

# IRELAND NEWS

Consulate of Ireland Newsletter for U.S. Southwest

## FÁILTE

Fáilte!

I am delighted to welcome you to this first edition of Ireland News – the newsletter from the Consulate General of Ireland in Austin for Texas and the U.S. southwest.

We have a great month of events ahead to mark St Patrick's Day; I personally look forward to joining Irish communities and friends of Ireland in celebrating St Patrick's Day 2016 in Denver and San Antonio.

Throughout 2016 Ireland also commemorates the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising, a seminal event on the path to independence. This newsletter includes a selection of some of the main commemorative events taking place in March; information on more events taking place across the southwest during 2016 will be included in future editions.

During December and January, I visited Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana and New Mexico (as well as several cities in Texas). I would like to thank all of the great Irish community contacts and organisations for their warm welcome and incredible support. Special congratulations to the Irish Cultural Society in Arkansas on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of its establishment, and to the Harp and Shamrock Society in San Antonio which celebrates its 50th birthday in 2016.

Please contact us via the Consulate's website ([www.dfa.ie/Austin](http://www.dfa.ie/Austin)) if you have any comments on this newsletter or have material for inclusion in future editions. Don't forget to follow the Consulate on Twitter (@IrelandCGAustin) for the most up-to-date news and information on our activities.

I very much look forward to meeting you, your friends and family at some of our upcoming events. On behalf of the Consulate team I wish you all a great March and a happy St. Patrick's Day.

Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig oraibh uile!

Adrian Farrell  
Consul General



# RECENT EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

## AUSTIN WELCOMES RIVERDANCE

On February 18, the Consulate welcomed the the cast and crew of Riverdance to Texas. Guests and talented students of Austin's Irish Dance Center and the Inishfree School of Irish Dance met with Riverdance dancers and musicians.

That evening, the Consul was joined by Mrs Cecilia Abbot, the First Lady of Texas, and Mexican Consul General Carlos Gonzalez Gutierrez and Mrs Guitierrez at the Riverdance performance at the Long Center.

More information on the Riverdance tour across the US southwest at:

<http://riverdance.com/tours/usa/>



## GAA ALL STARS VISIT AUSTIN

We had an amazing weekend of Irish hurling when Ireland's finest players visited Austin in December 2015 and we were delighted to welcome the All Stars Team at the Consulate. Huge thanks to Austin's Celtic Cowboys who organised and managed the visit.



## HARP AND SHAMROCK ANNUAL BANQUET

Congratulations to Melinda Britten who was awarded the Harp and Shamrock's Irish Person of the Year at the Society's 50th anniversary banquet.

# RECENT EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS



## ARKANSAS

In December, I paid my first visit to Little Rock, Arkansas. I met with a number of business and media contacts to discuss strengthening trade and investment links between Ireland and Arkansas. I also discussed this and other issues with Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson. I enjoyed a great meeting with Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola, and a wonderful tour of the Clinton Presidential library which contained many references to Ireland and the Northern Ireland Peace Process. An enormous thank you to Jim Doyle and members of the Irish Cultural Society of Arkansas for their warm welcome and a chance to see the city's amazing junior Irish dancers in action!



## KANSAS

I always enjoy visiting Kansas City (KC). My recent visit focused on discussing new trade initiatives with KC Mayor Sly James and the city's economic development board. I also had a great meeting with Kansas City Star editor Mark Fannin (who has strong San Antonio connections!). No visit to KC would be complete without meeting with Rory O'Connor and Pat O'Neill who outlined plans for this year's KC Irish Festival. I was also delighted to meet Kansas Governor Sam Brownback in Topeka to discuss the establishment of the new Consulate, and with the city's Mayor Larry Wolgast.



## NEW MEXICO

During my visit to New Mexico in January I was delighted to meet with Governor Susana Martinez in Santa Fe to discuss issues including the recent investment by Ireland's Glanbia in the state. I also met contacts from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque to discuss student visits to Ireland. The visit also included several trade and media meetings. A highlight of the trip was meeting the members of the New Mexico Irish American Society - thank you to Ellen Dowling for the warm welcome and a great evening!

# RECENT EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS



## 1916 LECTURE

On February 3, 2016, the Consulate hosted a lecture by Dr. P.J. Mathews, Senior Lecturer in the School of English, Drama and Film at University College Dublin. Dr Mathews discussed the cultural environment in Ireland ahead of the Easter Rising.



