

Message from H.E. Mr. Eamonn Mac Aodha

As we approach St. Patrick's Day the Embassy of Ireland is delighted to circulate this Newsletter which provides details on local participation in Ireland's Global Greening Campaign.

We invite you to see some of the record number of "greened" sites in Belgium this year. We also include information on the fourth edition of the St Patrick's Festival Op Vlaamse Wijze organised by De Lijsterbes in Kraainem, and on a special St. Patrick's Day celebration at the Irish College in Leuven. We also provide information on the Gaelic Club Brussels sporting activities on 19 March.

Beannachtaí na Féile oraibh go léir!

Eamonn Mac Aodha
Ambassador of Ireland

Dressing of the Manneken-Pis Statue, Brussels

SUNDAY 19 MARCH, at 16.30

Free, All Welcome

On the occasion of **St. Patrick's Day**, the Manneken-Pis, one of Europe's most visited statues and a national treasure of Belgium, will be **dressed in traditional Irish clothing**. Members of the Irish community and all those who wish to celebrate St. Patrick's Day are invited to join in the festivities as the Irish outfit is officially unveiled at **16h30 on Sunday 19th March 2017** at the statue of the Manneken-Pis.

The outfit will be unveiled in the presence of the Ambassador of Ireland to the Kingdom of Belgium H.E. Mr. Éamonn Mac Aodha and the President of the Order of the Friends of the Manneken-Pis.

Those who cannot make it to the official unveiling will have another chance to see the Manneken-Pis in his Irish outfit on St. Patrick's Day (**Friday 17th March, 9.00 - 16.00**).



The custom-made outfit includes a hand crafted Aran jumper, made by Crana Knits, trousers of Irish tweed provided by the renowned Kerry Woollen Mills and a unique, patchwork Irish tweed cap, made by Hanna Hats of Donegal.

We look forward to seeing you there!

(click here for a [map](#) of the location of Manneken-Pis)

Greening of the Grand Place, Brussels

FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2017, 19.00 (launch)

Free, All Welcome



On the occasion of St. Patrick's Day, Brussels City Council has once again decided that the magnificent Brussels Grand Place will be lit in green as part of Tourism Ireland's Global Greening Initiative, in partnership with the Embassy of Ireland to the Kingdom of Belgium.

The Brussels Grand Place will join iconic landmarks taking part in the Global Greening – including the London Eye, Nelson's Column in London, Selfridges department store in London, the Colosseum in Rome, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, Burj al Arab in Dubai, the Roue de Paris, the 'Welcome' sign in Las Vegas, Niagara Falls, the Empire State Building in New York, the Sky Tower in New Zealand and the Great Wall of China. One World Trade Center in New York, City Hall and Heron Tower in London, Plaça de Catalunya in Barcelona and the Cloth Hall in Ypres join Tourism Ireland's Global Greening for the first time. Tourism Ireland's unique global campaign is now in its eighth year.

Members of the public are welcome to join the media to see the moment the Grand Place will be greened on Friday 17th March 2017 at 19h00. The Grand Place will remain lit until 7am the following day.

We look forward to seeing you there!

(click [here](#) for a map of the location of Brussels Grand Place)

Greening of The Burg Square, Brugge/Bruges

FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2017, 20.00

Free, All Welcome



To celebrate St. Patrick's Day, the Bruges City Council has decided that the City hall and Burg Square in Bruges, one of Belgium's two Medieval squares, will be lit in green for the third time. This historic greening is part of Tourism Ireland's Global Greening Initiative, in partnership with the Embassy of Ireland to the Kingdom of Belgium.

The Burg Square was already inhabited in the 2nd century AD, and in the 9th century it became the home of the Count of Flanders. Bruges and the surrounding territory were governed from the Palace of the Liberty of Bruges from the Late Middle Ages until 1795. For almost the next 200 years the buildings were occupied by law courts. To the left of the 14th-century city hall you will find the old Court of Justice, a rare example of Renaissance architecture in Bruges, and to the right you will find the Basilica of the Holy Blood, where the relic of the Holy Blood is kept.

Members of the public are welcome on Friday 17th March 2017 as from 20h00 to the Burg Square to see it lit in green on the occasion of St. Patrick's Day.

We look forward to seeing you there!

(click [here](#) for a map of the location of the Burg Square)

Greening of the City Hall of Antwerp

FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2017, 20.00

Free, All Welcome



The beating heart of Antwerp politics the City Hall of Antwerp will join for the first time the iconic landmarks taking part in the Global Greening on the occasion of the St. Patrick's Day.

The impressive building is one of the eye-catchers in Grote Markt along with the statue of Brabo. Antwerp's town hall was included on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1999.

Antwerp's town hall is of capital cultural importance as it is one of the first examples of Renaissance architecture in the Low Countries. The building has a long and colourful history and has been in use since the sixteenth century. There is to plenty to see on the outside and inside of the city's stateliest building. The Renaissance façade, the magnificent halls, and several artworks. The façade is decorated with the flags of the 28 countries of the European Union, in addition to flags of all the countries that have a consulate in Antwerp.

Members of the public are welcome to see the City Hall of Antwerp which will be illuminated on St. Patrick's Day, Thursday 17th March 2017.

We look forward to seeing you there!

