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Consulate General of Ireland for the North of England

December 2022

A WORD FROM CONSUL GENERAL SARAH MANGAN

A chairde,

Welcome to the fourth newsletter from the Consulate General of Ireland. It has been an eventful few months since our last newsletter in July, with lots of positive developments as we saw a great deal of activity for the Irish in the North of England, including on the sporting field with the Rugby League World Cup, and on the culture front – check out our story below on Culture Ireland’s activities in the region.

However, the autumn started on a sombre note. In September we joined with our British friends to mark the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. Ireland was represented at the Queen’s funeral in Westminster by President Michael D. Higgins and Taoiseach Micheál Martin. It was a time to reflect on the Queen’s contribution to relations between our islands. As President Higgins said in [his statement on the death of the Queen](#), “we remember the role Queen Elizabeth played in celebrating the warm and enduring friendship, and her great impact on the bonds of mutual understanding, between our two peoples.”

The last few months have been busy ones. As trailed in our last newsletter, on 30 September the Consulate General convened a special gathering of Irish community and cultural organisations from across the North of England, which we entitled ‘Community, Connectedness and Sustainability’. We were joined at the Irish World Heritage Centre in Manchester by over 100 representatives who contributed to thoughtful discussions on a range of topics. We finished the day with a positive sense of the vibrancy of the Irish community in this part of the world.

Official relations between Ireland and the North of England were further boosted by a number of visits in recent months. In October, Colm Brophy T.D. Minister of State for Overseas Development and Diaspora, visited Liverpool where he met with many in the Irish community and attended the Liverpool Irish Festival. While we had the first ever Irish naval visit to Newcastle with the L.É. William Butler Yeats docking in Tyneside. We had a real highlight to close out the year with the visit by An Taoiseach Micheál Martin in November. The Taoiseach was in the North of England to attend the British Irish

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There have also been some changes to our Consulate team. We welcomed Alish Underhill as our new Executive Assistant and Public Diplomacy officer. Alish hails originally from Tipperary but has been settled in St Helen's for a number of years. Sadly we are losing Dean Cavanagh, who finishes with us this week as he moves to Blackpool for family reasons. Dean was the Consulate's first locally engaged employee and has made a significant contribution to establishing the Consulate. We hope to have a replacement for Dean in place in the New Year. We also welcomed a new Ambassador in London. Ambassador Martin Fraser has already been on the road and made visits to Liverpool, Leeds and Manchester since his appointment – see more details below.

This month we are delighted to see the return of [To Be Irish...At Christmas](#). It is fast becoming the go-to website to find out everything that is happening in Ireland and in the overseas Irish community. If you are heading home over the Christmas period, be sure to check out the events taking place in Ireland, and if you are staying put, there are plenty of online events you can participate in from Christmas crafts and cookie making to Christmas concerts.

As ever, we would welcome your feedback regarding the newsletter. If you have any ideas or suggestions please get in touch through our email address ManchesterCGExternalMail@dfa.ie.

On behalf of myself, Vice Consul Carina, and the team at the Consulate General, I wish you a very happy Christmas and best wishes for the year ahead.

Nollaig shona dhaoibh go léir!

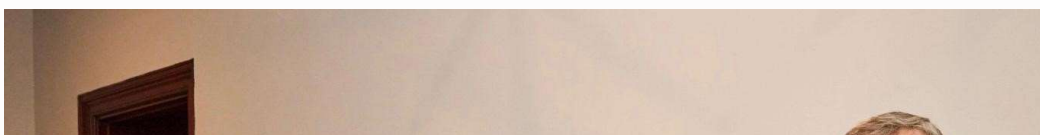
Sarah Mangan
Consul General



Visit by An Taoiseach

We had a real highlight to close out the year with the visit by An Taoiseach Micheál Martin in November.

The Taoiseach was in the North of England to attend the British Irish Council meeting in Blackpool, but made time in his schedule to meet with Irish community representatives from across the North of England at an event organised by the Consulate in Manchester.





New Ambassador

Martin Fraser took up post as Ambassador of Ireland to the United Kingdom in August, and was up to the North of England very soon after.



In September he visited Liverpool, where he met with the Institute of Irish Studies and visited the Liverpool Irish Centre.





He was in Manchester on 30 September where he addressed the Conference of Irish Community Organisations, and was back again in October for a meeting with Mayor Andy Burnham and Leader of Manchester City Council Cllr Bev Craig.



