

Happy New Year!



It was a very busy end of 2014 and as we start the new year, we will take this opportunity to update you on some of the activities of the Embassy since our last newsletter.

2015 promises to be a special year as we celebrate 40 years of diplomatic relations between Ireland and Mexico. A special programme of cultural events is being organised in Mexico and in Dublin to mark the occasion.

I hope that many of you can join us at the various events being planned this year.

In the meantime, on behalf of the team in the Embassy, let me wish you a very happy new year.

Athbhliain faoi mhaise.



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EMBASSY OF IRELAND NEWSLETTER

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This year marks 40 of Diplomatic relations between Ireland and Mexico with diplomatic relations being established on 21 August 1975. During the visit to Mexico by President Higgins in October 2013, it was agreed that this anniversary would be celebrated with special programmes of events to take place in both countries. Saint Patrick's Day will be celebrated with a special performance by "The Gloaming" at the Teatro de la Ciudad Esperanza Iris on 19 March.

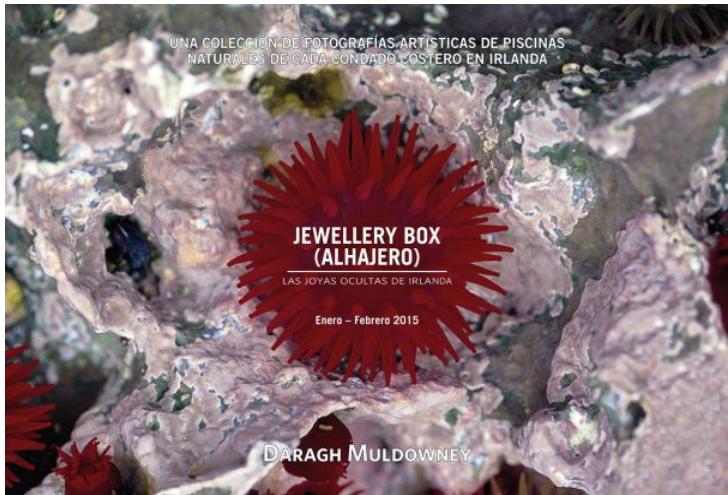


Further details will be posted on the Embassy's web page www.embassyofireland.com.mx and follow us on Twitter for updates @IrishEmbMexico



Celebrating 40 Years of Diplomatic Relations between Ireland and Mexico:
The Programme

There is an exciting programme of events to take place in Mexico including a photograph exhibition by the Irish photographer Daragh Muldowney that can already be seen at Chapultepec Park (see below).



The programme of events in Mexico will include:

- An exhibition of 'Jewellery Box' by the Irish photographer Daragh Muldowney which has already opened at Chapultepec Park (in front of the Altar de la Patria)
- An academic and cultural colloquium marking the 400th anniversary of the birth of William Lampart / Guillén de Lombardo, the Irish-born author of the first proclamation of independence in the New Spain (24-25 February)
- The Second International Celtic Music Festival in Puerto Vallarta (6-7 March)
- A Gala Premiere of the Irish film 'Price of Desire' at the Guadalajara International Film Festival (8 March);
- A season of Irish Film at the Cineteca Nacional, the Mexican National Film Institute (opening 12 March);
- Iconic Mexican monuments and buildings to be illuminated in green as part of the Global Greening project. (17 March);
- A Performance by Irish traditional music group "The Gloaming" at the Teatro de la Ciudad Esperanza Iris (19 March);
- Irish jazz group, the Tommy Halferty Trio, to perform as part of the Eurojazz festival (22 March)
- A retrospective exhibition on the work of Irish-Mexican artist, Phil Kelly (April)
- Participation of Irish authors and artists at the Feria Internacional del Libro de Guadalajara (November/December)

Cultural Programme – Our Partners

The Embassy is deeply appreciative of the support of its many partners and sponsors in Mexico and Ireland, including

- ♣ Culture Ireland
- ♣ Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland
- ♣ Government of the City of Mexico
- ♣ Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores, México
- ♣ CONACULTA
- ♣ Abbeyfield Group
- ♣ Diageo
- ♣ H&K
- ♣ H24
- ♣ Irelandia Aviation/VivaAerobus
- ♣ Irish Dairy Board
- ♣ Pertek-Erler
- ♣ Quiptech
- ♣ Randox



Mexico Round Up

Trade Mission to Mexico



Enterprise Ireland led a market study visit to DF by 9 Irish companies in the telecoms and financial services. The successful visit included high level meetings with Mexican companies, as well as a Business Breakfast attended by 100 people.

