



Nuachtlitir Ard Chonsalacht na hÉireann

Newsletter of the Consulate General of Ireland

Feabhra February 2013

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'Ireland in New York Group'

www.consulateofirelandnewyork.org

Teachtaireacht an Árd Chonsul Consul General's Memo

- **Fáilte - Welcome** to the February edition of the Consulate's newsletter as we prepare for the busy St Patrick's Day period, a time of year which provides us with a unique opportunity to promote Ireland, Irish heritage and culture and of course the very special connections with this city and the United States. The Consulate's initiative for a **St Patrick's Day Art Competition** for children is a new way through which we hope to celebrate some of these connections, and I hope you can help us to spread the word.
- One of the highlights of the past month was the visit of **Minister Brian Hayes**, the Minister of State at the Department of Finance. While in New York, the Minister visited the **Irish Arts Centre**, where the Office of Public Works in Ireland has been lending its considerable expertise in architectural design for the planned new purpose-built Centre on a site donated by the City of New York with the strong support of Speaker Christine Quinn. He also announced funding for a community project **in Breezy Point**, joining the visiting Gaelic Players Association group from Ireland. The Minister also travelled to Philadelphia where he launched the '**Succeed in Ireland**' initiative to the business community there. We were delighted that the Minister could drop in and share tea and a few words at the inaugural '**First Friday Breakfast**' meeting held in Ireland House. We look forward to welcoming many of you over the coming year.
- **Noel Kilkenny**

Minister Hayes announces Sandy relief

- The Minister of State at the Department of Finance, with special responsibility for the Office of Public Works, Brian Hayes TD travelled to Breezy Point on Sunday, 3 February for the reopening of a community centre devastated by Hurricane Sandy last year;
- The centre is used by 350 young people who are involved in athletics programmes in the area and has been out of action since Sandy struck. Now fully refurbished, it's reopening has meant that the Breezy Point youth athletics programme can be restarted immediately;
- The Government funding of \$50,000, announced by Minister Hayes, is part of \$320,000 to be provided to community projects in the areas most affected by Hurricane Sandy. The Government has already allocated funding of \$60,000 dispersed equally to three Irish Centres in New York, the Aisling, Emerald Isle & New York Irish Centre;
- The Minister joined the community & a group of members of the Gaelic Players Association who travelled to Breezy Point from 31 January to 4 February, delivering on a promise made during a visit to the devastated area in November of last year. The group's work was also greatly helped by the **Emerald Guild**. One of the highlights of the group's visit was the event hosted by the Manhattan Gaels, New York's newest GAA Club.

Ard Chonsalacht na hÉireann, Nua Eabhrac



Minister Hayes with Tim Devlin (Breezy Point resident) & Donal Óg Cusack



Minister Hayes joins Ollie Canning, Brian McGuigan & members of the Breezy Point Pipe Band with Sam Maguire



Celebrate St. Patrick's Day 2013

by participating in our

**St. Patrick's Day / Lá Fhéile Pádraig
Childrens' Art Competition**

for more information on how your kids can participate go to

WWW.CONSULATEOFIRELANDNEWYORK.ORG



**AND DOWNLOAD OUR
FAMILY PACK TODAY!**

A Celebration of Youth & Culture



An Gaeilge – Irish Language

- **Foras na Gaeilge** is the governing body responsible for the promotion of the Irish language throughout the island of Ireland. It has developed a special ‘**Gnó Means Business**’ initiative which aims to facilitate and increase the practical use of Irish within the business sector.
- ‘**Gnó Means Business**’ makes the use of the Irish language in a business capacity easy. We in the Consulate have a small number of special ‘Gnó Means Business’ packages available to twenty lucky readers. Simply send an email with your mailing address to **mary.deady@dfa.ie** & we’ll get one to you ar nós na gaoithe (as fast as the wind).
- Foras na Gaeilge also provide support to develop the use of Irish as an effective marketing tool through providing **signage, business cards, stands, stationery, branding, packaging, websites and more**. To find out more, go to www.forasnagaeilge.ie and click on **Gnó Means Business**.
- There is no better time than St Patrick’s Day to introduce a little Gaeilge for your group or company. Bain triail as – give it a try!



