

Community 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.

It has been another busy few weeks for everyone as we head towards the end of 2021 and begin to look ahead to 2022.

In November, Taoiseach Micheál Martin T.D. & Tánaiste Leo Varadkar joined the 36th British-Irish Council Summit held in Cardiff. The Taoiseach and First Minister of Wales, Mark Drakeford, also were the guests of honour at a business event in Cardiff City Hall organised by Enterprise Ireland together with our Consulate team. The event was an excellent showcase of Ireland-Wales economic partnership and the success of Irish businesses supporting the delivery of Wales' climate ambitions. More details on the visit below, as well as updates on a new and exciting Irish music session in Cardiff, upcoming dates for the diary, and **important travel information** ahead of the Christmas holidays.

We also have a Year in Review video for you to enjoy, encapsulating the work of the Consulate in 2021.

The Consulate team looks forward to celebrating St. Brigid's Day, St. Patrick's Day and other important Irish community events in 2022. Keep an eye on our social media for updates, and do let us know of any events you're planning.

Please do keep in touch and follow our [website](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts for latest news.

We wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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

TRAVEL TO IRELAND

If you have travel plans over Christmas, be sure to keep up to date with the latest travel advice. The Consulate team have prepared a brief [guide](#) for travel in to Ireland from Great Britain with links to the latest advice from the Irish Government.

Everyone arriving into the State from overseas – including Great Britain - who has been vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19 is required to also have a certified (i.e. not self-administered) “negative/not-detected” test result from:

- An antigen test taken no more than 48 hours before arrival, or;
- A PCR test taken no more than 72 hours before arrival.

If you do not have valid proof of vaccination or recovery, you will need to present evidence of a negative RT-PCR result from a test taken within 72 hours prior to arrival into the country.

Passengers arriving from Great Britain are advised to undertake daily antigen tests for 5 consecutive days, beginning with the day of arrival (and to self-isolate immediately and seek a PCR test if they develop symptoms or have a positive antigen test).

Further information on COVID-19 and travel to Ireland can be found on [gov.ie](https://www.gov.ie)

Visit to Cardiff by Taoiseach, Micheál Martin TD & Tánaiste, Leo Varadkar TD



On November 19, Taoiseach, Micheál Martin TD & Tánaiste, Leo Varadkar TD, were in Cardiff for the 36th British-Irish Council Summit. The Summit was hosted by Welsh Government in the National Museum of Wales at St Fagans outside Cardiff. It focussed on Indigenous, Minority and Lesser-Used Languages (IML) and Early Years Policy.

The [British-Irish Council \(BIC\)](https://www.bic-uk.org/) is an intergovernmental institution that was established in 1999 as one aspect of the Good Friday Agreement. Its purpose is to facilitate collaboration between its members in areas including transport, the environment, and energy. Its membership comprises representatives from governments of Ireland, the UK, Scotland, Wales and the Northern Ireland Executive, and from the Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey.

