



St Patrick's Festival 2024

A spectacular global celebration of Irish arts, culture and heritage, St Patrick's Festival returns to Dublin from March 15-18.



THE THEME of this year's Festival is Spréach, or Spark, symbolising the unique and vibrant essence of Irish people and culture – the glint in the eye, the spark of creativity, the brightness of spirit and the warmth of our welcome.

With over half a million spectators expected, this year's National St Patrick's Day Parade promises to be the most ambitious ever, featuring over 4,000 participants from Ireland and across the globe. With a bursting sense of raucous celebration firmly at its core, the parade proudly showcases the spark of creativity, imagination, laughter and joy that our wonderful people are so widely known for. With 18 pageants and performance showpieces as well as 14 marching bands, watch the extravagantly dressed performers, troupes of colourful, cascading dancers and a spectacular display of extravagant floats as they wind their way through the historic streets of Dublin.

This year, there will be a Relaxed Parade Space for the first time at the national St Patrick's Day Parade. The Relaxed Parade Space – which is sponsored by Dublin City Council, with the support of the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Daithí de Róiste, St Patrick's Festival and Bank of Ireland – aims to create a safe space for neurodivergent individuals and their families to view and enjoy the parade.

Magical Day-to-Night Urban Festival

Back for Festival 2024, after an incredibly successful event in 2023, is the hugely popular St Patrick's Festival Quarter at the National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, which will be home to a magical day-to-night urban festival for all, kicking off on Saturday, March 16 from 12pm and running to March 17. The grounds of one of Ireland's most spectacular and historic

heritage sites in the heart of Dublin will feature a 3,000 capacity covered main stage, performance spaces, relaxation areas, a mini-funfair and the Irish Food and Craft Village.

St Patrick's Day at Festival Quarter promises a huge celebration of Irish culture from noon until 10:30pm including Irish traditional music in every corner, céilí dancing for all, collaborations and mash-ups galore and all completely free!

The One City programme, a curated programme of events, will showcase the best arts and cultural experiences that Ireland has to offer. The programme includes internationally renowned creators such as THISISPOPBABY, the Abbey Theatre and CoisCéim Dance Theatre, AWARE Harbour2Harbour Walk and the Abair series sponsored by the Arts Council of Ireland.

For more information visit www.stpatricksfestival.ie





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DAY**



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Stride Towards Wellness: The 17th Annual Aware Harbour2Harbour Walk with Dublin Port Company

THE 17th annual **Aware Harbour2Harbour Walk**, which will take place on St Patrick's Day, is anticipated to draw over 2,500 eager walkers who will tackle the 26km challenge, with the option of commencing from either Howth Harbour or Dun Laoghaire Harbour.

Officially partnered with the St Patrick's Festival 2024 the walk will cater to various fitness levels, as participants will traverse the picturesque Dublin Bay route, punctuated by a lively 'Halfway Hooley' hosted at the historic Pumphouse courtesy of sponsor **Dublin Port Company (DPC)**.

At the launch event at the end of last month, the renowned Irish dancing sensations, The Gardiner Brothers, Michael and Matthew, expressed their privilege in participating in this year's walk: "We are honoured to be a part of this year's Harbour2Harbour Walk with Aware. Mental health is such an extremely important thing to talk about in this day and age, and we want to encourage people to be conscious of their own mental health as well as those around them."

The Aware Harbour2Harbour Walk stands as a flagship fundraising initiative



L/R: The Gardiner Brothers Michael and Matthew with Stephen Butterly, Head of Fundraising at Aware, Barry O'Connell, CEO at DPC, Richard Tierney, CEO at St Patrick's Festival and Bobbi and Jude Close from Castleknock.

for Aware, a national charity providing support for individuals affected by depression and bipolar disorder. The proceeds generated from this event will bolster Aware's ability to furnish free support, education, and information services across the nation.

Integrated into the St Patrick's Festival One City, One Festival Programme for its second year, the event promises to be even more impactful. Stephen Butterly, Head of Fundraising at Aware, stated: "2023 was our most successful event to date with over 2,500 people coming together to

proudly demonstrate their support for mental health and raise money for Aware's services."

DPC, continues its sponsorship of the event, epitomising their commitment to fostering physical activity and mental health awareness within the community. Barry O'Connell, CEO commented: "At DPC, we recognise the importance of supporting initiatives that contribute to the wellbeing of our community. Hosting the 'Halfway Hooley' is our way of welcoming and encouraging participants as they embark on this significant journey along the Dublin Bay route."