Irish Food & Drink Exports to US Market

- The value of Irish food and drink exports in 2012 surpassed \$11.7 billion for the first time. This builds upon, and consolidates, the food industry's exceptionally strong performance over the past three years, with exports currently valued at \$2.6 billion, or 28%, ahead of 2009 levels. The strongest performing categories were meat and livestock (\$3.9 billion), seafood (\$ 641 million) and beverages (\$ 1.64 billion).
- Whiskey exports continued to lead the export performance of Irish beverages in 2012 with double digit growth reported. Exports were helped during the year by an ever improving presence in the United States.
- In just a decade, the volume of cases exported in the U.S. has gone from 434,000 to nearly 2 million, according to statistics from the Distilled Spirits Council of United States. And those numbers keep climbing!
- Looking ahead to 2013, the market environment for Irish food and drink exports looks reasonably good with increased output in some key sectors combined with relatively good global commodity prices anticipated. However, feed and other input cost developments will play a key role in determining the sectors performance.



Biz Networks: An Animated evening in the Consulate & a focus on Mentorship...

•The Consulate was honored to host a very special **IIBN** event on Tuesday, 5 February. The format was a panel discussion which was facilitated by Maura Kelly, an Emmy Award-winning media executive and comprised; Cathal Gaffney, Brown Bag Films & Animation Ireland (the representative group for Irish animation companies); Siobhán Ní Ghadhra, Telegael; Andrew Kavanagh, Kavaleer Productions; Barry O' Neill Story Toys & Games Ireland (the representative group for Irish animation companies); Paul Young, Cartoon Saloon.



•The format afforded an opportunity to learn about some of the wonderful work going on in Irish technology and animation companies. For more details see www.animationireland.com

•On Thursday, 31 January the Consulate hosted an event to mark the conclusion of the first year of the **Irish Executive Mentorship Programme** (IEMP). The IEMP is a joint initiative of the **Irish Network New York City** (INNYC) and the **Irish International Business Network** (IIBN). The concept is novel yet simple and effective. We wish the networks well with the initiative over the coming year.



Cultural News – An tÚll Glas

- **Irish Arts Center - size2shoes** Irish brothers Owen and Moley Ó Súilleabháin join the Irish Art Center to share their creative sound—layering vocal harmonies, guitars, harmonicas, percussion and strings to create a fusion of Irish folk and hip hop that is utterly delightful. **February 23, Saturday | 8 pm**
www.irishartscenter.org
- John Spinks, Current Chords from February 1 – April 22: *In Current Chords*, artist John Spinks examines and reinterprets the language of music. John Spinks is a County Clare born artist living and working in Brooklyn. Spinks returns to the IAC Gallery with *Current Chords*. His previous show at IAC in 2009, *Corresponding Approaches*, was a collection of mixed-media works based on his father's handwritten letters.
- **Irish Film New York** (IFNY – www.irishfilmnyc.com) brings the best in contemporary Irish filmmaking to New York. For its inaugural (September 2011) and second (October 2012) years, the organization hosted three-day, six-film screening series at NYU's Cantor Film Center, attended by audiences of over 1,000. IFNY aims to foster partnerships between Irish and US-based film institutes, producers, and directors, and to hold screenings, panel discussions, and filmmaker events that share the best of Irish film with US audiences.
- **The Craic Festival from 6-9 March will** include The Tossers, Julie Feeney, Mark Geary and Colin Devlin. In film, The Craic will focus on short films at the Kids Fleadh & a spotlight on documentaries, including Broken, starring Cillian Murphy, the U.S. premier of Gentlemen Prizefighter (narrated by Oscar Winner Liam Neeson) & award winning documentary, Men at Lunch.
WWW.THECRAICFEST.COM



Movie Premiere
THE PIER (2011)
8.30pm Fri, Feb. 15
New York Irish Center
1040 Jackson Ave,
Long Island City
Tel: (718) 482-0909

**THE
CRAIC**

Ard Chonsalacht na hÉireann, Nua Eabhrac

LOOKING TO VOLUNTEER IN 2013?



