

# EMBASSY OF IRELAND NEWSLETTER

***Beannachtaí na féile Pádraig oraibh go léir!***

## **St. Patrick's Day Celebrations in the Czech Republic. 2017**

Ambassador Charles Sheehan and the Embassy of Ireland are delighted to wish you a very happy St. Patrick's Day and look forward to celebrating the National Day with the Irish community and friends of Ireland in the Czech Republic. For more news from the Embassy follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Embassy-of-Ireland-Prague-108849892809880/>) and Twitter (@IrlEmbPrague).



### **Minister of State for Health Promotion Visits Prague**



The Embassy is proud to announce that Minister of State for Health Promotion, Marcella Corcoran Kennedy, has come to visit Prague for St. Patrick's Day celebrations. Minister Corcoran Kennedy was appointed Minister of State for Health Promotion in May 2016. She was first elected to Dail Eireann in the 2011 General Election. Her programme in Prague will include a meeting with Deputy Minister for Healthcare, Roman Prymula, and a meeting with the EU Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies. Minister Corcoran Kennedy will also attend the Embassy official reception.

### **St. Patrick's Day Ball**

The Czech Irish Business and Cultural Association (CIBCA) 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual St. Patrick's Day Ball will take place on Saturday, 18 March at 19:30 at the Grand Hotel Bohemia in Prague. The Ambassador and Mrs. Sheehan will attend the Ball and the Ambassador will give an address, including a message from President Higgins. For more information, please visit the CIBCA website at [www.cibca.cz](http://www.cibca.cz).

Please see below for more information about Irish business in the Czech Republic.



## Annual St. Patrick's Day Mass

The traditional St. Patrick's Day Mass will take place on Sunday, 19 March at 12:30 in St. Thomas Church, Josefská 8, Prague 1, followed by light refreshments. All are welcome at this annual commemoration of our national saint.



## St. Patrick's Dance

Rinceoirí Irish dance group again organises St. Patrick's Dance this year, which unites various Irish dance groups in one event. The tradition started two years ago and has become increasingly popular. It is a great opportunity to promote Irish dance and music in general and to forget the rivalry that can be seen among the groups at competitions. The event will take place in the Harfa shopping mall on Friday, 17 March, from 16:30-19:30 p.m. and feature Irish dancing, dance lessons, taste of Irish traditions, dance costumes display or facepainting.

See <https://www.galerieharfa.cz/akce/akce-galerie-harfa> for more information on the venue.

## Jameson Festival Returns to Prague

Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Jameson whiskey. The Jameson Festival will take you on a tour around the city and offer plenty of music, films, exhibitions, photos, and Irish dancing.

The festival will also participate in the worldwide Greening project by greening the Dancing House in Prague. Together with Ostrava City Hall, which will again be greened this year, the sites will join world-famous landmarks and sites across continents going green to celebrate our national day.

Go to <http://www.jamesonsvatypatrik.cz/2017> for more information about the festival.

**TOUR SVATEHO PATRIKA**  
**17. 3.**

**JATKA 78** (Music&Culture)  
**64 U HRADEB** (Culture&Music)  
**OD KOTVA** (Food&Fashion)  
**TANČICÍ DŮM** (View)  
**NÁPLAVKA** (Sine Metu)

TRAVIS O'NEILL & HIS CARDINAL SINS  
TONYA GRAVES | BOB O'KEFFE  
MOVEBREAKERS | TONY ROSE  
GUY BENNETT | MAURICE O'HANLON  
ASHLEY ÁBRMAN | SARA CARAMITTI  
ELIŠKA DVORSKÁ | HOBOMOTIVE  
KRIS JEEZ | DJ GADJO.CZ  
TEA JAY IVO | DJ GOLDSTAR  
DJ ANDRE MORETTI | DJ AVIATOR  
DJ MAVERICK | THOMAS ZAHN  
MYLES O'REILLY - FILMY

**SINE METU**

[www.toursvatehopatrika.cz](http://www.toursvatehopatrika.cz)

[www.jameson.cz](http://www.jameson.cz)  
#sinemetu #bezestrachu

**Piite s rozumem.**

## Ostrava City Hall and the Dancing House Will Join World Greening in 2017

See more on the Greening project at: <https://www.tourismireland.com/Press-Releases/2017>



Ostrava City Hall © City of Ostrava



Dancing House

## Other Places to Celebrate in Prague

To celebrate St. Patrick's Day in a traditional Irish environment, you can visit one of the Irish-style pubs in the city: J.J. Murphy's ([www.bestirishbarprague.com](http://www.bestirishbarprague.com)), Caffrey's ([www.caffreys.cz](http://www.caffreys.cz)), James Joyce ([www.jamesjoyceprague.cz](http://www.jamesjoyceprague.cz)), The Irish Times (<http://www.irishtimesbar.cz>), The Dubliner ([www.aulldubliner.cz](http://www.aulldubliner.cz)), Rocky O'Reilly's ([www.rockyoreillys.cz](http://www.rockyoreillys.cz)), O'Che's ([www.oches.com](http://www.oches.com)) or Becketts Irish Pub (<https://www.facebook.com/Becketts-Irish-Pub-338342216289849/>). Fans of Irish dancing can visit Roxy Prague ([www.roxy.cz](http://www.roxy.cz)) or La Loca ([www.laloca.cz](http://www.laloca.cz)). Other Prague pubs and clubs are also hosting events to mark St. Patrick's Day.