## LOUISIANA

Thanks to the Irish community in Louisiana and Honorary Consul Judge McKay for their engagement (some plans for great initiatives in train!) and support during visits to Baton Rouge and New Orleans in January. I also enjoyed meeting newly inaugurated Governor John Bel Edwards and New Orleans Mayor Landrieu and local business contacts.



## BUSINESS BREAKFAST

The Consulate co-hosted its first Business Networking Breakfast on Friday, 4 March with Ireland House partners IDA and Enterprise Ireland. Mayor Steve Adler joined guests at this event aimed at further strengthening record level Irish-Texas trade.

# SELECTED ST. PATRICK'S DAY & MARCH EVENTS IN THE SOUTHWEST

Great St. Patrick's events are taking place across the US southwest. The list below is a brief sample of some of the events taking place. Enjoy St. Patrick's Day and Lá Fhéile sona daoibh!

<b><i>Date:</i></b>	<b><i>Location:</i></b>	<b><i>Event:</i></b>	<b><i>Further Information:</i></b>
March 12	Little Rock, AR	17th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade	<a href="http://irisharkansas.org/parade">irisharkansas.org/parade</a>
March 12	Denver, CO	Denver St. Patrick's Day Parade	<a href="http://denverstpatricksdaysparade.com">denverstpatricksdaysparade.com</a>
March 13	Albuquerque, NM	St. Patrick's Potluck Party	<a href="http://irishamericansociety-nm.com">irishamericansociety-nm.com</a>
March 11-20	Austin, TX	Ireland Rules at SXSW	<a href="http://www.dfa.ie/austin">www.dfa.ie/austin</a>
March 17	Austin, TX	St. Patrick's Day Austin	<a href="http://stpatricksdayaustin.com">stpatricksdayaustin.com</a>
March 17	Kansas City, MO	St. Patrick's Day Parade	<a href="http://kcirishparade.com/">kcirishparade.com/</a>
March 17	New Orleans, LA	St. Patrick's Day Parade	<a href="http://stpatricksdayneworleans.com">stpatricksdayneworleans.com</a>
March 19	San Antonio, TX	Harp & Shamrock Irish Festival	<a href="http://harpandshamrock.org/">harpandshamrock.org/</a>
March 19	Dallas, TX	Dallas St. Patrick's Parade and Festival	<a href="http://dallasstpatricksparade.com">dallasstpatricksparade.com</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.

# SAN ANTONIO HARP & SHAMROCK SOCIETY CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The San Antonio Harp and Shamrock Society celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2016. Thanks to the hard work and dedication its many members over the past five decades, the Society has grown to become the largest Irish organization in Texas.



The Harp and Shamrock is planning a series of events throughout the year to mark its half century, including its annual St. Patrick's Day ceremony at the Alamo and its great St Patrick's festival on 19 March. For more information on these events and the Society, log on to:

<http://www.harbandshamrock.org>

## FEATURED NEWSLETTER



Each month, we would like to highlight a newsletter from one of the many great Irish American Societies here in the U.S. southwest.

This month, we've chosen to feature the newsletter from the Irish-American Society of New Mexico.

[Irish-American Society of New Mexico Newsletter](#)

*The Consul general and the Irish-American Society of New Mexico*

# 1916 COMMEMORATION EVENTS

## ***March 12, Austin, Texas***

Macnas presents “The Boy Explorer,”; the event will take place outdoors along 6th Street as a part of South by Southwest (Supported by IDA Ireland and Culture Ireland).

## ***March 21-22, Waco, Texas***

Writer Sebastian Barry and historian Professor Roy Foster will participate in an Easter Rising Centenary Symposium at Baylor University.

## ***March 28, Austin, Texas***

Is mise Eire: I am Ireland is coming to St. Mary’s Cathedral for a celebration of 100 years of Irish independence with music, dance and spoken word.

## ***April***

The Consulate will screen the Notre Dame documentary, *1916: The Irish Rebellion*. Screenings are also being planned San Antonio, Denver, New Orleans, Santa Fe and Kansas City.



*Macnas will be performing on 6th Street in Austin On March 12th*

## 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

