

Consulate General of Ireland

Newsletter for the U.S. Southeast

March 2017

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Patrick O'Donovan, TD, Ireland's Minister of State for Tourism and Sport, celebrates Oldcastle's planned donation of Gaelic grounds to Atlanta Clan na nGael club in Georgia Tech's Bobby Dodd Stadium

Message from the Consul General

A chairde,

Irish-American Heritage Month has certainly arrived in the Southeast. Patrick O'Donovan, TD, our Minister of State for Transport and Tourism, has just completed a hugely successful visit to Atlanta and South Florida. This saw him promote Ireland as a destination for U.S. tourists, celebrate the planned donation of Gaelic grounds to Atlanta Clan na nGael by Oldcastle, encourage Ireland's collaboration with Georgia Tech and work with the South Florida Irish American Chamber of Commerce, the Irish Chamber of Atlanta and Irish Network Atlanta on promoting our economic and diaspora interests in the region. He also met with local leaders from Broward County, Miami-Dade County, Fulton County, the City of Atlanta, the State of Florida and the State of Georgia.

The Consulate General is now primed for the visit of Michael Ring, T.D., our Minister of State for Regional Economic Development, to Atlanta and Savannah, from March 13 to March 17.

Irish cultural superstars including the Chieftains, Altan, Sharon Shannon, Colm Tóibín, Fintan O'Toole, Iarla Ó Lionáird, the Máirtín O'Connor Trio, the Outside Track and Celtic Women will all perform in the Southeast this month, while local talent Sandra Hughes, will bring us The Daughters of Ireland in America to profile great Irish women writers. Be sure to check the listings inside this newsletter!

Enjoy the month. I hope to see you out and about.

Lá Fhéile Pádraig sona daoibh!

Shane Stephens

Irish Business and Culture Around the Southeast

Patrick O'Donovan, TD, Minister of State for Tourism and Sport and Tourism Ireland, visits Atlanta and South Florida March 1-2.

Lively conversation with Atlanta's Irish business community and representatives from the State of Georgia and City of Atlanta



Meeting with Georgia Tech Professors Vogel, Bassiri-Gharb, Le Doux and Todd on research and study abroad collaborations with Irish universities



Channel WAGA Fox 5's *Coffee with America* show welcomed Minister O'Donovan and Tourism Ireland's Alison Metcalfe on set for a chat about Ireland that will air on March 11th



The Minister and Irish tourism leaders also visited Boca Raton to promote our exquisite destinations & the Aer Lingus Dublin-Miami route starting Sept 1



A very warm 'FÁILTE' to Fort Lauderdale from Broward County Mayor Barbara Sharief at South Florida Irish American Chamber of Commerce luncheon



Advancing Business, Education and Culture objectives in North Carolina



CG Stephens and NC Honorary Consul John Young call in at Irish company ICON's Raleigh offices. ICON are a leading global provider of drug trial services that employs thousands in the U.S.



Discussing collaboration in the arts with N.C. Secretary of Natural and Cultural Resources, Susi Hamilton



Constructive meetings with faculty at UNC Chapel Hill on developing an Irish Studies programme and exploring the Irish roots of American country music (stay tuned!). Special thanks to Professor Bill Ferris.



A warm welcome from Raleigh's [AOH](#), [GAA](#) and [North Carolina State University](#) Office of International Affairs





CG Stephens speaking about Ireland alongside Miami-based CGs at the Florida Chamber of Commerce's International Days panel

Thanks to Susan Philbrick for an engaging lunch discussion with members of the Tallahassee Irish Society including president John Terrel, Christine Reilly and Dennis Reilly



Michael Gibbons, Brian Stack and keynote speaker Brian Burns at the Ireland-US Council Winter Lunch.



Great to catch up with University College Cork President Patrick O'Shea, and honoured to address Ireland-US Council Meeting

CG Stephens joined German & French colleagues on a Brexit priorities panel with Prof Alasdair Young & some lively Georgia Tech students



Hatching big plans at Irish Network Atlanta's quarterly board meeting at the Consulate

Upcoming Events in the Southeast

The 2017 Hibernian Benevolent Society of [Atlanta St. Patrick's Day Ball](#), in partnership with Irish Network Atlanta, will be held on Saturday, March 4, 2017 at 6:30 pm at the Ansley Golf Club. Do not miss this kickoff for the Saint Patrick's Day season in Atlanta!

Charleston Music Hall will also host its 3rd annual [Celtic Night](#) on March 4th, 8pm with Derek Warfield & The Young Wolfe tones, and The Hungry Monks, as a Benefit for College of Charleston's Irish Studies.

The College of Charleston's impressive [Irish lecture series](#) continues with *The Real St. Patrick* (March 9) a lecture by Belmont Abbey College's Patrick Wadden at Robert Scott Small Building, 7pm; and *Charleston's Irish Heroes* (March 16th), with music and lively conversation with authors Joe Kelly, Michele Moore and Pam Gabriel; Buxton Books & Tour 5:30pm.