## Irish Walk in Prague

This traditional Irish dogs' walk starts on Saturday 18 March at 12:00 on Wenceslas Sq. and continues through the Old Town Sq. and across the Charles Bridge to Kampa and Malá Strana. Owners of Irish Setters and Greyhounds are welcome. More information at <https://www.facebook.com/irskypochodprahou/>.

**Travis O'Neill  
and His Cardinal Sins (IRL/CZ)**  
with Special guests:  
**Poitin (CZ) & Bobby O'Keefe (IRL)**  
Kalikovský mlýn 18.3.17 @ 19:30

## Travis O'Neill to play in Pilsen

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/Travis-ONeill-And-His-Cardinal-Sins-140991635972756/> for more information.

## Upcoming Cultural Events



### 24<sup>th</sup> Days of European Film Festival

The Days of European Film (DEF) will take place in Prague in the Světozor, Lucerna, Royal and Pilotů cinemas from 6 to 13 April, and in the Scala cinema in Brno from 14 to 17 April. The Echoes of DEF will be held in the following towns: Hradec Králové, Boskovice, Jablonec nad Nisou, Havířov, Hodonín and Semily from 18 to 23 April. The festival will feature an Irish musical comedy “Sing Street” by John Carney, author of awarded winning movie Once. There will be two screenings in Prague (8 April at 18:00 in Světozor cinema and 10 April at 20:00 in Pilotů cinema), one screening in Jablonec (18 April at 20:00 in Junior cinema) and one screening in Boskovice. The festival is a joint initiative by the European Commission and Member State Embassies in Prague. For further information visit [www.eurofilmfest.cz/en](http://www.eurofilmfest.cz/en).



## Open-air Festival on Střelecký ostrov

The Irish Embassy will have a stand at the main event celebrating the Schuman Day. As in previous years, the Representation of the European Commission in the Czech Republic organises a series of events commemorating Schuman Day (9 May) so called "European Days." The main event celebrating the Europe Day will be an open-air public information and cultural event held on 4 May on Střelecký ostrov in Prague. It will feature a cultural programme including a concert of famous Czech bands and other artists, public information stands, debates and contests, as well as a supervised play area for children and other activities.

## Irish May – Festival of Irish Culture in Prague

The Irish May festival will take place during the first weekend in May (5-6 May) in the Celetná Theatre in Prague ([www.divadloceletne.cz](http://www.divadloceletne.cz)). The programme will comprise of music, dance and theatre performances. Information may be found at <http://www.irsky-maj.cz/>

## Night of Literature



Night of Literature 2016 © Michaela Danelová

(performed by a popular Czech actor/actress) takes about 30 minutes. For further information visit <http://www.literaturenigh.eu>

## Bernard's Summer School

The annual summer school will take place in Prague from 19 to 25 August 2017. The festival will offer dance and music lessons, sean nós singing, a ceili evening, music sessions and Irish language lessons. For further information visit [www.bernards.cz](http://www.bernards.cz).



For more information go to <http://www.bernards.cz/summer-school/>.

## Irish Business in the Czech Republic: Enterprise Ireland

Ireland's economic recovery is now firmly established, with key economic indicators pointing to continued solid economic growth, despite a challenging regional and global environment. Growth was initially driven by exports but has now broadened with domestic demand now making a strong positive contribution. GDP is expected to have grown by 4.3% in 2016 and it is forecast to reach 3.5% in 2017. The strength of the recovery is perhaps most clearly evident in the labour market, with employment having increased in each of the last 17 quarters, representing an increase of over 212,000 jobs since the low-point in mid-2012. Strong employment gains have helped reduce unemployment which has fallen from a peak of over 15% in early-2012 to 6.6% in February 2017. Ireland's debt to GDP ratio is on a firm downward trajectory. Having peaked at just under 120% of GDP in 2012, it is projected to reach 74.5% of GDP in 2017 and decline to 45% by the mid to late part of the next decade.

Enterprise Ireland (EI), the Irish government agency responsible for the development and internationalisation of Irish indigenous companies, stated that employment in EI client companies exceeded 200,000 people. Last year, Enterprise Ireland invested €32m in 229 start-up companies and was recognised as the third largest seed investor in Europe. Along the way, Enterprise Ireland is working to help clients find new customers, projects and export opportunities overseas, assist with commercialisation of research, attract new international start-ups to Ireland and overcome barriers such as access to finance and the challenge of finding talent, particularly in the technology sector.

