



Consulate of Ireland Newsletter for U.S. Southwest NEWS & Current Events

Failte—Welcome!

September/October 2018

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A chairde, dear friends,

Fáilte/Welcome to this latest edition of the Consulate’s newsletter.

Following its establishment in 2015, the Consulate is now expanding. I am delighted to welcome Paul Breen, Ireland’s new Vice Consul. Paul is a Dubliner and has lived in Boston in recent years. He looks forward to meeting you over the coming months.

I hope that you enjoy the newsletter and don’t forget to mail us reports and photos from events in your area (see page 13).

Is mise le meas,
Adrian Farrell



Regional highlights

Kansas City Irish Fest 2018

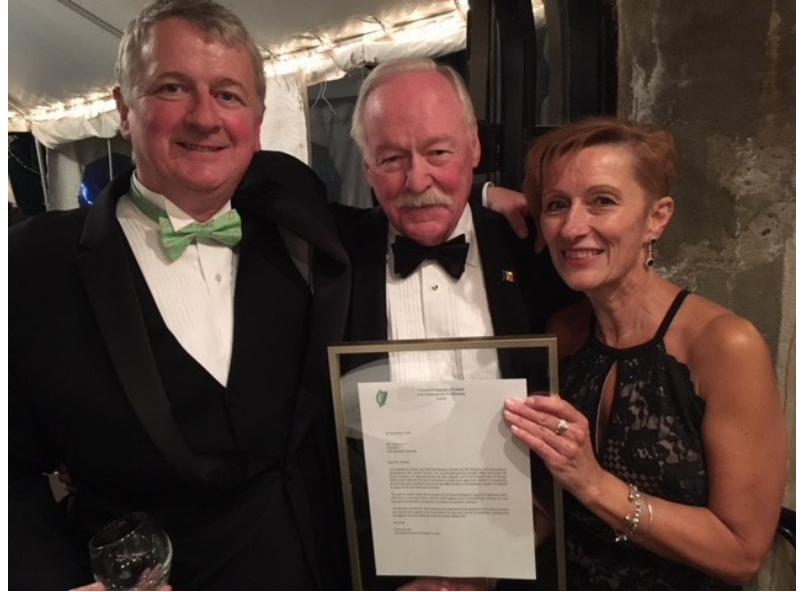
The Kansas City Irish Festival is one of the largest Irish cultural festivals in the U.S. attracting approximately 100,000 attendees each year over Labor Day weekend with an incredible range of live music and dance performances, a comedy and film festival and a fair featuring all things Irish!

The Consulate was delighted to open a Pop-Up Consulate again in 2018 to help answer questions from attendees about Ireland and the Consulate's passport and citizenship services. Thanks to Nancy and the KC Irish Center team for hosting the Consulate. New Vice Consul Paul Breen, met with Pat O'Neill, one of the founding members of the Festival (pictured, bottom right), and also visited Kerry Browne and John McClain (pictured, bottom left) at Browne's Irish Marketplace during the festival. Browne's Irish Marketplace is the oldest Irish family business in North America and a warm and welcoming hub for the Irish community in Kansas City and beyond.



An Irish Night at the Castle

Robert Teas from the Consulate staff was delighted to attend An Irish Night at The Castle in Denver on September 28, which helped raise awareness and support for the Leadville Colorado Irish Immigrant Memorial project. The project will serve to create a memorial in Evergreen Cemetery for the thousands of Irish immigrants who are buried there.



Robert also enjoyed meeting members of the Colorado Irish community, including some direct descendants of the first Irish immigrants who settled in Leadville over 100 years ago.

During the event, Honorary Irish Consul Jim Lyons was honoured to officially announce support of the Memorial project through the Irish Government's Emigrant Support Programme. Many thanks to Irish Network Colorado President Lisa Switzer, Noel Hickey, and Jim Walsh for their hard work and leadership on making the event and the memorial possible.