- Get involved with the **Aisling Center's Irish Volunteers** for the Homeless on Mondays! The Aisling Center's Irish Volunteers for the Homeless Program is continuously seeking volunteers to help feed the homeless on the streets of New York City on Mondays. At 2.00pm, community volunteers gather in the Aisling Center, 990 McLean Avenue, Yonkers, to prepare the food and supplies, which is transported at 7.30pm to various locations throughout the city. The program assists approximately 300 homeless people living on the streets of New York and transportation is provided for all volunteers to/from the center. The program services three busy routes and makes stops along Fifth Avenue, Penn Station and Broadway so volunteers are always welcomed to assist with distribution.
- The program aims to reduce the suffering of the homeless, struggling to survive on the streets of New York City whilst providing nourishment in the form of sandwiches, soup, juices and snacks. The Irish Volunteers for the Homeless was originally established over 20 years ago following a visit to New York by the late Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich, when he suggested to the congregation that they would do something for the more vulnerable and unfortunate people living in New York to show their appreciation for the success and opportunities they had experienced since immigrating to New York.
- While a lot of food is very kindly donated by local restaurants and bakeries, it costs over \$14,000 each year to provide a meal for up to 300 people each week. For more information or to make a donation to the program, please contact the Aisling Irish Community Center on 914 237 5121 or alternatively, visit www.aislingcenter.org

Mary Robinson in New York



- Special Talk by **Mary Robinson, Former President of Ireland:** At the Cooper Union, The Great Hall, in the Foundation Building, 7 East 7th Street, between Third and Fourth Avenues on **Tuesday, March 12, 2013 from 6:30pm - 8:30pm.**
- “Human rights activist and former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson will discuss her new memoir, ***Everybody Matters***, at The Cooper Union. Mary Robinson served as the seventh, and first female, president of Ireland from 1990-1997, and as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights from 1997-2002. Robinson has been honorary president of Oxfam International since 2002, and has chaired numerous bodies, including the GAVI Alliance, vaccinating children worldwide, and the Council of Women World Leaders (of which she was a cofounder). She is a member of the Elders, an independent group of global leaders brought together by Nelson Mandela. A member of the American Philosophical Society, she is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Indira Gandhi and Sydney Peace Prizes. She is president of the Mary Robinson Foundation-Climate Justice, and lives with her husband, Nick Robinson, in Dublin and Mayo.”
- The event is free with seating on a first-come-first-served basis.
<http://cooper.edu/events-and-exhibitions/events/free-author's-talk-mary-robinson-former-president-ireland>

Irish Philadelphia

- **Irish Philadelphia:** The Deputy Consul General Peter Ryan travelled to Philadelphia on 2 February for the launch of a new book by Marita Krivda Poxon, looking at the very special Irish contribution to the development of the first capital of the United States. The event was also addressed by **Justice Seamus McCaffery** and **Sister Pauline McShain** whose father John's company refurbished the White House (1949-52) and built the Pentagon (1941-42) as well as **Dr William Watson**, of Immaculata University who spoke of the Duffy's Cut project and his upcoming trip to Ireland for the interring in Ardara, Co. Donegal of one set of remains;
- The afternoon was rounded off with the wonderful young dancers from the **Cummins School of Dance**, accompanied by Noreen and Frances Donahue;
- Special thanks to Frank Hollingsworth, Vince Gallagher, Sean McMenemy, Tom Walsh & Billy Brennan for their work with the **Commodore Barry Irish Center**.



Peter Ryan with some of the Cummins School of Dance members.

'Ireland's Great Hunger Museum'

- On Thursday, 7 January, author John Kelly addressed a full house in **Ireland's Great Hunger Museum / Músaem An Ghorta Mhóir**, at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Connecticut. Kelly's latest book which was published last year is **'The Graves are Walking'**, a history of the Great Famine;
- The Museum was a very special setting for the talk as it is home to the 'world's largest collection of visual art, artifacts and printed materials relating to the starvation and forced emigration that occurred throughout Ireland from 1845 to 1850'. Works by noted contemporary Irish artists, including Micheal Farrell & Robert Ballagh are featured, as well as a number of important 19th and 20th-century paintings. There is also a collection of British Parliamentary Papers from the period, in addition to a library with 700 books on the Famine;
- We highly recommend a visit to the Museum – see www.ighm.com for more details.



