

Autumn Newsletter

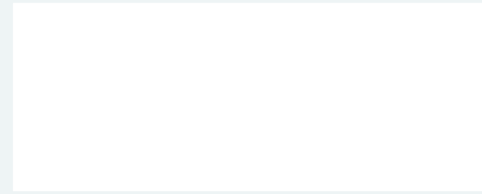


**Dear Irish community, friends of Ireland,
A chairde,**

Welcome to the autumn edition of our Embassy newsletter. We hope you and your loved ones are keeping well and braced for the colder weather and shortening days lying in store.

It has been a productive couple of months since the end of the summer break, with the Embassy active on the cultural, business, educational and community fronts. Rather than listing them here, we include a selection of photographs of some of our key initiatives over the course of September, October and the first week or so of November. A particular highlight was the community Hallowe'en party on 26 October. It was a wonderful occasion for children and parents alike and one which the Embassy was delighted to support. Special thanks to Edna Williams, Celina Barber and Aidan Burns who did all the heavy lifting - a shout out also to Shane Hughes and our good friends at Goblins for being such gracious hosts.

There was also tragedy and great sadness in Bratislava in October. The deaths of five people at a bus stop, most of them young students, by a drunk driver was truly appalling and a national trauma. The murder of two men outside the Teplaren bar in the centre of the capital was shockingly evil. The killings and the senseless hatred that inspired the perpetrator have reverberated throughout Slovakia and beyond. Well-attended marches in solidarity with the LGBTIQ+ community give grounds for hope, showing that hate cannot and will not prevail.



The Embassy joined with other diplomatic missions in issuing a statement condemning the murders. You can read the full statement and list of other signatories [here](#). I subsequently joined EU Ambassadors and the European Commission Vice President in lighting a candle outside the Teplaren bar.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight my new twitter account - [@IEAmbBratislava](#) Although it is an official account, it gives a somewhat more personal take in "real time" on my work here. For other news and updates, the Embassy's twitter account [@IrlEmbSlovakia](#) remains your first port of call. And you may also wish to follow us on Facebook on this [LINK](#).

As always, we warmly welcome your feedback and suggestions as we work to improve our service and outreach to you, our community. Please send any comments or ideas to Bratislava@dfa.ie We would be delighted to hear from you!

Likewise, if you know of anyone who has recently arrived in Slovakia and who you think would be interested in being on our circulation list, please encourage them to register with us at [CitizensRegister](#).

The Embassy team wish you all a wonderful autumn as we move towards the Christmas season and the end of another year.

With best wishes, le gach dea-ghuí.

**Dermot McGauran
Ambassador of Ireland**

Activities

Lots of fun at the Hallowe`en family party organised by our Community



Last weekend, we attended a lovely fun-filled Hallowe'en family party hosted by our 🇮🇪 community and which Embassy was proud to support. Our thanks to all involved in organising a most memorable and enjoyable afternoon!

Once again, congratulations 🍊 to the kids and their parents for sporting fabulous & spooky costumes 🎃

Claire Keegan @Night of Literature



It is always a real pleasure to promote Irish literature across Slovakia. In September, the Embassy participated in the 'Night of Literature', an evening devoted to contemporary works of fiction in more than a dozen languages, which have been translated into Slovak. Readings took place across the country in unusual locations called 'reader's nests'.

We selected Claire Keegan's *Small Things Like These*. Passages from the Slovak translation of the book were read by Martin Nahálka, prominent Slovak actor, to audiences rotating every 30 minutes. Thank you to those who participated with us.

If you did not have a chance to visit the event, feel free to view the online version on the FB page of Czech Centre which helped to organise the event, [LINK](#).

We supported the LGBTQI+ community in Slovakia



In the wake of the recent deadly terrorist attack in Slovakia aimed at the LGBTQI+ community, we stand firmly for solidarity and equality and against hate. We were co-signatories of the joint statement issued on behalf of 29 Embassies in Slovakia and participated in diplomatic and civic marches in Bratislava.

James Joyce's Ulysses Centenary Documentary at the Faculty of Arts Comenius University in Bratislava



We were delighted to promote Irish literature and culture at the Faculty of Arts of Comenius University in Bratislava. We screened a documentary marking the 100th anniversary of James Joyce's masterpiece, Ulysses. This was followed by a lively exchange with the staff and students on Ireland, Slovakia and the challenges facing our world.

Diplomacy in Practice Lecture Economic University Bratislava



Ambassador McGauran gave a presentation on Ireland's "Diplomacy in Practice" to students at the Economic University of Bratislava. A great opportunity to highlight the priorities and values underpinning our foreign policy as we mark 50 years since we voted by referendum to join the then European Economic Community.