KC Irish Center Gala

Kansas City's Irish community and friends joined together on 24 August for the 2018 Kansas City Irish Center Gala. This year's honourees included Dan Regan, Kerry Browne, and John McClain, for their years of hard work as well as their central role in the Irish community in Kansas City. Speaking at the event, the Executive Director of the Kansas City Irish Center, Nancy Wormington, highlighted the role of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Emigrant Support Programme in funding capital projects and programs at the Center in recent years.



Celebrating John Hume

Consul General Farrell joined with Norman Houston from the Northern Ireland Bureau in Washington DC and Director Maurice Fitzpatrick at a Houston screening of *In the Name of Peace: Hume in America* celebrating the legacy of Nobel Peace Laureate John Hume and his role in bringing peace to Northern Ireland. The screening was followed by a Q&A session moderated by Lori Gallagher, Director of the Flynn Center for Irish Studies at St. Thomas University. Maurice Fitzpatrick also attended a screening of his film on 12 September in Kansas City.

More information on the documentary can be found [here](#).



Clockwise, from top left: Lori Gallagher introduces the panellists at the screening at UST in Houston; Maurice Fitzpatrick answers questions about the film in Kansas City; attendees enjoying the documentary in Kansas City

Songs and Stories

We welcomed the acclaimed Irish storyteller and singer, Helena Byrne, to the Consulate this month for a very special performance that explored the music, superstitions and folklore of Ireland.

Many of the guests were loyal fans of Helena's work and had previously attended her shows while visiting Ireland. We were delighted to meet with so many first-time visitors to the Consulate who travelled for several hours to attend this show.

This performance was the first stop on Helena's U.S. tour that also included a show at the Center for Irish Studies at the University of St Thomas in Houston. The U.S. tour coincides with the release of Helena's third studio album, 'Tóraíocht Shonais' (Pursuit of Happiness) which tells the incredible stories of Irish emigration, voyage and much more.



Pathway to Peace

We celebrated Peace Day Austin by welcoming the United Nations Association to Consulate in September for a special event called “Pathway to Peace”.

Peace Day Austin is a series of events that culminates each year with the United Nations International Day of Peace (21 September).



The keynote address on “Education for Peace” was delivered by Dr Shirin Khosropour, Director of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies at Austin Community College.

In addition to the members of the United Nations Association, we were delighted to welcome so many students from Austin Community College and the University of Texas to the Consulate to celebrate Peace Day Austin and to discuss Ireland’s campaign for a seat on the United Nations Security Council for the period 2021-2022.





COMHALTAS

NEW MEXICO ✚ SLIABH SANDIA

We are pleased to report that a branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann has re-opened in New Mexico! Here is an excerpt from the Irish-American Society's [September newsletter](#) with more information:

“The Sliabh Sandia New Mexico branch, originally formed in 1994, has been re-established with a mission to connect and support those who enjoy Irish arts through performance, participation, or patronage, and encourage a new generation of Irish cultural artists in New Mexico. The name of the branch (pronounced “sleev san-dee-a”) joins the Irish name for mountain with the Spanish name of a beautiful New Mexico mountain range that famously glows red at sunset (like a sandia or watermelon). Membership is open to anyone in New Mexico who enjoys Irish music, dance, singing, poetry, and storytelling, or wants to learn more about Irish arts.”

Many thanks to Dr. Laura Banks and the [Irish-American Society of New Mexico](#) for the information and best wishes to the New Mexico CCÉ.

Austin Marches For PRIDE

The Irish Consulate in Austin was delighted to join members of the city's Irish community on 11 August to celebrate Austin LGBT+ Pride and Ireland's commitment to LGBT+ equality and inclusion. A major thunderstorm before the start of the parade did not dampen the enthusiasm of the "Irish for Pride" group.