And he visited Leeds in October, including the Tuesday lunch club at Leeds Irish Centre and Leeds Irish Health and Homes.

Conference of Irish Communities

The inaugural Conference of Community Organisations for the North of England took place in September in the Irish World Heritage Centre in Manchester.

The Conference was the first of its kind to take place in the region and aimed to support, energise and connect groups with each other and with the newly established Consulate General to deepen the relationship on the ground.

The day allowed for the acknowledgement of the contribution made by organisations in supporting the Irish community abroad during the COVID crisis and in furthering the

promotion of Irish culture and values across the north of England.

We would like to thank all of our moderators, panellists and all those who attended on the day to make the event such a great success.





Rugby League World Cup

The Men's Irish Rugby League team – the Irish Wolfhounds – arrived in the North of England for the Rugby League World Cup tournament in the autumn.





After a stunning victory against Jamaica in their first game of the tournament at Headingley Stadium, they faced some tough opposition from Lebanon and New Zealand and sadly didn't progress to the next round. However their time in the North of England was memorable and they were made to feel very welcome at their home base in Leeds.



Visit of Minister of State Colm Brophy to Liverpool



In October we welcomed Minister of State for Overseas Development Aid and Diaspora, Colm Brophy T.D. to Liverpool. The Minister had a number of engagements around the Liverpool Irish Festival and at Institute of Irish Studies. Minister Brophy also met with Steve Rotherham, Mayor of Liverpool City Region, who visited Dublin with Mayor Andy Burnham at the end of March.



The Minister's programme ends with a visit to the Liverpool Irish Centre and a meeting with Irish community leaders.

Naval Visit in Newcastle

Irish Naval Service vessel LÉ William Butler Yeats was docked at Spiller's Wharf, in October with members of the public allowed on board.

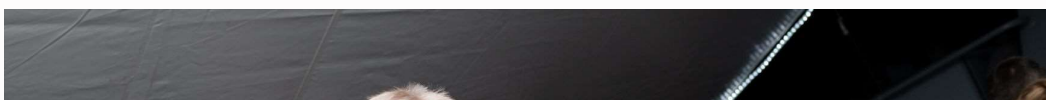
The ship, constructed at Appledore Shipyards in Devon, and crew, under the Captaincy of Lieutenant Commander Paul Hegarty, are usually patrolling the high seas.

However, the docked in Tyneside to host a range of events in collaboration with the Consulate General of Ireland, and as part of the Tyneside Irish Festival.

The visit celebrated the strong Ireland – North of England relationship and in particular the recent establishment of the Consulate General of Ireland for the North of England.

It was a rare opportunity to visit an Irish navy vessel, meet the crew, and learn about the Irish Defence Forces and their experiences of seafaring.