Registered participants will receive event-themed t-shirts, fostering a sense of solidarity in raising awareness for mental health. Additionally, participants are encouraged to utilize the hashtag #WeAreAware across social media platforms, amplifying the conversation surrounding mental health advocacy and support.

Registration is now open on the official website, www.aware.ie/harbour2harbour, priced at €25 per person.

Echoes of Legacy: Celebrating 30 Years of the County Museum, Dundalk

AS THE **County Museum, Dundalk** celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, it remains one of the country's most cherished collecting institutions.

Located in a beautifully restored late-18th century warehouse in the Carroll Centre at Roden Place in Jocelyn Street, Dundalk, the museum opened in 1994 and offers an extensive programme of permanent exhibitions, temporary displays, drama presentations, music recitals, lectures and films.

With over 50,000 items, it presents the past in a way that is immediate, accessible and relevant. Chronicling the historical development of Co Louth through artefacts associated with the first hunter-gatherers, the arrival of Christianity, the Vikings and the Normans through to the Industrial Age, the



turmoil of the 19th century, World War 1, Partition, Independence and Ireland's faltering steps on the world stage, there is something here for all.

As it marks its pearl anniversary, the museum has chosen its theme for

the year as *Collection. Memory. Legacy*. In doing so, the museum is looking to build upon its collection – items which capture, articulate and symbolise not only the county's strong archaeological and industrial past but also highlight the

roles of those who helped shape it. It is the combination of the collection with the (recorded) memory of those who used these artefacts that provides the museum with its unique emotional appeal, highlighting a hugely important public and private legacy – public in the sense that these artefacts physically moulded the present day in which we live; private in that the donor's own memories of these items live on for perpetuity, passed from one generation to the next.

This is the County Museum, Dundalk's greatest success – ensuring that the sacrifices, achievements and insights learnt by previous generations are relayed to the next. As the song holds: "If you know your history then you would know where you are coming from." Open Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 5pm.

Celebrating Irish Language and Culture: Seachtain na Gaeilge 2024

Seachtain na Gaeilge, the international Irish-language festival, is once again upon us and it continues to be a vibrant celebration of the Irish language and culture.

Throughout Seachtain na Gaeilge, which is running until March 17, there will be a diverse range of activities and events taking place all over the country, catering

to all ages and interests. From language workshops and storytelling sessions to concerts and dance performances, there's something for everyone to enjoy and participate in.

This year's ambassadors are journalist and presenter Gráinne Seoige, RTÉ 2FM broadcaster Aindriú de Paor, and comedian and TikTok influencer Kayleigh Trappe.

One of the highlights of Seachtain na Gaeilge is the widespread use of the Irish language in everyday life. People are encouraged to incorporate phrases 'As Gaeilge' into their conversations, signage,

and social media posts (#SnaG24), creating a lively atmosphere of linguistic immersion. This not only strengthens the language skills of fluent speakers but also introduces newcomers to the beauty and rhythm of the Irish language.

In essence, Seachtain na Gaeilge is more than just a language festival; it's a celebration of identity, community and the enduring spirit of Ireland. By embracing the Irish language and culture, participants honour the legacy of their ancestors while paving the way for future generations to



connect with their heritage.

For listings of events arounds the country see www.snag.ie



City Funfair at Custom House Quay

FROM WALTZERS and bumper cars to old-time carousels, there's something for everyone at the City Funfair! Dare to be suspended upside down or whisked through the air at amazing speed.

A firm festival favourite, the funfair will light up the city with colourful carnival fairground attractions.

Suitable for all the family, enjoy the thrills and spills of the funfair experience!

Open Saturday, March 16 to Sunday, March 17.



Is í ár dteanga féin í.
It's our language.

Foras na Gaeilge

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forasnagaeilge.ie | gaeilge.ie |

Setting Sail this Easter with MGM Boats

FOUNDED in 1997, **MGM Boats** has grown from a family-owned sales and service outlet to a highly successful international yacht sales and brokerage company.

Celebrating over 27 years of award-winning professional service, the company is proud to represent the Jeanneau and Prestige brand of boats in Ireland.

As one of Jeanneau's longest-serving dealers in Europe, MGM Boats has grown along with the prestigious brand and continues to enjoy working with and promoting its stunning range of luxury yachts, power boats and sail boats.

There are currently 52 models available in the sail boat, power boat and motor yacht category ranging from 5 metres to 20 metres catering for most people's tastes. With rapidly evolving technology in the marine industry,



The Merry Fisher 1095 features Joystick Docking Control.

boating has become very user friendly and is encouraging more newcomers into the sport.

