

Newsletter



Ard-Chonsalacht na hÉireann | Caerdydd
Consulate General of Ireland | Cardiff
Swyddfa Prif Gonswl Iwerddon | Caerdydd



Welcome to our regular newsletter for the Irish community in Wales.

This autumn has been a momentous time for the Consulate, with the Minister for Foreign Affairs visiting to officially open our new premises! Minister Simon Coveney also co-chaired the inaugural Ireland-Wales Ministerial Forum with First Minister Mark Drakeford. During his visit, he met with the Future Generations Commissioner, Sophie Howe.

Although public health requirements meant that only a small number of people could attend the opening ceremony in-person, we are excited to now share with you the video of the event, including a fabulous performance from Catrin Finch and Aoife Ní Bhriain - an outstanding example of Irish - Welsh partnership.

During the autumn, it has also been a delight to see so many Irish cultural and sporting events happening in Wales – updates below on GAA Clubs, music and dancing events.

SAVE THE DATES!

Planning has begun for events early next year, when we hope to celebrate St Brigid's Day (1 February) and St Patrick's Day (17 March) with you. Please do keep in touch and follow our [website](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts for latest news.

Denise Hanrahan, Niall Veale, Luke Webber, Frederick Till
Consulate General of Ireland, Cardiff

OFFICIAL OPENING EVENT



On October 22, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney TD, officially opened the Consulate's new offices. A key task on arriving in Cardiff in 2019 was to identify and fit out a suitable permanent premises. While COVID led to some delays in this process, we think you'll agree that it has been worth the wait! We very much look forward to hosting community, political, cultural and business events with you in the months and years ahead.

Our continuing vigilance over COVID meant that guest numbers were restricted, so we are very pleased now to be able to share the event with you online. With live musical performances from Catrin Finch & Aoife Ní Bhriain and messages of support from across Ireland and Wales, the special recording brings together the many varied strands of the Ireland / Wales relationship.



Welcoming the official launch, Minister Coveney said:

“The re-establishment of the Consulate is testament to Ireland’s commitment to increasing cooperation and collaboration with Wales across the business, arts, sporting and community sectors.”

“Ireland and Wales are the closest of neighbours, and we have a strong and positive relationship built on age-old connections and a deep cultural understanding. Our modern and vibrant relationship has grown from historic links, common heritage and culture, and close people-to-people, business, cultural and sporting connections.”

Minister Coveney was joined by First Minister Mark Drakeford and Consul General Denise Hanrahan for the official unveiling of a commemorative plaque marking the occasion.



IRELAND - WALES FORUM

As part of the October 22 visit, Minister Coveney led the Irish Government's attendance at the inaugural Ireland-Wales Ministerial Forum, hosted by the Welsh Government. The Forum is a high-level annual event established to engage political, economic and broader stakeholders to build relationships, reflect on ongoing collaboration and consider opportunities for further cooperation. The creation of the Ireland Wales Forum was a key commitment of the [Ireland-Wales Shared Statement and Joint Action Plan 2021-25](#).

First Minister Mark Drakeford said on the day:

"The Forum is a symbol of our joint commitment to strengthening our existing ties at political, economic and cultural level. These talks are another example of bonds strengthening between the two Celtic countries. I look forward to continuing to build on our existing relationship and deepen co-operation with our closest European Union neighbour".

The meeting provided the opportunity to bring together Irish and Welsh Ministers to exchange views and approaches on critical issues. It covered recent political events & bilateral relations, trade promotion & economic development, and energy & climate action.

Climate action, COP 26 and sustainability were key themes, including sharing of knowledge about Wales' experience of the Future Generations Act. At a lunch event, delegates heard from the Future Generations Commissioner Sophie Howe and from speakers from the Future Leaders Academy. Minister Coveney was accompanied by Minister for Trade Promotion, Robert Troy TD and virtually by Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan TD.



CULTURAL AND SPORTING EVENTS

Pride of Erin - Tournament & Christmas Event

Pride of Erin GAA club Newport celebrated their first year by hosting a home GAA tournament with teams from Cardiff, Swansea, Bristol and Cornwall. Congratulations to all involved. The club is organising a Christmas Dinner & Event on 18th December – details here: [Newport Gaa \(facebook.com\)](https://www.facebook.com/newportgaa)

International Uilleann Piping Day

UNESCO has recognised Irish Uilleann Piping as part of [world heritage](#) and the tradition is alive and well through the South Wales Pipers. In Swansea on International Uilleann Piping Day in November, they hosted a great performance and workshops of Welsh tunes & music from the Goodman Collection with Ceri Rhys Matthews. Watch here: <https://bit.ly/3l3cJfA>. We look forward to hearing more of their explorations of the musical links between Swansea & West Cork in particular.

Dancers from the **O'Donnell Maguire school of Irish Dancing** in Newport have been busy competing and qualifying for next year's World Championship: [O'Donnell Maguire School of Irish Dancing | Facebook](#)