2016 has also been full of good news regarding the foreign direct investment flows to Ireland. IDA Ireland reported that the number of investments secured in 2016 rose to 244 from 213 in the previous year. The list of largest projects include Oracle's expansion of its Dublin operations with plans to recruit 450 new hires to drive its Cloud business, new R&D hub of First Data in county Tipperary or Shire plans to expand its global biotech manufacturing capacity with an investment of US\$400m and creating 400 new positions upon completion of its project in county Meath.

Irish companies continued to expand their footprint in Czech and Central European markets. According to the Czech Statistical Office, **Irish export of goods to the Czech Republic again exceeded one billion Euros in 2016**. Exports increased by 5% to €1142m while imports increased by 8% to €604m.

Central Europe will continue to be a key market for Irish goods and services, especially in the context of Brexit. Enterprise Ireland's office in Prague assists client companies in several markets in Central and Southeast Europe by providing tailor-made market research, business lead generation and introductions to buyers in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and countries in the Balkans.



## News from the Centre for Irish Studies



Screening of "The 1916 Irish Rebellion" at the Embassy in October 2016, organised by CIS

The Centre is delighted to invite members of the Irish community in the Czech Republic to public lectures by Professor Alexandra Poulain of the Sorbonne and Dr Marilynn Richtarik of Georgia State University. Prof. Poulain – who is an Irish drama scholar and translator – will speak about W. B. Yeats's Plays for Dancers (11 May) and Dr Richtarik, a leading expert on the Field Day Theatre Company, will address the subject of Brian Friel's work for Field Day (20 April).

Readers of Czech may look forward to the publication of Máirtín Ó Cadhain's masterpiece *Cré na Cille*. This little-known gem of modernist comic fiction, translated by Radvan Markus as *Hřbitovní hlína*, will appear later this spring.

"Ar an Imeall i Lár an Domhain? An tairseachúlacht i litríocht agus i gcultúr na Gaeilge agus na hEorpa", the first Irish-language conference to be ever held in Continental Europe, will be hosted by the Centre on 14-16 September. The public social programme will include readings by Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill and Alan Titley, and a music performance by Kateřina Garcia, Síle Denvir and friends.

Experimental Irish poets Catherine Walsh and Billy Mills will perform as part of the 2017 Prague Microfestival (18-21 May), and a series of Irish film screenings is being prepared in collaboration with the Embassy of Ireland for the autumn.

Information and updates on the activities of the Centre are available on its website ([http://ualk.ff.cuni.cz/irish\\_studies](http://ualk.ff.cuni.cz/irish_studies)), which also contains an extensive searchable bibliography of the cultural relations between Ireland and the Czech lands from the 17<sup>th</sup> century up till the present day, studies on Czech-Irish relations in the 20<sup>th</sup> century by Daniel Samek, and an online library catalogue. Courses of the Irish language are offered on three different levels, taught on the premises of both Charles University and Palacký University, Olomouc.

The Centre gratefully acknowledges the support by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and of the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs, Ireland.



In its 22<sup>nd</sup> year CIBCA continues to evolve and support the development of meaningful new connections between Ireland and the Czech Republic. At our annual AGM in November 2016, a new committee was elected to lead a diverse range of business, cultural and social events and initiatives for the year ahead. Building on the achievements over recent years, our business and cultural programme for 2017 combines well-established yearly events with innovative new experiences. As new membership continues to increase, CIBCA looks forward to welcoming members (new and old alike), and friends of the Irish community to the following upcoming events.

### **Upcoming CIBCA Events in 2017**

#### **April**

CIBCA Chef's Challenge

#### **May / June**

Cross-Chamber Business Event

Family Day

A Day at the Races

#### **September / October**

CIBCA Golf Event

Business Forum

CIBCA AGM

#### **November**

Wine & Poetry by the Fireside

#### **December**

Christmas Party

**CIBCA's 22<sup>ND</sup> Annual St. Patrick's Day Ball**, supported by Kingspan and Hertz Lease, will take place in the splendid surroundings of the Bocaccio Ballroom at the Grand Hotel Bohemia on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March. We look forward to welcoming guests from around the world to this sold-out event celebrating our nation's patron saint.

To stay up to date on the latest CIBCA news and for information of interest to the Irish community and friends of the Irish community in the Czech Republic, follow us on Facebook (Czech Irish Business & Cultural Association). For membership enquires, please email [cibca2017@gmail.com](mailto:cibca2017@gmail.com).

On behalf of the CIBCA - Lá Fhéile Pádraig sona daoibh!

#### **Embassy of Ireland contact details**

Tržiště 13

118 00 Prague 1

Tel: 257 011 280

Fax: 257 531 387

Email: [pragueembassy@dfa.ie](mailto:pragueembassy@dfa.ie)

[www.dfa.ie/czech-republic](http://www.dfa.ie/czech-republic)

#### **Enterprise Ireland contact details**

Tržiště 13

118 00 Prague 1

Tel: 257 199 621

Fax: 257 532 224



