

IRELAND NEWS

Consulate of Ireland Newsletter for U.S. Southwest

FÁILTE



Leadville Fire Chief Daly



Colm Mac Con Iomaire



Notre Dame – youngest supporter



US Amb. To Ireland O'Malley



ATX Celtic Cowboys GAA

Dear friends, A Cháirde,

Fáilte/Welcome to this edition of the Irish Consulate Newsletter.

We've had an incredibly busy few months across the region and in Ireland with many great initiatives still to take place before the end of the year. Thank you to all of our partners in Irish societies and organisations across the region for their hard work particularly in relation to 1916 centenary commemoration events. Further events to commemorate the 1916 Rising will take place in Kansas City and Dallas in November – if you are interested in screening the film '1916 – the Irish Rebellion' in your city/state please contact us.

Summer/September 2016 was also a great time for sports fans. Many congratulations to the Ireland and Northern Ireland soccer teams on their strong performances at the European Championships. Ireland's Olympics and Paralympics Athletes also made us proud in Rio winning medals in several sports. Our local GAA teams in Kansas City, Denver, Austin, Houston and San Antonio also played superbly at the US GAA National Championships. In Dublin Georgia Tech beat Boston College in the Aer Lingus College Football Classic on 3 September.

We are always delighted to receive your contributions for the newsletter on past events or your listings for future initiatives, and don't hesitate to contact the Consulate for information on support programmes for Irish initiatives abroad. If you did not receive this Newsletter directly into your e-mail box and would like to, please send us your e-mail address (see the 'stay in touch' section at the end of the Newsletter).

Don't forget that the Consulate posts daily news updates from Ireland and our activities around the region on our Twitter feed @IrelandCGAustin (Twitter updates also appear on the Consulate's [website](#)).

Until next time, best wishes - Le gach dea-ghuí,

Adrian Farrell
Consul General

RECENT EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

Harp & Shamrock Celebrates 50th Birthday

Warmest congratulations to the Harp & Shamrock society on its 50th birthday which was celebrated in San Antonio with a gala dinner on September 17th. In her remarks at the event, Harp & Shamrock President Melissa Schulz traced the history of the Society over the past five decades and outlined exciting plans for the future. Senator Billy Lawless also spoke at the event, congratulating the Harp & Shamrock for promoting Ireland and Irish culture in Central Texas since 1966. Thanks to Melissa Schulz, Linda Gross, Joan Moody, Barbara and David Patrick for organizing such a wonderful event!



Senator Billy Lawless with H&S President Melissa Schulz, and H&S Irish Person of the Year Melinda Britten and her husband

RECENT EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

Colorado Irish History Weekend

The Consulate was delighted to support the inaugural Irish history weekend in Colorado which was organised by the Irish Network in Colorado. The weekend started with a reception at the Molly Brown House in downtown Denver. The Consul General then introduced the '1916 – the Irish Rebellion' film at the University of Colorado in Denver followed by a reception on the University Campus at the historic Casa Mayan House. One of the highlights of the weekend was a visit to Leadville, the highest-altitude city in the US, to commemorate the many Irish who died in the city's mines in the 19th century. The events in Leadville are a testament to the work of Dr James Walsh of the University of Colorado, Denver, who has worked tirelessly in recent years to recall the history of the Leadville Irish. A huge thank you to Dr Walsh, Dennis Gallagher, Maura Clare, Michael O'Beirne, Irish Network Colorado, Jim Lyons Ireland's Honorary Consul in Denver and the City of Leadville for supporting this initiative.



Consul General Farrell speaks to at a ceremony at Evergreen cemetery recalling the thousands of Irish buried in Leadville, CO.

RECENT EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

Ireland's *Other Voices* Visits Austin

Ireland's *Other Voices* TV programme is normally records its music shows in a two-hundred year old building in Dingle on Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way. This October *Other Voices* moved to the US for the first time and set up at the city's famous Arlyn Studios to record a series of performances by amazing Irish, Texan and international artists. The tapings were a huge success, featuring incredible acts such as Asleep at the Wheel, Wild Child, Colm Mac Con Iomaire, Gregory Porter, Conor Oberst, and even a surprise performance by Mumford & Sons. Keep an eye out for these episodes of *Other Voices* when they premiere next year!



