beautiful, blonde ladies who help make this party one of the more well-attended on the social circuit.

Also: no celebrities! Unless you count one of Keith Richards's daughters as a celebrity. That's debatable.

"Everybody's a doer," said Kathy Irwin, an interior designer who has been involved with the Boys' Club for years, of the many other women who have currently joined forces to help the Boys' Club.

"And tonight promises to be far more glamorous than the presidential debates," said Amy Griffin, who is on the board of trustees and was a co-chairwoman of the evening with Sara Ayres, Alexandra Robertson, Lauren Santo Domingo and Shirin von Wulffen. Ms. Griffin was wearing a Dior gown.

And an added bonus, especially when compared with those presidential debates: minimal speeches!

Other guests, many in red, included Julia Koch; Gigi and Averell Mortimer; Audrey Gruss; Stacy Bash-Polley; Jill Roosevelt; Jennifer Creel; Jamee and Peter Gregory; Hilary Geary and Wilbur Ross; Mark Gilbertson; Deborah Norville and Karl Wellner; Peggy Siegal; Eleanor and Jon Ylvisaker; Muffie Potter and Sherrell Aston; Rebekah and Colin McCabe; Katie Lee; Ashley and Jeff McDermott, Philippe and Deborah Dauman; and Dennis Basso and Michael Cominotto.

Said Mr. Basso of why he likes this particular affair: "It's pretty people in pretty dresses. Isn't that what we all want to see?"

Yes, that may be part of it. But we also wanted to see how many people took home those grassy moss handbags.

Despite the fact that the term "gala" might denote a fashionable crowd, that's not always the case. Take, for example, the Irish Arts Center gala, which took place the other night at Cipriani 42nd Street.

What this particular fundraiser lacked in Dior gowns, it made up for in entertainment, including performances by Paul Muldoon and his band as well as by the singer/songwriter Andrew Hozier-Byrne, known professionally as Hozier.

This is a party where an especially hot ticket silent auction item is a sketch or study of the Irish actor Liam Neeson by an artist named Colin Davidson. (Mr. Neeson was an honorary co-chairman of the evening.)

"We try to give them a sense of the organization and then entertain the hell out of them," said Aidan Connolly, the Irish Arts Center's executive director.

In Ireland, said Mr. Hozier-Byrne, a party doesn't have to take place at a fancy banquet hall like Cipriani or the Pierre.

"A party can appear out of nowhere," he explained. "It's all about 'having the craic.' That's a Gaelic word for 'fun.' A common greeting at home is 'What's the craic?' Or 'Where's the fun?'"