PBI First Anniversary

Deputy Head of Mission, David Costello along with representatives from the German, Norwegian, Swedish and Swiss Embassies met with human rights NGOs working in the North of Mexico in November, as part of an event marking the first anniversary of the opening of the PBI North office in Chihuahua. PBI is supported by Irish Aid and works with human rights defenders and civil society organisations all over Mexico. A number of Irish citizens work with PBI in Mexico

Amputee Football World Cup



Deputy Head of Mission, David Costello hosted a reception for the Irish Amputee Football Team who acquitted themselves with distinction in the recent world cup held in Sonora.

Jewellery Box: an exhibition by Daragh Muldowney at Parque de Chapultepec



For the coming month an exquisite collection of images from the rock-pools of Ireland can be found at Chapultepec Park. Nature photographer Daragh Muldowney travelled to all 17 coastal counties of Ireland to find hidden treasures. Describing his work, Muldowney says “I see the ocean as a veil and at low tide this veil is lifted to allow us a chance to have peep at this fantastic microcosmic world. The beauty within these rock pools is like a jewelery box filled with gems and treasures in the shape of periwinkles, anemone, urchins, barnacles, starfish and seaweeds of all types.

Over one million people will view the exhibition over the coming month. You can find these beautiful images on the Calzada Juventud Heroica which links the Puerta de las Leones to the Altar de la Patria. For more of Daragh’s work visit <http://dulraphotography.com/>

Celtic Horizons



The Ambassador witnessed the signing of a partnership agreement between Armando Bojórquez, Patron of Viajes Bojórquez and David Buckley, CEO of Celtic Horizons (pictured above). The new agreement signed in October will market package tours for Mexicans travelling to Ireland commencing in 2015. A reception was held in the Ambassador’s residence to mark the occasion. The Deputy Head of Mission also spoke at the Cancun launch of the partnership. We look forward to seeing strong growth in Mexican tourism to Ireland

Transferencias

In November, Deputy Head of Mission, David Costello opened a photography exhibition “Transferencias” by Elaine Byrne and Oweena Fogarty at UAM Azcapotzalco.

Gay McKeown

Uileann piper Gay McKeown played some impromptu concerts while in Mexico delivering master classes to aspiring Mexican uileann pipers. Gay combined his visit with a trip to Cuba to also deliver master classes.

Human Rights Day



Ambassador Hyland was a keynote speaker at an event in Mexico city on 10 December to mark International Human Rights Day. The event also marked the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders, which were agreed under the Irish Presidency of the EU in 2004.

The Ambassador's speech can be seen on the Embassy's new YouTube page.
<http://youtu.be/M8-yS50U5OU>

Beckett in DF & Guanajuato

A series of events commemorating the life and work of Samuel Beckett took place in DF and Guanajuato in November. In Mexico City, Drs. Nicholas Grene, Mario Murgia and Julie Bates gave an insightful introduction to his works of both drama and prose whilst Denis Rafter gave a stunning dramatic reading of Beckett's work. This was followed by a 3-day seminar at the University of Guanajuato marking the 25th anniversary of his death.

Guadalajara Feria Internacional de los Libros

Irish writer Hugo Hamilton featured at the Guadalajara FIL this year, speaking about his autobiographical work to a packed audience. While in Guadalajara, the Ambassador and Deputy Head of Mission met with the Secretary for Innovation, Science and Technology of the State of Jalisco, Jaime Reyes Robles, to discuss cooperation between Ireland and Jalisco in science, technology and innovation.

Outside Mexico

The Embassy in Mexico City also represents Ireland in Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Peru and Venezuela and works to develop the political and economic relationship between the Government and people of Ireland and each of these countries. Here is a quick summary of our key activities in these countries at the end of 2014

Colombia - Funding for OHCHR

Ambassador Hyland visited Colombia in November during which she announced a funding agreement with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to support the work on human rights in Colombia.

In total, Ireland is committing \$280,000 to OHCHR's work in Nariño in southern Colombia. In a joint press conference, the Ambassador emphasised that support for human rights is a fundamental part of Ireland's foreign policy and noted that Ireland's own experience of conflict has created a “strong commitment” to assisting other countries on conflict resolution.

Peru



Ireland's Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Alex White, was in Peru in December, representing Ireland at the COP20 Climate Change negotiations. Whilst in Lima, Minister White was also able to announce an award of over 21,000 soles from Ireland's Emigrant Support Programme to the Irish-Peruvian Chamber of Commerce. This funding will assist the Chamber to build a new web-based knowledge sharing platform. The platform is designed to assist Irish companies interested in entering the Peruvian market.

Cuba

There was a warm welcome for Irish music in Havana. Consul Barry Tumelty visited Cuba in November where there were packed crowds in the Fabrica de Arte and the Teatro Miramar in Havana as Cuba embraced the music of Mick Moloney and Athena Tergis, Niall O'Leary, Bill McComiskey and Leni Sloan. Their visit caught the imagination of both the Cuban media and public, as well as the growing number of Cuban uileann pipers.