Mumford & Sons during their taping for *Other Voices* at Arlyn Studios. Photo by Rich Gilligan



Consul General Farrell Travels to Oklahoma

From October 11 through 13, Consul General Farrell travelled to Oklahoma – one of the seven states covered by the Consulate. His first meeting in Durant was with Mr Jack Austin Jr., Assistant Chief of the Choctaw Nation in Durant. Ireland owes a huge debt of gratitude to the Choctaw people who contributed funds to Irish famine victims in 1847. Farrell also met with Governor Mary Fallin to discuss Irish-Oklahoma historic, cultural and trade ties. He also spoke to students on Ireland and the European at the European Union Center at the University of Oklahoma.



9/11 Memorial Exhibition

The Consulate was honoured to partner with GroundZero 360 and the American Ireland Funds to an exhibition recalling the sacrifice made by First Responders on 9/11. On August 16, the Consulate hosted first responders from Austin and the surrounding areas with special guest Michele Mason from Ground Zero 360 who spoke movingly about her experiences that day. The Mayors of Austin and Cedar Park also joined the event and heard from Austin Police Department Chief Art Acevedo.



Kansas City Irish Festival

The Kansas City Irish Fest took place during Labor Day weekend in September and again demonstrated why it is one of the biggest and best Irish festivals in the region with thousands of guests enjoying the best of Irish live music, dancing, art, comedy and Irish culture.



The Consulate Welcomes the Austin AOH

The Consulate welcomed the Austin Chapters of the Ancient Order of Hibernians for a reception on September 10 with Guest of Honor Judge James McKay who was also recently elected President of the National Chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and who also serves as Ireland's Honorary Consul in New Orleans.



Reception Celebrating Texas Rose of Tralee

The Consulate hosted an event on July 26 in honour of Katherine O’Sullivan, who represented Texas at the Rose of Tralee competition in Ireland. During the event, Katherine raised funds for Friends of A, a charity supporting Cranial Aneurysm research that was founded in memory of Adrienne Hussey, a former Texas Rose of Tralee. The Consulate was also delighted to support Shannon Burke who represented New Orleans in Tralee.



1916 Centenary Lecture in New Orleans

The Irish Cultural Museum of New Orleans was pleased to host Dr. Keel Geheber from Louisiana State University in September to give a lecture on the 1916 Easter Rising and how it ties in to Irish literature.

Keep an eye on their website, www.icmnola.org for exciting upcoming events, including a 1916 centenary film screening event.



Irish Students in Austin for Formula 1

It was great to meet the Irish engineers of the future at the Formula 1 for schools event which took place in Austin just before the Formula 1 race on 22/23 October at the city’s Circuit of the Americas. Two teams of young people from Ireland competed strongly against students from the US and around the world. The Irish teams represented at the schools event by talented students were from St Brigids College in Loughrea, Co. Galway (pictured) and Marist Collegem in Athlone, Co. Westmeath.



UT vs. Notre Dame Football Reception

The Consulate and the Notre Dame Club of Austin hosted a reception on September 3 celebrating the season-opening football game in Austin between The University of Texas and The University of Notre Dame. Fans of both teams were in attendance, along with Mayor Steve Adler, Austin City Council Members Ora Houston and Pio Renteria, and University of Texas Provost Maurie McInnis. Special thanks to Notre Dame Club of Austin members Clint Grady, Jim McMullan, David Baker, and Nancy Carrales for their help in organizing this event.



Members of Colorado Emerald Society visit Ireland

In September, members of the Colorado Emerald Society visited Counties Donegal, Cavan, and Mayo, among others. It looks like they had a fantastic time, and Sheila Reilly took some incredible photos, one of which we've shared with you here.



***1916: The Irish Rebellion* Film Screenings**

The Consul General was honored to recently introduce screenings of '1916: The Irish Rebellion' in Houston and Denver. Thank you to Lori Gallagher at the Flynn Centre for Irish Studies at the University of St. Thomas and to the Irish Network in Houston, and to the University of Colorado at Denver in Colorado.

Screenings have also taken place in San Antonio hosted by the Harp & Shamrock Society, and additional screenings will take place in both Kansas City and New Orleans in November. We would love to see the documentary screened in other cities across the region: please contact Robert Teas at Robert.Teas@dfa.ie for more information.

News from Ireland

Ireland and the US

Joe McHugh, Minister of State for the Diaspora and Overseas Aid, delivered the [keynote address](#) at INUSA16 in San Francisco, the fourth annual conference of Irish Network USA which has 19 chapters across the U.S. including Atlanta and Mobile Bay in the Southeast. He emphasized the important role of the Irish Diaspora in meeting current challenges.