Remembering the Irish who served in World War 1

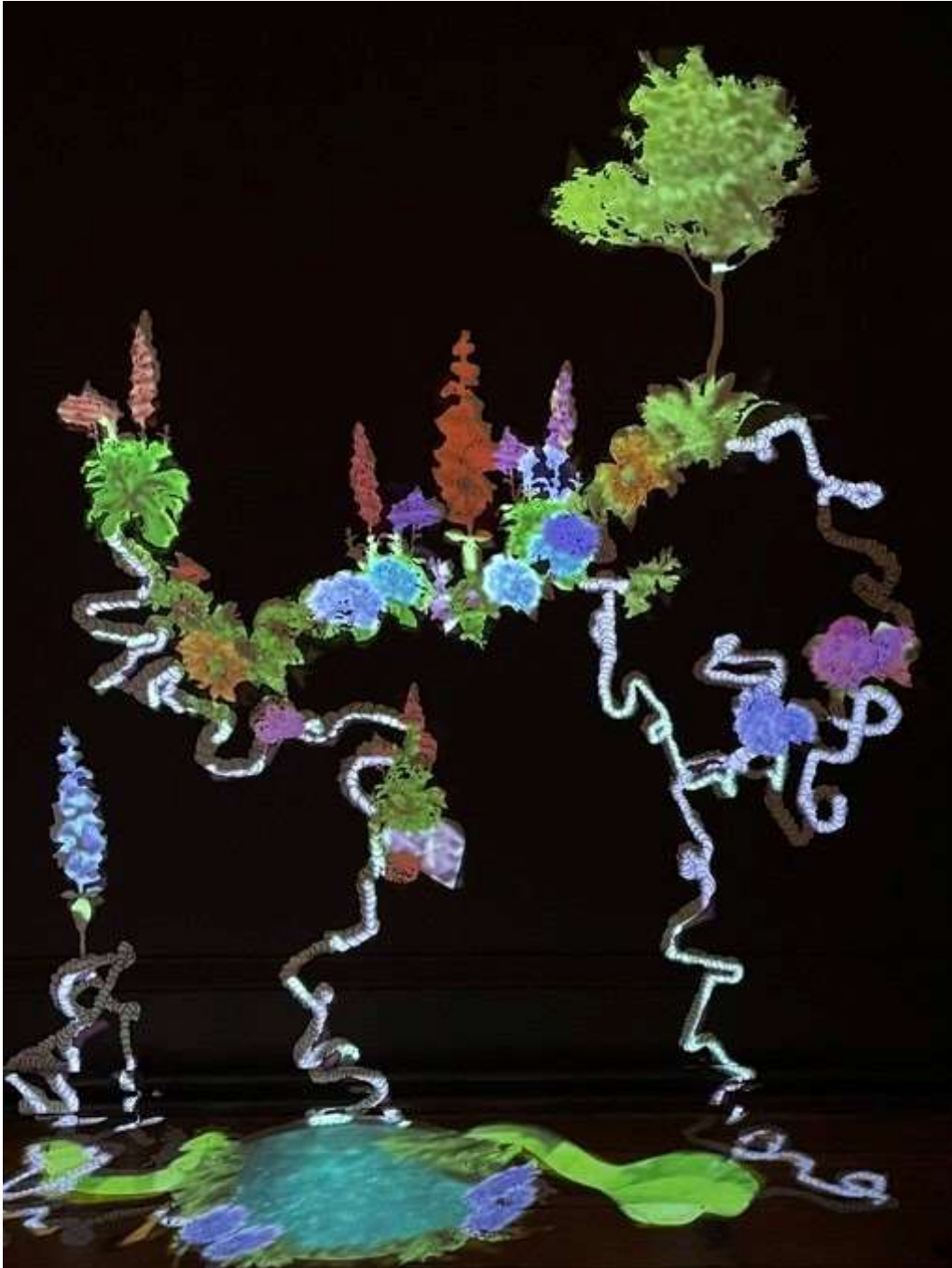
Consul General Mangan participated in two events commemorating the contribution of men and women from the island of Ireland in the First World War. As part of the consular corps in Manchester, she attended the annual Remembrance Sunday service at the Manchester cenotaph.



On 2 September, CG Mangan was honoured to lay a laurel wreath at the grave rededication service in Southern Cemetery for Nurse Hilda Peare, where Cllr Dave Rawson recalled her contribution to the war effort. Nurse Hilda Florence Letitia Peare was born in Co. Wexford in 1894. In 1915 after the outbreak of the First World War she joined the Dublin Detachment of the Voluntary Aid Detachment Unit (V.A.D). Like many

before her, and tens of thousands since, she travelled from Ireland to England to work as a nurse, joining the war effort with many of her countrymen and women. As a nurse in the V.A.D she worked at 2nd Western General Hospital in Manchester. Whilst nursing the sick and wounded of the armed forces she contracted Scarlet fever and sadly died on March 13, 1917, aged 23 years. Hilda was buried at Manchester Southern Cemetery with full Military honours, a gun carriage and firing party being supplied by the Commanding Officer of the Heaton Park Depot. Nurse Hilda Florence Letitia Peare is commemorated as a Commonwealth War Graves Commission casualty and recently received a CWGC Headstone at her place of burial.

Cultural Ireland events



Culture Ireland, the organisation that promote Irish arts worldwide, has been very active in the North of England in recent months. In October, Culture Ireland supported an exhibition by Irish artist Aideen Barry at [The Whitaker Museum & Art Gallery](#) in Rossendale. The Whitaker has another Irish connection with its collection including exhibits on Irish patriot Michael Davitt who grew up in nearby Haslingden.



Culture Ireland also ran a showcase of Irish musicians as part of the [English Folk Expo](#) in Manchester in October. You can check out snippets of performances by [Clare Sands](#), the [Daoirí Farrell Trio](#), [Dani Larkin](#), and [Moxie](#) on our Twitter feed.