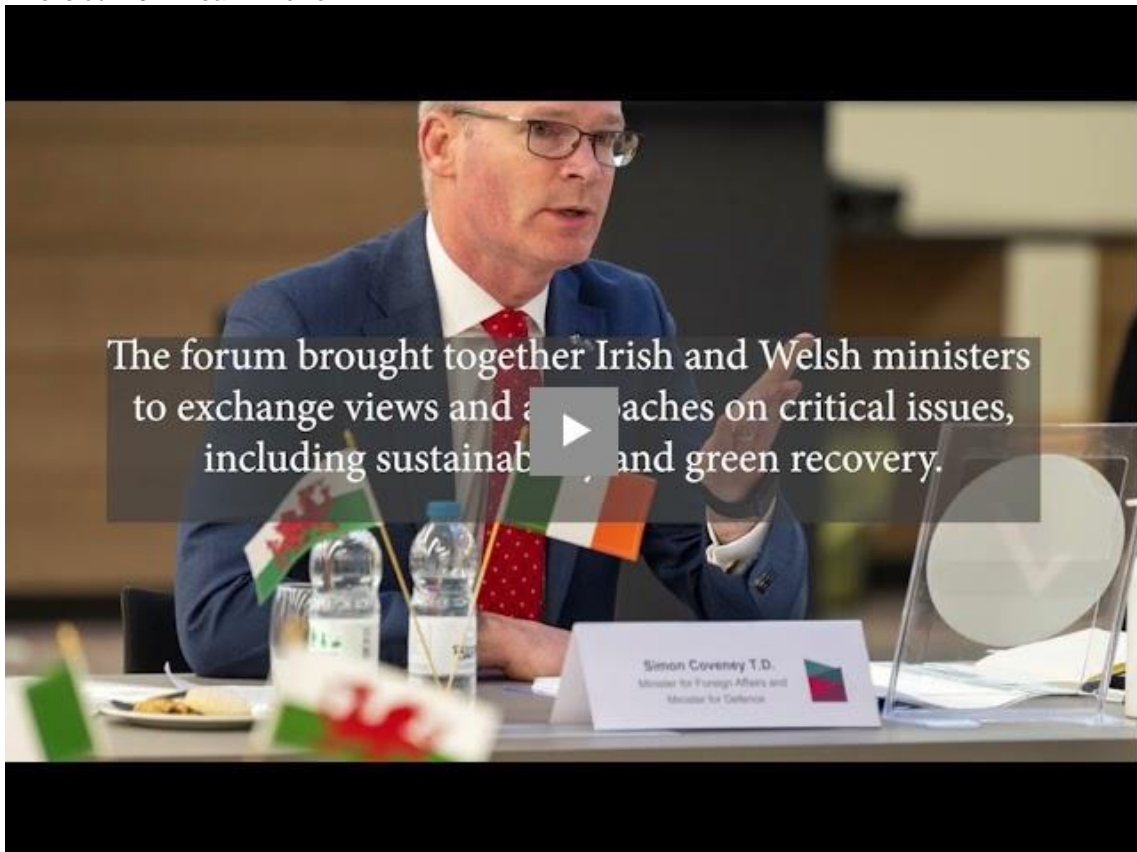
Following the BIC, the Taoiseach, with First Minister Drakeford, participated in a business programme in Cardiff City Hall organised by Enterprise Ireland with support from the Consulate. The programme was a forum to promote opportunities between Ireland and Wales. The programme focused on strengthening relationships between the Irish and Welsh governments, and building on the recent inaugural Ireland-Wales Forum, which took place in Cardiff in October. The Taoiseach met with Irish companies who are working with Welsh companies and organisations to deliver our shared priority of a sustainable future.

YEAR IN REVIEW

From our historic Ireland-Wales Shared Statement to the official opening of our Consulate General offices, 2021 has been a busy year for the team. Despite the challenging times we live in, we are excited about what comes next in 2022.

We are proud to support Irish citizens, celebrate Irish culture and sport, and promote Ireland in Wales.

This is our 2021 Year in Review.



LOSSES IN 2021

The tragic toll of the COVID-19 pandemic has been felt on both sides of the Irish Sea. Sadly, many people in Wales, Ireland and across our diaspora will be grieving this Christmas. At the time of writing, 6,516 people have died in Wales from this cruel virus. The thoughts of the Consulate team are with everybody who has lost a loved one these past two years.

In the last year we have also seen the passing of two great friends of this mission and the Irish in Wales – Mary Sullivan and Carl Clowes.

Mary Sullivan died in late 2020. Mary was Chair and Co-Founder of the Newtown Association, an organisation established in 1996 to preserve the history of the vibrant ‘Little Ireland’ diaspora community in the Newtown neighbourhood of Cardiff. Her work led to the creation of the Newtown Memorial Garden on Tyndall Street and helped many people to reconnect with relatives or friends from their past. You can visit the [Newtown and the Irish in Cardiff](#) group on Facebook to see the ongoing work. In November this year, the community marked Mary’s immense contribution with an event and the dedication to her of a memorial in the garden of the Cornerstone in Cardiff.

Dr. Carl Clowes OBE died on 4th December. He was the Founder and Honorary President of Nant Gwrtheyrn Trust, the leading centre for Welsh language learning on the Llyn Peninsula. A distinguished doctor, he became the first GP to receive an honorary fellowship from the Royal College of General Practitioners in 2015. In the 1970s, he led several groups of Welsh communities to visit similar communities on the islands of Ireland, building profound connections between the two countries. He also founded Dolen Cymru, an initiative that links Wales and Lesotho, later becoming Honorary Consul of Lesotho and a committed and much-admired member of The Consular Association in Wales.