Over 2.5 million images of [historic records](#) of Births, Marriages and Deaths from the General Register Office (GRO) are now available online for the first time.

1916 Centenary

As part of Ireland's 2016 Centenary programme, a ceremony took place to commemorate the execution of [Roger Casement](#), one of the great humanitarians of the early 20th century.

Economy

The [Global Innovation Index](#) 2016 ranks Ireland at the 7th most innovative country in the world.

Dublin Airport was the fastest growing major airport in Europe in the first six months of this year, following last year's record when the airport welcomed 25 million passengers for the first time. The growth is being fuelled by strong passenger traffic from the US and Canada.

Dublin is among the top 7 European [start-up cities](#) with venture capital investment funding quadrupling to £229m in the past year.

Ireland continues to attract U.S. technology companies at a rapid pace as a base for their European operations. September announcements included investments in Limerick by Austin's TruSource Labs and WP Engine.

Ireland is the only EU country shipping beef commercially into the US, thanks to Bord Bia's [Origin Green programme](#) which puts sustainability at its heart.

Ireland and the EU

During the course of an extended U.S. visit programme, Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, wrote an [op-ed](#) titled "Ireland: Determined to Meet the Challenges of Brexit" for the The Huffington Post. He also addressed [Fordham University](#) and the [UN General Assembly](#) in New York. In addition, the [Minister](#) outlined Ireland's position on Brexit and the recent Apple decision on PBS.

Ireland and the World

The [President](#), [Taoiseach](#) and [Minister Flanagan](#) expressed sympathy on the death of Shimon Perez, and Minister Flanagan traveled to Jerusalem to pay his respects and those of the Irish people to the family of Shimon Peres and to sympathize with the people of Israel.

Minister Joe McHugh launched [Irish Aid's Annual Report for 2015](#) – last year the Irish Government provided €647.51 million in Official Development Assistance, of which €142 million went to emergency humanitarian support. The main recipient countries included Syria, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia and Central Africa Republic.

For the first time, all member states of the UN comprehensively addressed the [global refugee and migrant crisis](#), reaching Agreement on a new approach led by Ireland's Ambassador to the UN, David Donoghue.

Foreign Minister Flanagan delivered the [keynote address](#) to Irish Ambassadors and Consuls General from more than 80 locations globally at Dublin Castle for a Departmental Conference August 29-31. The programme included discussions on Ireland's role in the EU, Brexit, Ireland's upcoming UN Security Council campaign, global humanitarian challenges, promoting Irish trade overseas, and Passport Service reform (including the introduction of online passport renewals).

Sports

Congratulations to Ireland's Olympic athletes! Silver medalist at the Rio Games, [Annalise Murphy](#), is the first Irish woman to win an Olympic medal in sailing. Brothers [Paul and Gary O'Donovan](#) also took home silver medal, Ireland's first in Olympic rowing.

Congratulations also to Irish golfer [Rory McIlroy](#) on his win at the PGA TOUR Championship in Atlanta.

The [Dublin GAA team](#) wins All Ireland final 1-15 to 1-14, claiming the first back-to-back All-Ireland win since the victorious sides of 1976-77.

2017 Greenings Campaign

St. Patrick's Day 2017 is fast approaching and we would love to 'green' a landmark or building in your area to celebrate Ireland. In 2016 buildings and bridges were greened across the region including Houston, Dallas, Austin, Little Rock, and Albuquerque joining other cities across the US and around the globe. Let's make St Patrick's Day 2017 even more special by greening your town! Contact the Consulate for more information on how we can support you.



Upcoming Events

An Evening with Consul General Adrian Farrell, Houston TX, Tuesday October 25

Irish Language Immersion Day, Houston TX, Saturday October 29

Art Exhibit at the Consulate, Austin TX, Monday November 7 – Friday January 13

Screening of 1916: The Irish Rebellion, New Orleans LA, Saturday November 19

Screening of 1916: The Irish Rebellion, Kansas City, Sunday November 20

Screening of One Million Dubliners, New Orleans LA, Saturday December 3

STAY IN TOUCH WITH US

Website: www.dfa.ie/austin

Twitter: @IrelandCGAustin

Facebook: Embassy of Ireland USA

Newsletter: Please send any questions or comments to Robert.Teas@dfa.ie