In November Culture Ireland representatives were back in the North of England to announce a three year partnership with [Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival](#), which will see a special focus on Ireland, providing a high profile platform for Irish contemporary musicians to reach new audiences.

To be Irish at Christmas



We are delighted to see To Be Irish at Christmas is back again for 2022. To Be Irish at Christmas is a central website portal to help promote Irish culture this Christmas, it includes a roundup of some of the thousands of Christmas themed events taking place. More information found here <https://tobeirish.ie/>

This year everyone who calls Ireland home, especially those who will be returning home for the holidays, are invited to...

[BACK HOME - A CHRISTMAS CONCERT](#)

Where In person & Live-Streamed from EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum

When Wednesday 21 December @ 20:00

Event Link: <https://bit.ly/BackHomeXMasConcert>

To Be Irish presents Back Home, a special in-person and live streamed concert for everyone who calls Ireland home. Whether you've moved back from abroad, are home for the holidays, or are newly settled in the Emerald Isle, we welcome you with open arms as we celebrate the season.

Community News and Events

Irish Community Care - Allotment Project



IRISH COMMUNITY CARE CÚRAM POBAIL ÉIREANNACH MANCHESTER

Irish Community Care has been running an allotment project in Levenshulme since 2015. The aim of the project is to offer a place where people can get fresh air and exercise in the middle of the city, to reduce social isolation and positively impact on people's mental health.

The Allotment is open to younger volunteers on a Monday afternoon from 2pm and to an over 50's client group on Friday afternoon, where they can sit chat while enjoying tea and cake. From the next spring we will also be utilising the site as a therapeutic space where people can engage with Information and Advice or Advocacy and Support team.

The facilities on the allotment include a tool shed, poly tunnel, and ample space to grow fruit and vegetables.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact our office on 07305065802 for further information.

Website - [Our Allotment | ICC Manchester \(irishcommunitycare.com\)](http://Our Allotment | ICC Manchester (irishcommunitycare.com))

Location - Plot 39, Tonbridge Road Allotments, Tonbridge Road, Manchester M19 2TP

Dates - Monday to Friday



Leeds Irish Health and Homes - Christmas Lunch

Leeds Irish Health and Homes will be celebrating their annual Christmas party on Monday the 12th of December.

Indulge in a tasty three course meal, music from Leeds Comhaltas, a resident D.J, Carols from local school children, bingo, raffle, and Irish dancing.

We will also be honoured to have some special guests with us
Consul General Sarah Managan, Lord Mayor Cllr Getting's, and Mayoress of Leeds will be joining us along with some others special guests.

Our festive gathering brings our community together for companionship and to enjoy the holidays, as Christmas can be a difficult time for many. Loneliness and isolation being a primary factor as many people may have experienced a loss through a bereavement, suffered with a physical or mental health issues, or are generally on their own over the holidays and that's why we try and make our Christmas lunch as special a day as possible. Bringing the Christmas spirit to all whilst culturally connecting everyone into community...

If you would like to attend or find our more information, please contact our office on 0113 2625614...

Location -
St Chad's Parish Hall
Otley Road,
Far Headingley
Leeds
LS16 5JT

Date - 12th of December (12.30-3.30PM)

Leeds Irish Health and Homes - Digital Health Homes

Community organisations have come together with 100% Digital Leeds to develop a local network of digital health hubs in relation to getting online to improve health and wellbeing.

Leeds Irish Health and Homes is passionate about getting people digital and will offer a digital health hub that will meet every few weeks at the office of Leeds Irish Health and Homes. The group will be facilitated by Anne Pearce our Digital Inclusion Officer.

The hub will be open to all and will give people the opportunity to reach local people in their community, explore Apps such as Memory Lane, COP'D apps, support people to access appropriate healthcare and improve their digital skills and learn more about what digital support is out there whilst building good networks and further digital opportunities and support.

If anyone would be interested in getting involved with a digital health hub, please get in touch, and call 01132625614

Location-
Leeds Irish Health and Homes,
Rouse House,

2, Wyther Lane,
Leeds
LS5 3BT

Date - 25th of January 2023

Fianna Phadraig Pipe Band around the fire Christmas Trad Session

Fianna Phadraig Pipe Band
Fianna Phadraig Pipe Band around the fire Christmas Trad Session

Location
St Kent's Irish Club Manchester

Date
Friday 16 December, 8pm

The Award winning Fianna Phadraig Pipe band are bringing a very busy year to an end by organising a free family friendly Trad session at St Kent's. Visitors will be invited to bring their own instruments, voice or dancing shoes to participate in this traditional Irish session or just to come along to enjoy the craic.

