

# IRELAND NEWS

Consulate of Ireland Newsletter for U.S. Southwest

## FÁILTE

Hello and welcome to the second edition of our newsletter.

During March the Consulate joined with friends and communities across Texas and the US southwest to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising in Dublin. I would like to congratulate the wonderful committees behind St. Patrick's events and thank them for their hard work. I was honoured to serve as Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick's Day parade in Denver, Colorado and saw at firsthand the great team work and commitment from Committee President Jay Leasure and his amazing volunteers which made for an incredibly fun day. I also enjoyed attending the Dallas and San Antonio parades.

Events were held in Ireland and across the US southwest to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising. A personal highlight was the symposium at Baylor University in Waco featuring Irish historian Professor Roy Foster and write Sebastian Barry. Centenary events will also continue throughout the remainder of 2016.

Irish communities across the region also helped to expand the number of greenings of buildings and local landmarks in their areas to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Thank you for your help – some of the greenings from Texas, Arkansas, Kansas City and New Mexico were featured in Tourism Ireland's promotional video of greenings from around the world. Celebrate your Irish heritage by greening a building, bridge or landmark in your city or state for St. Patrick's

Day 2017. For more information contact the Consulate (see last page of newsletter for contact information).

In Austin the Consulate and our Ireland House partners IDA Ireland and Enterprise Ireland, as well as Start-up Dublin and Music from Ireland, also had an exciting mid-March with the South by Southwest tech, music and film festival.

A big thank you and congratulations to Rachel Gaffney and her team in Dallas whose hard work contributed to a very successful Ireland Funds Texas Emerald Ball. The North Texas Irish Festival (also in Dallas) was also a major success.

As always, we are delighted to hear about news and events in your area. Please e-mail us pictures and information and we'll do our best to feature them in our future newsletters.

On behalf of the Consulate, I'd like to say thank you for making St. Patrick's Day 2016 such a success across the southwestern United States. Go raibh maith agaibh!

Adrian Farrell  
Consul General



*With San Antonio Irish Person of the Year M. Britten and Texas Secretary of State Carlos Cascos at the Alamo on St. Patrick's Day*

# RECENT EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

## ST. PATRICK'S WEEK EVENTS



*With Dallas Mavericks owner and Parade Grand Marshal Mark Cuban*

I had the honor of serving as Grand Marshal of the Denver St. Patrick's Day Parade. It was a great pleasure to meet friends in the Mile High City including Mayor Hancock. I was also delighted to attend St Patrick's Day events in Dallas and to meet with Grand Marshal Mark Cuban, and to join Irish communities and friends for events in Austin and at the Alamo in San Antonio.

## 2016 GREENINGS CAMPAIGN

This year, we partnered with Irish communities across the region and Tourism Ireland to help turn the US southwest green to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Across the world more than 240 sites in 127 cities across 45 countries were greened. Thanks to those in our region that helped turn their buildings, bridges and cities green.

Tourism Ireland featured several of our participants in its highlight video, viewable here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQZa-2-wJq4>



*Little Rock lit up for St. Patrick's Day*

## COMMEMORATION AT THE ALAMO

On St. Patrick's Day, I joined Carlos Cascos, Texas Secretary of State, and the Harp and Shamrock Society for their 19th wreath-laying ceremony at the Alamo in San Antonio.

The ceremony honored Irish participation in Texas' battle for independence against Mexico in 1836. I also spoke about 1916 commemorations in Ireland.

# ST. PATRICK'S EVENTS AROUND THE REGION



Little Rock, Arkansas



Kansas City, Missouri



Denver, Colorado



Austin, Texas

## BAYLOR UNIVERSITY SYMPOSIUM

Historian Professor Roy Foster (author 'Vivid Faces: The Revolutionary Generation in Ireland, 1890-1923') and best-selling Irish author Sebastian Barry were the guests of honor at a Easter Rising Symposium organized by Professor Richard Russell and Baylor University on 21/22 March). The symposium generated some fascinating insights and discussion into the Rising and its continued impact on Irish society.



# IRELAND'S MACNAS AND MUSIC TAKE OVER AUSTIN

On March 12, Macnas, supported by IDA Ireland and Culture Ireland, presented “The Boy Explorer” parade along 6th Street as part of the South by Southwest festival in Austin celebrating Irish culture and creativity. The parade in downtown Austin was a massive hit and later that same week great new Irish artists performed across Austin at SXSW Music. The Irish Film Board also screened several new Irish features during SXSW Film.



*Macnas performs in downtown Austin*

## TEXAS EMERALD BALL 2016

On March 5, Ireland Funds hosted the 2016 Texas Emerald Ball in Dallas, Texas with special guest Texas Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick and Mrs Patrick.

The Emerald Ball also honored Caroline Hunt and Vivian Young for their incredible engagement with Ireland.

The successful event was organised and chaired by Rachel Gaffney Smith.



*Texas Emerald Ball 2016*

## STUDENT SUMMER CAMP

**The Global Irish Summer Camp** is a programme designed to provide an opportunity for young people of Irish descent to strengthen their links with Ireland through a short two week visit to Ireland. The pilot phase of this initiative is open to US students of Irish descent who are enrolled in

high school, are aged between 15 and 17, and who have never visited Ireland. We would be delighted for young people from Texas and the US southwest to participate in the Summer Camp. For more information please logon to: <http://www.globalirishsummercamp.com>



## NORTH TEXAS IRISH FEST

*Dallas, Texas*

The three-day North Texas Irish Festival which takes place in Dallas is the largest event of its kind across the US southwest and featured Irish groups including Altan on its 2016 line-up. This was my first NTIF and I was amazed by the incredible Irish dance, music and culture on offer. I'm definitely hoping to come back next year – I hope to see you there too! Many thanks to Mrs. Hebley for the warm welcome.