These days docking a boat is a very simple process with the assistance of joystick technology. MGM Boats is now offering this technology on outboard-engine-powered boats (single engine and twin engine). It currently has a number of these boat on display, in and out of the water, at its head office at Coal Harbour, Dún Laoghaire, Co

Dublin, and there are some great deals on offer on the current stock.

With established bases in Ireland and the UK, MGM Boats offers a professional after-sales service, backed up by its trained personnel, while also offers a wide range of boatyard services on site at its Dún Laoghaire address.

As the Easter holidays approach, booking ahead for your boating adventure is highly recommended, especially considering the surge in interest during the season. Whether you're eyeing a family cruising adventure, coastal or inland waters, or a thrilling powerboat ride along the coast, securing your perfect boat in advance ensures availability and peace of mind. Don't miss out on the opportunity to experience the ease of modern boating technology and exceptional service offered by MGM Boats, ensuring a memorable holiday on the water.

For more information on sales and service please visit www.mgmboats.com or call **01 2802020**.

Discover Ireland's 'Jewels of History' - 'Seoda Staire' this Spring

PERHAPS you've already ticked off the must-see landmarks in Ireland but maybe dig a little deeper and uncover hidden treasures for a truly authentic experience. If you're one to blaze your own trail rather than follow the crowd, look no further than **Heritage Ireland's** hidden gems. These lesser-known destinations offer the same awe-inspiring beauty and historical significance but with a more relaxed atmosphere. Don't wait too long to visit though – secrets this spectacular are bound to be discovered soon.

Explore the remote beehive huts of Skellig Michael, a Unesco World Heritage site steeped in early Christian hermit tradition, or delve into the poignant history of Kilmainham Gaol, witness to some of the most heroic and tragic moments in Ireland's emergence as a modern nation.

From prehistoric tombs and royal burial mounds to majestic ringforts and ceremonial grounds, Heritage Ireland invites you on a journey through the rich tapestry of Irish mythology, archaeology and history.

For younger adventurers, specially trained guides ensure an interactive and entertaining experience, complete with outdoor play facilities, picnic spots, child-friendly exhibitions and special hands-on activities that bring the past to life in thrilling ways. Your young explorer might get to hold the key to a castle, inspect gruesome weapons or fulfil a noble quest! Making the past come alive has never been so much fun!

Discover more at www.heritageireland.ie and embark on an unforgettable exploration of Ireland's heritage.



Skellig Michael, Co Kerry
Credit: Tourism Ireland



Patrick KIELTY, Grand Marshal for the National St Patrick's Day Parade 2024.



Make Your Mark! Family Print-Making Workshop

ESCAPE the hustle and bustle of the St Patrick's Festival and make some art in a quiet, creation space at the **National Museum of Ireland, Decorative Arts & History**.

Join museum educators on Sunday, March 17 in the Learning Resource Room for a drop-in, print-making workshop where you can design and print your own symbol on a greeting card, using just a few simple materials. Postage stamps will be available so you can send your card straight from Collins Barracks!

The workshop is from 2pm to 4pm and is suitable for all ages. No booking is required, so you can come and go as you please.



as well as wheat- and dairy-free alternatives. Their commitment ensures the most delicious and health-conscious fish 'n' chips experience on both sides of the Liffey. In addition to their renowned fish

Dublin's Ultimate Fish 'n' Chips Destination

AFTER THE lively Paddy's Day Parade, nothing hits the spot quite like a classic fish and chip supper and, when it comes to the best, **Beshoff Bros** reigns supreme. With four bustling locations – Mespil Road, Howth, Clontarf and Malahide – this iconic Dublin spot is conveniently situated for a post-parade indulgence, no matter where you're revelling.

Beshoff Bros takes pride in using only the finest vegetable oil and crafting a super-thin batter, offering options for those seeking lower calorie, coeliac-friendly,

dishes, they also serve up delectable fish cakes, hearty seafood chowder and tender chicken made from 100% fresh fillets. With a diverse selection of children's and family menus available, there's something for everyone to enjoy at Beshoff Bros.

Or if you prefer to put your feet up after a busy day of celebrating, you can conveniently have all your favourites delivered straight to your door from any of the four stores at www.just-eat.ie. Just Eat also recently announced Beshoff Bros as a finalist in the Best Chipper category for its 10th annual Just Eat Awards. (Fish) fingers crossed for Beshoff Bros to clinch the gold!

Sláinte to the True Spirit of Wicklow!

Powerscourt Distillery, based in Co Wicklow, has secured an extraordinary triumph, claiming six prestigious medals at the esteemed World Whiskies Awards. The renowned 'Home of Fercullen' Irish Whiskey celebrates this remarkable achievement, reinforcing its global reputation as a premier whiskey producer.