Certificate of Irish Heritage

- Jim Miley, Project Director of the Gathering Ireland 2013 presented Daniel Day-Lewis with a Certificate of Irish Heritage during the Dublin Premiere of Lincoln, which saw a number of Hollywood stars gather in Ireland in aid of the Wicklow Hospice Foundation recently.
- The Certificate was awarded to Daniel in honour of his father Cecil Day-Lewis, who was born in Stradbally, Co. Laois, Ireland in 1904 but moved to London at the age of 2 after the death of his mother. The Certificate recognises the role Daniel's father played in keeping his Irish culture and heritage alive through regular visits to Ireland during Daniel's childhood.



Jim Miley, Project Director of the Gathering Ireland 2013 with Daniel Day-Lewis

The Irish Government recognises the enormous contribution made by Irish emigrants to communities around the world, creating opportunities for themselves and future generations. The Certificate of Irish Heritage (www.heritagecertificate.com) is an initiative by the Irish people to connect the Irish worldwide back to their roots. Signed by the Tánaiste (Deputy Prime Minister), it provides official recognition by the Irish Government to individuals with an ancestral link to Ireland and who are proud of their Irish heritage.

Certificate of Irish Heritage

- **The Perfect Gift:** The Certificate is the perfect gift for that special family occasion such as birthdays, christenings, retirements, anniversaries or graduations. Each Certificate is unique and a personal record of the recipient's Irish Roots, showing the names of their Irish Ancestors, the town, parish and county in Ireland where they came from and the year of their birth. These beautiful certificates are a permanent reminder of the deep emotional ties which link Irish families and communities together and can be handed down through the generations as a family heirloom.
- **Anyone can gift one of these beautiful certificates to their relatives or friends.** You do not even need to know all the details. Simply purchase a gift card on line and send on the name of the recipient, their email address and a short message such as *Happy St Patrick's Day from The Murphys in New York* and the gift card will be instantly e-mailed to them. All they need to do is choose which of the designs they want, insert their ancestor's details and a one of a kind Certificate will be on their way to them in no time. **The Certificate of Irish Heritage** is truly the perfect gift solution for anyone who is proud of their Irish Heritage.
- **Win a trip to Ireland:** As 2013 is the year of The Gathering, they are offering you a chance to win a trip to Ireland. First prize is return flights to Ireland and 7 nights accommodation in three/four star hotels and the services of a genealogist to help trace their Irish roots. Five runners up will receive a framed Certificate of Irish Heritage. Check out www.heritagecertificate.com/competition for more information.

Irish American Heritage Museum



- The Irish American Heritage Museum in New York State's capital city of Albany, centrally located at 370 Broadway in downtown Albany, provides year-round access to school groups, exhibitions, the Paul O'Dwyer Library, to lectures, presentations, film screenings, book signings and other special programs;

The Museum's expanded ***Irish in the Civil War*** exhibit is in the gallery until Feb. 24th. The Museum's exhibit features possessions of Patrick H. White, (1832-1915), American Civil War Medal of Honor recipient born in Sligo, Ireland, including his Medals of Honor, on loan from the New York State Museum, and excerpts from his diary. White is buried in St. Agnes Cemetery, Menands, New York;

Other special events include: **Genealogy Workshops** with Lisa Walsh Dougherty. Feb. 21, March 7 & 21. 6:30 p.m., and the **First Annual Irish Soda Bread Competition**, Saturday, 9 March, 2013 at the Museum. Check the Museum's website for details

www.irishamericanheritabemuseum.org



Nuacht ón Pittsburgh

- The Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh is happy to announce that two of its nominations for the **Irish Echo's 40 Under 40 Awards** were accepted. Marie-Tierney Young and Daniel Kelly will be nominated at the Echo's dinner in New York in late February which will feature Consul General Kilkenny.
- The Institute also looks forward to marking its 70th International Fund for Ireland Wider Horizons program to Pittsburgh this Spring. Since 1989, the Institute has served over 1,400 young people on this important peace and reconciliation initiative. This year, 2013, will mark the end of overseas Wider Horizons programs. The Institute has been proud to serve as the programs largest and longest overseas provider.
- In terms of St. Patrick's weekend, we are looking forward to the American Ireland Fund dinner on 15th March, a newly added Mass at St. Patrick's in the Strip District and of course the Parade (led by Grand Marshall Glenn Cannon) and post-parade festivities on the 16th...and all of that before we even get to the day itself!
- For further information on the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh, contact the Honorary Consul of Ireland, Jim Lamb at jlamb@iiofpitt.org