## "IS MISE ÉIRE' " - 1916 COMMEMORATION CONCERT

*Austin, Texas*

The Austin Celtic Cultural Center, supported by the Consulate, staged "Is Mise Éire: I am Ireland" on Easter Monday to commemorate the centenary 1916 Rising. The beautiful event featured Irish music, song, poetry and dance. I was delighted and honored to read the 1916 Proclamation at the concert with my Enterprise Ireland colleague Brendan Roberts.



## LORD OF THE DANCE

*Cedar Park, Texas*

Thank you to Cedar Park Mayor Matt Powell and Heather Powell for inviting me to join them to watch Michael Flatley in his farewell Lord of the Dance tour in one of the fastest-growing cities in Texas.

# NEWS FROM IRELAND

## 1916 EASTER RISING COMMEMORATIONS ACROSS IRELAND

Huge crowds lined the streets of Dublin on Sunday March 27 for the main State Ceremonial events to mark the centenary of the Easter Rising of 1916.

The day's programme included a wreath laying in Kilmainham Gaol where the 1916 leaders were executed, a reading of the Proclamation of the Republic at the General Post Office (where it was first read) and a parade through Dublin city centre involving 3,700 members of the Irish Defence Forces.

See RTE's coverage of these inspiring ceremonial events, watch the [Centenary concert](#) or review recent and [upcoming 1916 events](#).

ÉIRE  
IRELAND

1916  
2016



An Roinn Gnóthair Eachtracha agus Trádála  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

### Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad

Do you know someone who has given sustained and distinguished service in any of these areas?

- Irish Community Support
- Charitable Works
- Peace, Reconciliation & Development
- Arts, Culture & Sport
- Business & Education
- Science, Technology & Innovation

To nominate visit: [www.dfa.ie/Global-Irish](http://www.dfa.ie/Global-Irish)

### Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad

Do you know a local contact who you would like to nominate for consideration for the [Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad](#) in AR, CO, KS (and Kansas City/MO), LA, NM, OK or TX? Please contact the Consulate in Austin before 20 April with nominations.

### Irish Census 2016

Ireland's [Census 2016](#) will take place across Ireland on 24 April exactly 100 years to the day that the Easter Rising began.

### Irish economy continues to grow strongly

Ireland's GDP grew by 7.8% in 2015, making Ireland the [fastest-growing economy](#) in the EU last year (and in recent years) driven strongly by increased exports. Provisional figures indicate further year-on-year growth of Irish exports to Texas.

# UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE SOUTHWEST

<i><b>Date:</b></i>	<i><b>Location:</b></i>	<i><b>Event:</b></i>	<i><b>Information:</b></i>
April 8th	Albuquerque, NM	Lecture on the 1916 Easter Rising	<a href="#">Irish American Society</a>
April 8-10	Kansas City, MO	Irish Language and Culture Weekend	<a href="#">Irish Center KC</a>
April 9th	Houston, TX	Houston Rose of Tralee	<a href="#">Houston</a>
April 16	Kansas City, MO	Irish Whiskey Tasting	<a href="#">Irish Center KC</a>
April 16	Kansas City, MO	Easter Rising Centenary Commemoration	<a href="#">Kansas City Gaelic Athletic Club</a>
April 16	New Orleans, LA	St. Bernard Irish Italian Islenos Community Parade	<a href="#">New Orleans St. Patrick Website</a>
April 23	Austin, TX	Remember the Rising	<a href="#">AOH Austin</a>
April 23	New Orleans, LA	Centennial Commemoration of Irish Independence	<a href="#">AOH New Orleans</a>
April 24	Denver, CO	1916 Centenary Celebration	<a href="#">Mile Hibernians</a>
April 24	Albuquerque, NM	1916 Centenary Commemoration	<a href="#">Irish American Society</a>
April 24	San Antonio, TX	Irish Heritage Day and Annual Dance	<a href="#">Irish Cultural Soceity</a>
April 24	Austin, TX	1916 Documentary Film Screening	<a href="#">DFA</a>
April 28	Houston, TX	Proclaiming Rebellion: Emmet, Pearse and the Road to 1916	<a href="#">Center for Irish Studies</a>

We do our best to provide the most accurate event information possible, but we urge you to visit the websites provided above for more details, the most current updates, and any event changes that may occur. These listings are provided for informational purposes only.

# FEATURED NEWSLETTER: HARP AND SHAMROCK SOCIETY



This month's newsletter comes from the Harp and Shamrock Society of San Antonio Texas which celebrates its 50th birthday in 2016.

Please view here:

<http://harpandshamrock.org/news.php>

## **Your newsletter!**

If there are Irish events for calendar listings or other features you would like us to highlight in future newsletters or if you know others who would like to receive these newsletters [please let us know](#).

# HAVE YOU PLANNED YOUR VISIT TO IRELAND YET?

Tourism numbers from the US to Ireland continued to grow in 2015 – we look forward to welcoming more visitors from Texas and the US southwest to Ireland in 2016. Visit [Ireland.com](http://Ireland.com) for more information on the beautiful [Wild Atlantic Way](#) or the new [Ireland's Ancient East](#).

## STAY IN TOUCH WITH US

Website: [www.dfa.ie/Austin](http://www.dfa.ie/Austin)

Twitter: @IrelandCGAustin

Facebook: Embassy of Ireland USA

Newsletter: Please send any questions or comments to [Robert.Teas@dfa.ie](mailto:Robert.Teas@dfa.ie)

