



Ard-Chonsalacht na hÉireann | Caerdydd  
Consulate General of Ireland | Cardiff  
Swyddfa Conswl Cyffredinol Iwerddon

Hello, and welcome to the first newsletter from of Consulate General of Ireland of 2021. Last year was a challenging year for everyone, but we are moving forward full of hope and expectations for a better year ahead!

We will still be hosting a range of events and production as the situation allows, and we encourage everyone to watch out for any upcoming announcements via our [Website](#), as well as on our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) channels.

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## St Brigid's Day 2021



LÁ FHÉILE BRÍDE  
Ag Ceiliúradh Cruthaitheachta na mBan

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ST BRIGID'S DAY  
Celebrating the Creativity of Women

Sadly due to current restrictions we are unable to host an event to mark St Brigid's Day this year. However, we will be releasing a host of material online that showcases and celebrates the creativity of women, and marks the beginning of a year full of hope and promise. We will be sharing music, poetry and literature from home and abroad across all our social media channels from the 1st of February.

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## May McCarthy Festival of Piping 2020



**MAY MCCARTHY  
FESTIVAL OF PIPING**  
*Celebrating her 1910 tour of South Wales*

Rita Farrell  
Sheila Friel  
Louise Mulcahy  
Debbie Quigley  
Sorcha Ní Scolaí

Streamed online  
12th December  
6-730PM GMT



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NA PÍOB AIRÍ  
UILLEANN  
Sharing the Sound of Ireland



The Consulate was proud to support South Wales Pipers in their piping concert that took place on December 12th.

The concert paid homage to the famous early 20<sup>th</sup> Century teenage piper May McCarthy of Cork. At 13 years old, she won first prize at the Munster Feis and successfully competed with the men on the Warpipes. In December 1910 the National Gaelic League of Great Britain invited her to play a series of concerts across South Wales, which at the time had a very active Irish community across the towns of Cardiff, Swansea, Barry and Merthyr Tydfil. The South Wales Pipers concert in December marked the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that famous tour of South Wales.

5 pipers from around the world came together to play the original songs that were played all those years ago, a result of some fantastic academic work from Dr Rick Lines, and produced a truly spectacular evening.

You can watch the concert back on the Piper's [Youtube](#) channel, and look out any further developments on their [Twitter](#) page.

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## Launch of Diaspora Strategy 2025



The Government has approved a new Diaspora Strategy for the period 2020-2025. The Strategy sets out what the Government will do over the next five years to support and engage with our diaspora communities around the world. It takes a broad and inclusive definition of the diaspora, reflecting the diversity of the global Irish community today. The Strategy also reflects the priorities in the Programme for Government, in particular, the commitments

- to ensure that the most vulnerable of our overseas communities are supported;
- to hold a referendum to extend the right to vote in Presidential elections to Irish citizens, wherever they live;
- to seek pathways to legal migration to the US and solutions for undocumented Irish citizens;
- to promote opportunities by the next generation of the Diaspora to work and study in Ireland;
- to address barriers facing emigrants who are returning home.

Welcoming the publication of the new Strategy, the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, T.D., said *“I am very pleased to launch Ireland’s new strategy for the Diaspora, central to which is a deep appreciation of the profound importance of connection. For many, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has placed a renewed emphasis on their relationship and links to Ireland. “There are around 70 million people around the world who are Irish-born or of Irish descent and this Strategy celebrates these people, and all who have a special affinity with Ireland. It cherishes their diversity, champions our connections with each other and seeks to give our diaspora a strengthened voice within Irish life, while also setting out the many ways this Government will work to support the Irish abroad.”*

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence, Simon Coveney, T.D., welcomed the new Strategy, *“the commitment by the Government to holding a referendum to extending voting rights in Presidential elections to our citizens outside the State provides a real opportunity to engage all citizens around the world in our democracy. It underlines the importance attached by the Government to making the Presidency an office which truly represents all the citizens of Ireland.”*

Minister of State for the Diaspora, Colm Brophy, T.D., said *“Our first priority always will be the welfare of our people abroad. Irish community-based organisations play a vital role in helping vulnerable Irish emigrants and we will continue to support their work through the Emigrant Support Programme. Just as Ireland is changing, so too is the experience of emigration. Young people will still go abroad but, when they want to come home, we want to make that an easy process. Ireland is today a more diverse and multicultural country and so too is our diaspora. This is something we value and will celebrate.”*

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## **Mary Sullivan and The Newtown Association**



We were very saddened to learn of the passing of Mary Sullivan on the 9th of November. Mary was Chair and Co-founder of the Newtown Association, an organisation set up in 1996 to record the history of the Newtown community and to keep its memory alive. She was also instrumental in the creation of the Newtown Memorial Garden on Tyndall Street, where many of her friends gathered to pay their last respects and to commemorate her achievements.