(click [here](#) for a map of the location of the City Hall)

Greening of the Cloth Hall in Ieper/Ypres

FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2017, 18.50 (launch)

Free, All Welcome



Ypres has numerous historical gems - including The Cloth Hall. The Cloth Hall served as a covered sales and storage place for cloth on the (now vaulted) waterway called the Ieperlee. The construction of the Cloth Hall was completed in 1304. In this building the cloth underwent its last official control, after which the cloth salesmen could stock and sell. During World War I the building was completely destroyed except for a section of the tower and a couple of walls. The reconstruction occurred under the guidance of architects J. Coomans and P.A. Pauwels.

To celebrate St. Patrick's Day, the Ypres City Council has decided that the Cloth Hall will be lit in green for the first time as a part of Tourism Ireland's Global Greening Initiative, in partnership with the Embassy of Ireland to the Kingdom of Belgium.

On Friday 17 March at 6.15 pm the City of Ypres is organizing a start-up moment of the 'greening' of the Cloth Hall at the occasion of Saint Patrick's Day. Irish people who live in the Ypres area or who are visiting Ypres on that day are most welcome to attend.

The programme is the following:

From 6 onward – guests welcomed at the Museum Café in the Cloth Hall

6.15 pm speeches by the Mayor and First Deputy Mayor of Ypres

6.45 pm start-up of the 'greening' of the Cloth Hall on the Market Square

7.00 pm reception at the Museum Café

Musical accompaniment.

Please confirm your attendance by the 15th of March via flandersfields@ieper.be

(click [here](#) for a map of the location of the Cloth Hall)

Greening of the Collegiate Church of Dinant (Collégiale Notre Dame de Dinant)

FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2017, 18.00

Free, All Welcome



On the occasion of St. Patrick's Day, Dinant City Council has decided that the Collegiate Church of Our Lady of Dinant will be lit in green as part of Tourism Ireland's Global Greening Initiative, in partnership with the Embassy of Ireland to the Kingdom of Belgium.

Overlooking the valley of the river Meuse, the Collegiate Church of Our Lady (French: Collégiale Notre Dame de Dinant) is a 13th-century Gothic cathedral located at the foot of the Citadel in Dinant in the Province of Namur, Belgium. The collegiate church replaced a 10th-century Romanesque church which collapsed in 1228, leaving only the North door. Its most iconic part is the separate 16th century pear-shaped bell tower.

Members of the public are welcome to see the Collegiate Church of Our Lady of Dinant as well as a saxophone dedicated to Ireland which will be illuminated on St. Patrick's Day, Thursday 17th March 2017. The city hall will also host festivities inviting all Patricks living in the area of Dinant.



We look forward to seeing you there!

(click [here](#) for a map of the location of the Collegiate Church)

Greening of the Celtic Cross in Fontenoy

FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2017, 19.00

Free, All Welcome



The Celtic Cross in Fontenoy joins Tourism Ireland's Global Greening for the first time to mark St Patrick's Day this year.

The Cross was erected in 1907 to commemorate the famous battle of Fontenoy in 1745. It's a memorial to all the Irish on both sides who lost their lives in the battle. This memorial was erected on the battle site at Fontenoy. The Battle of Fontenoy took place on 11 May 1745, close to the town of Antoing, near Tournai in what is nowadays the Kingdom of Belgium. Austria, Russia, The Netherlands and Great Britain were leagued against Prussia, Spain and France in the War of the Austrian Succession (1741 –1748), and the battle of Fontenoy, in which the Martechal de Saxe was victorious over the Anglo-Dutch forces under the Duke of Cumberland, reflected Anglo-French rivalries in the New World.

Members of the public are welcome to see the Celtic Cross in Fontenoy which will be illuminated on St. Patrick's Day, Thursday 17th March 2017 at 19.00.

We look forward to seeing you there!

(click [here](#) for a map of the location of the Celtic Cross)

EC Gaelic Club Brussels

St Patrick's Day festivities

19 MARCH 2017, 12.00



Join the EC Gaelic Club Brussels for their St Patrick's Day festivities at **12pm on Sunday 19th March**. You'll get the chance to watch a live youth Gaelic football match thanks to EC Gaelic Club Brussels who will be demonstrating their football skills. The club welcomes kids of all nationalities and abilities to their training sessions (every second Sunday). For further information visit www.playgaa.be

St. Patrick's Day 2017 is guaranteed to be a fun, family day out.



The Irish Itinerary 2017

St. Patrick's Celebration Thursday March 16th 8pm

Please join us for a very special
celebration to mark *400 years* since the
laying of *The foundation stone*
at *The Irish College*

❖ *With a Reading from Mary Morrissy*
Award-winning Irish novelist and associate director
of creative writing at University College Cork.



❖ *Followed by a Performance by Rossa*
Traditional Irish Music band

Location: The Irish College, Janseniusstraat 1, 3000 Leuven
Free entry

4th edition Kraainem
St Patrick's Festival
 op vlaamse wijze
 17-19.03 2017

Vr 17.03.17
 21.00 Irish Pub@Foyer
 jam session-Free Podium (gratis)

Za 18.03.17
 11.00 Ierse Dansworkshop
 20.30 Carmel Dempsey Band & Dance (+ tombola!)

Zo 19.03.17
 11.30 - 13.30 Ambiance@Lunch

TICKETS & INFO www.delijsterbes.be
 Lijsterbessenbomenlaan 6 • KRAAINEM

i.s.m. Irish Community in Kraainem
 Paddy McCaskey - paddy@psd77.com
 Margaret Claffery - claffery@telenet.be

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