Nuacht agus eachtrachaí i Philadelphia

• **Irish Network Philadelphia:** On 16 January, the INP hosted Minister Brian Hayes for the launch of **‘Succeed in Ireland’**. The *‘Succeed in Ireland’* initiative is part of the Action Plan on Jobs 2012, which aims to create 5000 jobs within five years by targeting international companies, and business people, who would otherwise not be reached by the State enterprise agencies, for employment opportunities to Ireland.

• Minister Hayes also took the opportunity to meet with a range of other Irish organisations in Philadelphia, including the Brehon Law Society and the Irish American Business Chamber and Network.

• **Irish American Business Chamber and Network:** On 1 March, the IABCN will host their annual Ambassador’s Awards. The Uachtarán Award Recipient will be Sister Marguerite O’Beirne, OSF, Vice President of Mission & Ministry at Neumann University, the Taoiseach Award Recipients will be James and Frances Maguire and the Ambassador’s Awards Recipient will be the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. For more details see www.iabcn.org



Minister Hayes & John O’ Malley (Brehons & IABCN) at the Commodore Barry Memorial



www.iabcn.org

New York GAA Minor Board

- The 43rd Annual Awards Banquet of the GAA's New York Minor Board was held on Saturday, 26 January. Deputy Consul General Peter Ryan joined the event which was expertly compered by Tommy Smyth of ESPN. The evening was a great success with over 500 people in attendance.;
- The honorees at the event were Paddy Coyle of St Patrick's Fairfield, Connecticut, Aidan Traynor of Celtics and Kieran Croke of St Brendan's Monroe. The Féile Teams and the team which won the British Universities Championships Shield last season were also honored, together with the mentors, managers and parents.
- The new season will start again in March and everyone is looking ahead to the Continental Youth Championships which this year will be hosted by Philadelphia. In 2014, it will be the turn of New York to host what has grown into the largest GAA event in the world.
- For more news of the New York GAA visit www.nyyouthgaa.com



Consular Tips

Grandparent born in Ireland?

You might be entitled to Irish citizenship through descent!



Certified copies of passports

If you need a Consulate-certified copy of your Irish passport or other Irish official document, do give us a call at (212) 319-2555 to make an appointment.

Need a birth certificate? Get one online!

You can order original Irish birth, marriage or death certificates online.

Do you know someone who's turning 100?

The President of Ireland makes a special award to persons born on the island of Ireland once they turn 100 years of age.

Visit the Consulate's website for more details
www.consulateofirelandnewyork.org

Handy passport application tips

Here are a few handy things to remember if your passport has expired (or is about to!):

- **Make sure your photos are the right kind!** Irish passport photo requirements are quite different to those of US passports. Do read the information leaflet that comes with your passport form very carefully to see what's needed.
- **Born in Ireland? Name the county!** If you were born in Ireland, make sure you tell us what COUNTY you were born in, not the country! If you were born outside Ireland, it's sufficient to tell us the country of birth.
- **Remember to allow lots of time!** Passports are produced in Dublin, so make sure to allow at least four weeks for processing and transit, just to be on the safe side. And do apply now, before peak season hits and the processing time increases.

Reasons to visit Ireland in 2013
Co. Armagh: Eamhain Mhacha / Navan Fort



Two miles west of Armagh city is the great mound of **Navan Fort – Eamhain Mhacha**, stronghold of the kings of Ulster from 700 BC. It occupies a key place in Heroic Age legend, notably in tales about Cúchulainn, a story told in the Navan Fort visitor centre. In addition to detailing the mythology of the Ulster Cycle and the techniques used by archaeologists to uncover the fort, Navan Centre explores Celtic culture, rituals and beliefs of pre-Christian Ireland. Visit www.armagh.co.uk

Ireland House, New York – Áras na hÉireann, Nua Eabhrac



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