An impressive collection of silver and bronze medals were awarded across a diverse range of categories for the Fercullen brand.

John Cashman, Head of Brand and NPD, stated: "To win six medals from six entries across various Irish whiskey categories at this prestigious event is an incredible accomplishment for Powerscourt Distillery. These awards not only honour the hard work, dedication and quality of our entire team but also showcase the best of our

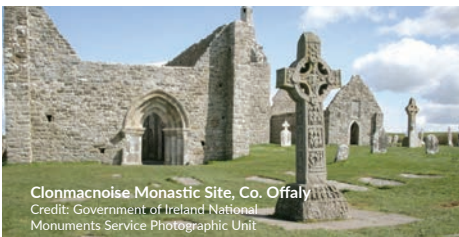


home – Co Wicklow."

As St Patrick's Day approaches, Powerscourt Distillery's victory adds an extra touch of celebration to the spirit of the occasion. The World Whiskies Awards is a globally recognised event, where respected judges meticulously evaluate each entry through blind taste tests.

With this remarkable achievement, Powerscourt Distillery looks forward to sharing the Spirit of Wicklow with a global audience.

For more information about Powerscourt Distillery, its award-winning Fercullen whiskeys and distillery tours, visit www.powerscourtdistillery.com



Clonmacnoise Monastic Site, Co. Offaly
Credit: Government of Ireland National Monuments Service Photographic Unit



Ormond Castle, Co. Tipperary
Credit: Tourism Ireland



Daniel O'Connell House, Derrynane House, Co. Kerry
Credit: Ben Russell



Newgrange National Monument, Co. Meath
Credit: Ken Williams

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Jewels of History



*Sounds of St Patrick:
A Celebration of Irish Music at
the National Concert Hall*

THE National Concert Hall (NCH) celebrates St Patrick's weekend with a blend of classical and traditional Irish music. Kicking off on March 14 at 8pm, the *Drawing from the Well* series, in collaboration with the Irish Traditional Music Archive, honours Dublin fiddler Tommie Potts with performances by acclaimed musicians, dancers and poets, including Aoife Ní Bhriain, Noel Hill and Sharon Carty.

On March 16, the renowned Kilfenora Ceilí Band brings their energetic repertoire of jigs and reels to the stage, joined by guest dancers and singers for a lively evening.

Finally, on St Patrick's evening, March 17 at 7.30pm, the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) presents *The Music of Shaun Davey*, featuring the world premiere of his new NSO-commissioned *St Patrick's Overture*, alongside the iconic *Granuaile* and *The Brendan Voyage*, with performances by Peadar Davey, Rita Connolly and Mark Redmond, conducted by David Brophy.

Don't miss this opportunity to experience the best of Irish music at the NCH. Visit www.nch.ie for more information.

*Celebrating St. Patrick's Day
with Global Connections*

SINCE ITS establishment in 1959, **Rowa Pharmaceuticals Ltd** has been a cornerstone of the West Cork region, emerging as a premier producer of generic pharmaceuticals within Ireland. Its commitment to excellence is evident in the delivery of over 300 high-quality and cost-effective medicines to more than 80 countries globally.



Mrs Brigitte-Wagner

As a believer in supporting local, Managing Director Brigitte Wagner-Halswick is deeply committed to supporting the local community. Her involvement in numerous projects throughout West Cork, including the establishment of the Bantry Hospice Project in 2008, underscores her dedication to enhancing the region's well-being.

Furthering her dedication to West Cork, and Ireland as a whole, every March Mrs. Wagner-Halswick organises a special St Patrick's Day reception in her hometown of Cologne, Germany. This event, attended by esteemed guests such as the Irish Ambassador to Germany, the Lord Mayor of Cologne, and members of the Irish community in Cologne, serves to strengthen the bonds between the two countries.

Last year's event, which marked the return after a hiatus due to Covid-19 restrictions, was a resounding success, further solidifying Irish-German relations. This March, the event will take place again, hosting 300 guests including government officials, affirming Mrs. Wagner-Halswick's commitment to fostering enduring diplomatic ties.



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We focus on conversational useful Irish following the European framework for language proficiency. Learn from your couch at home, online or join our classes in Dublin city centre.

All of our instructors have years of experience teaching spoken Irish and our informal and social approach to our classes make learning the language an enjoyable experience.



For more information visit www.gael-linn.ie, call us on **01 6751200**, or send an email to ian@gael-linn.ie and we will be happy to find the right course for you and get you speaking Gaelige again.

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