Consul General Adrian Farrell invited Mexico's Consul General in Austin Carlos González Gutiérrez (pictured, bottom right) to join the Irish for Pride group and the two countries proudly marched together to celebrate diversity. Austin Mayor Steve Adler and City Manager Spencer Cronk welcomed the Consuls on the city's famous 4th Street. The Consulate would like to thank the great Irish community for marching with pride, and the volunteers from Austin Pride 2018 for organising such a fun and successful weekend of events.



Rose of Tralee Reception

On July 14, the Consulate was pleased to host the 2018 Texas Rose of Tralee, Kimberly Corser, along with members of the central Texas Irish community. A few weeks later, Kimberly and her fellow contestants headed off to Ireland, where they competed in the National Rose of Tralee competition. Congratulations Kimberly on representing Texas so well in Ireland!



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Paul and Eliza Deane (formerly of Houston Irish Network and Houston Gaels GAA) on their recent marriage and best wishes to the new couple in their new home in Chile!



Welcoming Limerick City Council

The Consulate welcomed members of Limerick's city and county council to Austin on July 25. While in town, they toured the State Capitol building, met with the Austin Chamber of Commerce, and visited the Capital Factory.



News from Ireland

Brexit

For the very latest information on Ireland's approach to Brexit visit: <https://www.dfa.ie/brexit/>

Ambassador attends funeral of John McCain

Irish Ambassador to the US, Dan Mulhall, represented Ireland at the [funeral of John McCain](#), noting "The senator was a great ally and friend of Ireland both on immigration reform and on the NI peace process." The Irish ballad "Danny Boy" was sung at the funeral.

Pope Francis visits Ireland

On August 25 [Taoiseach Leo Varadkar](#) welcomed [Pope Francis](#) to Ireland. See [photos of the Pope's visit](#), his [visit schedule](#), and [other background information](#).

Ireland votes in Presidential election

Voters in Ireland re-elected Ireland's President Michael D. Higgins in an election on 26 October.

Ireland seeks UN Security Council seat in 2021-22

In early July in New York, the Taoiseach, accompanied by the Tánaiste, officially launched [Ireland's campaign for a seat on the UN Security Council](#) for the 2021-2022 term. This bid is a core element of the Government's Global Ireland 2025 strategy to double the scale and impact of Ireland's international presence.

Remembering Kofi Annan

[The President](#), [the Taoiseach](#) and the Tánaiste were among those from Ireland who paid tribute to former UN Secretary Kofi Annan as an advocate for peace and multilateralism following his recent passing.

Support for Irish Abroad

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade launched its first '[Annual Report on Support for the Irish Abroad](#),' which details the range and depth of Government support for global Irish communities.

News from Ireland

Irish economic growth

[The Irish economy grew 7.2% in GDP terms](#) in 2017, making Ireland the fastest growing economy in the EU in that year. Labour Force Survey data also shows [the highest ever level of employment in Ireland](#).

New Economic Partnership Agreement with Japan

Ministers Humphreys and Breen welcomed the signing of the [Economic Partnership Agreement](#) between the EU and Japan, the biggest and most advanced bilateral trade deal ever negotiated by the EU which will create the largest free trade zone ever.

Congratulations to Ireland's sporting heroes

This has been a great summer for Irish sport in hockey, rowing, athletics and equestrian. Our [Women's Hockey Team](#) came second in the World Cup. Five Irish athletes, Rhys McClenaghan, the O'Donovan brothers, Thomas Barr and Shane Ryan, brought home medals from the [European Championships](#). And the future of Irish sports is also looking strong. Congratulations to the Ireland women's [4x100m relay team](#) (Molly Scott, Gina Akpe-Moses, Ciara Neville and Patience Jumbo-Gula) won silver at the World U-20 Championships in Finland in July.

Ireland has the world's friendliest cities

[Conde Nast Traveler](#) has ranked 3 Irish cities - Dublin, Cork and Galway - among the top 10 friendliest cities in the world! (Of course we already knew this but it is always great to get independent verification!). For more information on travelling to Ireland (including a new Dallas-Dublin direct connection from 2019) logon to: www.ireland.com



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