For more information visit the Fianna Phadraig Pipe band facebook page or their website <http://www.fiannaphadraigpipeband.org/>



Irish language Scholarship for those from Britain

Irish Language group Conradh na Gaeilge Learpholl has announced a scholarship in memory of their late teacher, Tony Birtill, open to anyone in Britain to attend an

in memory of their late teacher, Tony Birtill, open to anyone in Britain to attend an immersive Irish Language course in Donegal next summer.

"Conradh na Gaeilge Learpholl, The Institute of Irish Studies (University of Liverpool) and **Oideas Gael** are additionally pleased to announced a new scholarship. The award covers the cost of an intensive adult Irish Language and cultural activity course at **Oideas Gael** (Glencolumcille, County Donegal), where Tony spent his summers teaching Irish and leading mountaineering walks in the local hills. The scholarship makes additional contributions to travel and accommodation costs.

Available to anyone resident in England, Scotland or Wales, applicants must demonstrate

- a keen interest in learning the Irish Language at any level of ability
- a commitment to the Irish speaking community in Britain

To apply, applicants will email no more than 500 words, in English or Irish, answering the following questions:

1. What does the Irish Language mean to you?
2. How would this scholarship help you in the pursuit of learning the language?
3. How do you intend to contribute to the Irish speaking community in Britain when you return from your course?

Answers should be emailed to learphollcnag@mail.com before Fri 31Mar 2023, for scholarship to the summer 2023 course.

Decisions will be made and communicated in April 2023, by a panel of members from **The Institute of Irish Studies** and **Conradh na Gaeilge Learpholl**. The panel will take into consideration reducing cost barriers for those otherwise unable to attend; geographical bias in award giving and impact of the Irish speaking community in Britain."

Please share with your members, and anyone you think may be interested.

Info available here:

<https://www.liverpoolirishfestival.com/tony-birtill-a-memorial/>

Irish Language Classes

Comhaltas in Britain and Conradh na Gaeilge Glasgow/Liverpool have put together a list of all current Irish Language classes across Britain, happening both online and face to face.

This should be up soon on www.comhaltas.co.uk/resources

Bolton Irish Community Association Social Club Limited

Elders Culture and Luncheon Club

Every Friday 1pm

Bolton Irish Centre, 93-95 Lever St Bolton BL3 2AB

www.boltonirish.co.uk

An opportunity for Elderly Irish (Including 2nd Generation) to meet in a friendly, warm environment and enjoy a free hot meal. Bingo and raffle also take place

LIVERPOOL IRISH CENTRE & SLÁINTE LE CHÉILE WHAT'S ON

MONDAY

10.30AM WALK N TALK/MONTHLY LITTERPICK
6.30PM MINDFULNESS
6.30PM COMHALTAS IRISH MUSIC CLASS (YOUNG PEOPLE)

TUESDAY

11AM CUIMHNE: 2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
11AM COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING: LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
1PM SEQUENCE DANCING
6.30PM LIVERPOOL IRISH ROVERS: MEET AT LIC & PROM L3 4AZ

WEDNESDAY

12PM LUNCH CLUB
2.30PM WEIGH 2 WELLBEING
6PM YOGA
8PM LIVERPOOL IRISH FLUTE BAND
8PM LOWLANDS ADULT TRAD FIDDLE GROUP
8.30PM LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH - SUPPER CEILI

THURSDAY

10AM MUM & BABY EXERCISE GROUP
1PM TEA, CHAT AND BINGO OR TEA DANCE
5.30PM THURSDAY THOUGHTS
6.30PM CNAG IRISH LANGUAGE
6.30PM BOLGER CUNNINGHAM IRISH DANCING

SATURDAY

9AM LIVERPOOL IRISH ROVERS: PARKRUN AT CROXTETH PARK & PRINCES PARK
10AM BOLGER CUNNINGHAM IRISH DANCING

CONTACT CLODAGH/MAUREEN: 0151 263 1808
CLODAGH@LIVERPOOLIRISHCENTRE.ORG

WWW.LIVERPOOLIRISHCENTRE.ORG

National Irish Studies Conference

A well received Annual event as part of Manchester Irish Festival 2023.