Author and Scientist Dr. Niamh Shaw in Bratislava



Embassy was delighted to support Award-winning Science Communicator & ESA Champion, 2022 [Dr. Niamh Shaw](#) at the space conference [Vytah](#) held in Bratislava in September. Her talks and presentation gave a fascinating insight into the Space Industry.

Sports & Culture

News from GAA Team



Slovak Shamrocks Anniversary Tournament

Saturday 5th November
NŠK 1922 Bratislava



Legends match / 10 (+1) year anniversary

This Saturday, on 5th November,

NŠK 1922 Bratislava will host our exciting anniversary tournament. We are looking forward to welcoming all Slovak Shamrocks supporters to an exciting match between the old and new of our club. A variety of Irish sports will be showcased during the day, including Gaelic football and hurling. There will be food and drink onsite and skills competitions for kids and adults.

Start time is 12:00.

Gaelic handball

Recently we founded a Gaelic handball team. A sport similar to squash (but without the racquet!) where players hit a ball with a hand or fist against a wall. More information about the sport can be found here <https://www.gaahandball.ie/>.

We train twice per week at FanatiX Squash & Fitness Center, Dunajská 23 Bratislava (Tuesdays and Thursdays 7pm). Come join us or contact us for further information.

Expanding our reach

We would like to organise events, tournaments, and trainings across Slovakia. If you are interested in Gaelic Games and would like to know how you can be part of our community and club, please contact us. We are especially interested in speaking with Irish students based in Košice.

Christmas party

The Slovak Shamrocks Christmas Ball and Awards Ceremony will take place on Saturday, December 3rd at Bratislavská Kozlovna from 17:30.

After a 2 year break due to the pandemic, we are looking forward to welcoming all Slovak Shamrocks members, friends, supporters, and families to what promises to be a fantastic night. Partners and guests are welcome. Please contact us if you are interested in tickets.

Farewell to the legends!

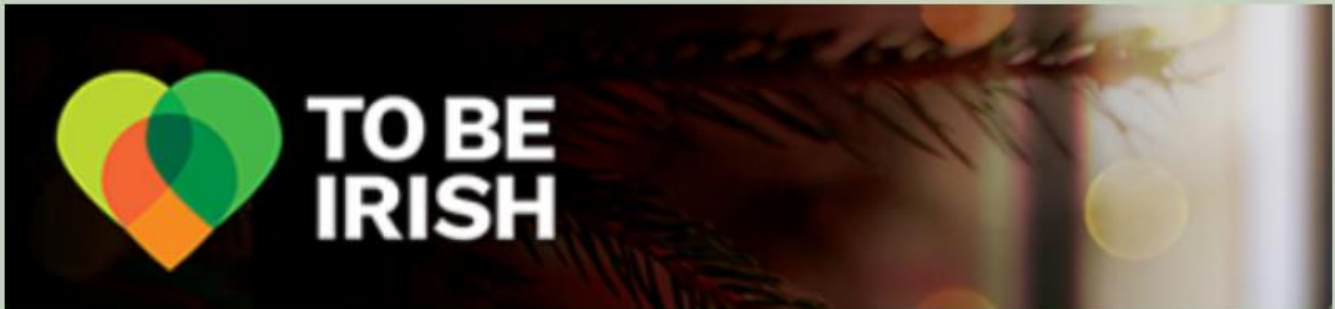
And we leave this newsletter on a sombre note as we say goodbye to Darren Barrett, Gabrielle Baird and Elisa Maniero. All three were club stalwarts who competed for the Shamrocks with an infectious enthusiasm. We wish Darren, Gabi, and Elisa all the best on their new path.

For more information on training, tournaments, and social events please contact us via our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SlovakGAA> or email secretary.bratislava.europe@gaa.ie.



Best of luck to Elisa Maniero, Darren Barrett & Gabrielle Baird.

Enroll!



To Be Irish Celebrating the 2022 Christmas Season!

To Be Irish, a year-round celebration of the global Irish family, returns to mark our third Christmas season!

Created by the Department of Foreign Affairs and supported by Local Authorities, venues, organisations, and retailers in Ireland and around the world, **To Be Irish** is a way to create meaningful connections with the Irish diaspora & those who have a grá for Ireland at home and abroad.

It is aimed to be a digital hub for people around the world to discover Irish brands, find in-person and online events happening in their communities, and explore stories from across the globe, providing an invaluable opportunity to reach new audiences and tap into the growing To Be Irish global network.

If you would like to be part of this exciting initiative click here: tobeirish.ie

Make it also your Newsletter...

...let us know about activities you plan & we will gladly include it in the quarterly Newsletter...

If you wish to unsubscribe from our mailing list please click [HERE](#)