With support from Culture Ireland, the US tour of Irish band [The Outside Track](#) includes 3 performances in the Southeast: Jacksonville, FL (March 4, Mudville; March 5, Cullane's Irish Pub), and Savannah, GA (March 11, Tara Feis).

Six-time Grammy Award winners, [The Chieftans](#), will play with special guests and symphony orchestras in [Atlanta](#) (Mar 7), [Nashville](#) (Mar 9, see below) and [Jacksonville](#) (Mar 17), as well as at the University of Georgia in [Athens](#) (Mar 13), and in [Lakeland](#), Florida (Mar 15). Tickets are selling fast, get them now!

Nashville hosts its 3rd annual [Music City Irish Fest](#), a 17-day city-wide celebration of Irish culture March 1-17, including world-class Irish bands Altan and The Chieftans, film festival, storytelling, theatre, and hurling demonstrations.

The Irish Chamber of Atlanta hosts its [15th annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast](#) on Friday March 10th @ 7:30-9:00 am at the Capital City Club Downtown, 7 John Portman Blvd NW, Atlanta. Please purchase tickets by March 6.

Also on March 10th, Atlanta's historic annual [Father Thomas O'Reilly](#) wreath-laying ceremony will be held at 1:00 pm at Atlanta City Hall following a 12:10 pm Mass and 11:00 am reception (in the Rectory) at the [Catholic Shrine of the Immaculate Conception](#). Consul General Stephens and the City's Dan Gordon are to participate.

[Atlanta's 135th annual St. Patrick's Parade](#) takes place Saturday, March 11th 12:00-1:30, rain or shine. Complete logistical information (and the Parade's history) is available at the link.

After the Atlanta Parade on March 11th at 3:00 pm plan to attend Atlanta Gateway Performance Productions creative presentation of [The Daughters of Ireland in America](#), a tribute to Irish and Irish American women writers. Supported by the Consulate, Fulton County, the City of Atlanta and Georgia State University, the event takes place at 3pm the Marta-accessible [Atlanta-Fulton Central Library](#) Auditorium. No charge; [reservations requested](#) but not required.

[Savannah's St. Patrick's Day Parade](#) on March 17th is the nation's second largest and the City's 193rd. The parade highlights a [week-long celebration](#), including the annual Jasper Green Ceremony on March 16th where members of the Irish community gather to honor Ireland's military, past and present.

Dublin, Georgia will hold its [St. Patrick's Day Festival](#) throughout the month of March, with Super Saturday, a highlight on March 18th.

The links below take you to information on other great Parades and Festivals around the Southeast:

March 5: [Orlando/Winter Park, FL](#)

March 11: [Huntsville, AL](#) [Fort Lauderdale, FL](#) [Naples, FL](#) [Tallahassee, FL](#)

March 12: [Birmingham, AL](#)

March 17: [Charleston, SC](#)

March 18: [Charlotte, NC](#) [Tampa, FL](#)

Ireland's Honorary Consul in Orlando, Terry Delahunty, will represent the Government in the Orlando, Tampa and Fort Lauderdale parades. Ireland's Honorary Consul in Charlotte, John Young, will represent the Government there. (Links above)

On March 17th at 10:30 am Atlanta's annual St. Patrick's Day Mass will be held at [Cathedral of Christ the King](#) at 10:30 am followed by a reception.

The University of Georgia's Willson Center for Humanities and Arts will welcome three outstanding figures in Irish culture to their campus for a St Patrick's Day programme on March 15-17. For further details [click here](#):

Mar 15, 6:30pm: Screening of the film adaptation of Colm Tóibín's *Brooklyn*, with reception & book signing

Mar 16, 3:30pm: Tóibín reading and talk followed by book signing

Mar 17, 7:00pm: Public conversation with Tóibín and leading Irish writer/editor [Fintan O'Toole](#) followed by a performance by outstanding Irish singer [Iarla Ó Lionáird](#).

[Celtic Woman](#) is in concert throughout March in multiple cities in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

[Cherish the Ladies](#), the Grammy-nominated Irish-American Celtic band, plays at Atlanta Symphony Hall on March 17th and 18th at 8:00pm.

[Arís Theatre](#) presents *Celtic Shorts* on Tuesday, March 21 at Atlanta's [Shakespeare Tavern](#), a sampler of four plays from source countries of the theatre's literary inspiration: Wales, Ireland, Scotland, and England.

The 2017 [Nashville Music City Invitational Hurling and Camogie Tournament](#) hosted by the Nashville Gaelic Athletic Club will take place on March 25th with teams from around the U.S.

The [Savannah Music Festival](#), Georgia's largest musical arts event and one of the most distinctive cross-genre music festivals in the world, runs March 23rd – April 8th and includes a performance by the [Máirtín O'Connor Trio](#) who will also play in Asheville, NC on April 1 (a Chattanooga date has been postponed). Culture Ireland are supporting the Trio's programme.

Kelly Porter Productions presents [Lisa Kelly, "The Voice of Ireland"](#) in concert at the Frederick Brown Jr. Amphitheater in Peachtree City, Georgia on April 22, 2017.