Presented by Manchester Irish Education Group (MIEG).

Dates - Saturday 11th March 2023 Time 9am to 4pm

An informal opportunity to meet with academics, historians, members of group and others in wider diaspora.

Keynote speakers include :

Clare Downham – Relations between Ireland and England in Medieval Ireland

Gerry Molumby – Are You Right There Percy: Who was Percy French?

Frances Cavanagh – on John Cassidy; An Irish Sculptor

One other speaker to be announced.

Refreshments and lunch included in price.

Location -

Irish World Heritage Centre, Manchester

1 Irish Town Way, Cheetham Hill. Manchester M8 0AE

0161 697 4015

Email enquiries to: ManIrishEdGroup@gmail.com

Ticket enquiries to: <https://manirishedgroup.org.uk/>

OR Ring Bridie on 07703726169 for further details



MANCHESTER IRISH EDUCATION GROUP

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Sky 191

Watch the broadcast on Thursdays at 7:30pm

Repeated Tuesday at 1pm

www.theirishintheuktv.com

Keeping the Irish Community Connected in the UK and all around the world

The purpose of the show is to highlight the Irish Community in the UK and the incredible success of so many Irish people who have made their home here.

Since the show was first launched in May 2017, we have travelled all around the UK promoting business, culture, tourism, sport and all kinds of entertainment.

The TV Show promotes Irish dancing, music, song, sport and a good story. Whether it's from up and coming young talent living in the UK or those with strong connections to Ireland.

If you would like us to promote your business, we would be delighted to hear from you. Martin Logan on 07808573142 or email martinloganmanchester@gmail.com

**The Irish
in the UK**

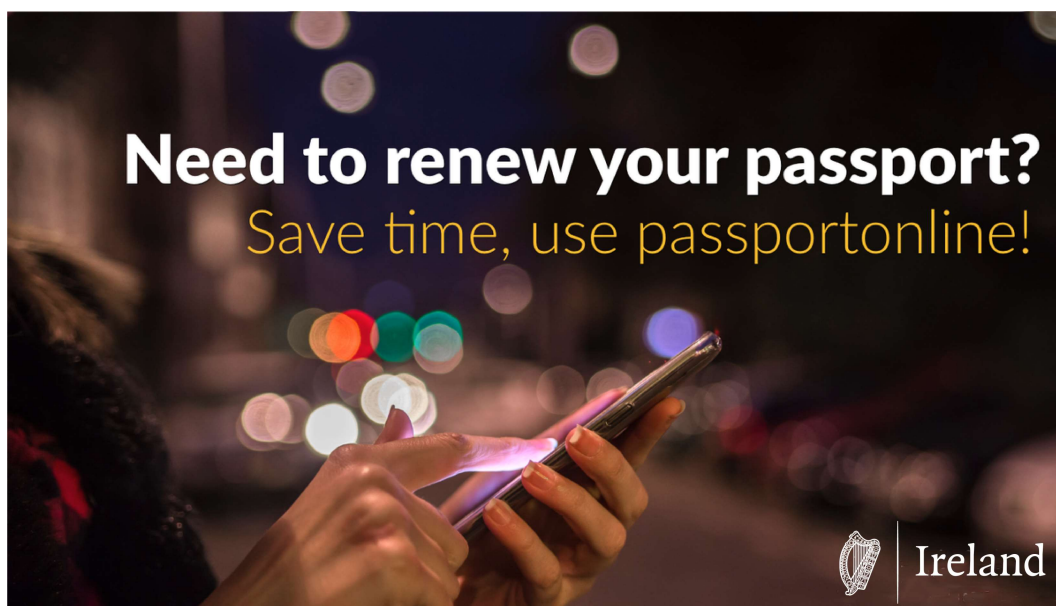
FOREIGN BIRTHS REGISTER UPDATE

The processing of Foreign Birth registration has resumed in Dublin on a phased basis. Applications that have been sent to the FBR team have been securely held and will now be processed in strict date order.

At present, due to the complex nature of the Foreign Birth Registration and the pause in the service due to the Covid-19 restrictions you should allow approximately 2 years for processing of Foreign Birth Registration applications at this time.

For more information on FBR please see <https://www.dfa.ie/citizenship/born-abroad/>

PASSPORT ONLINE SERVICE

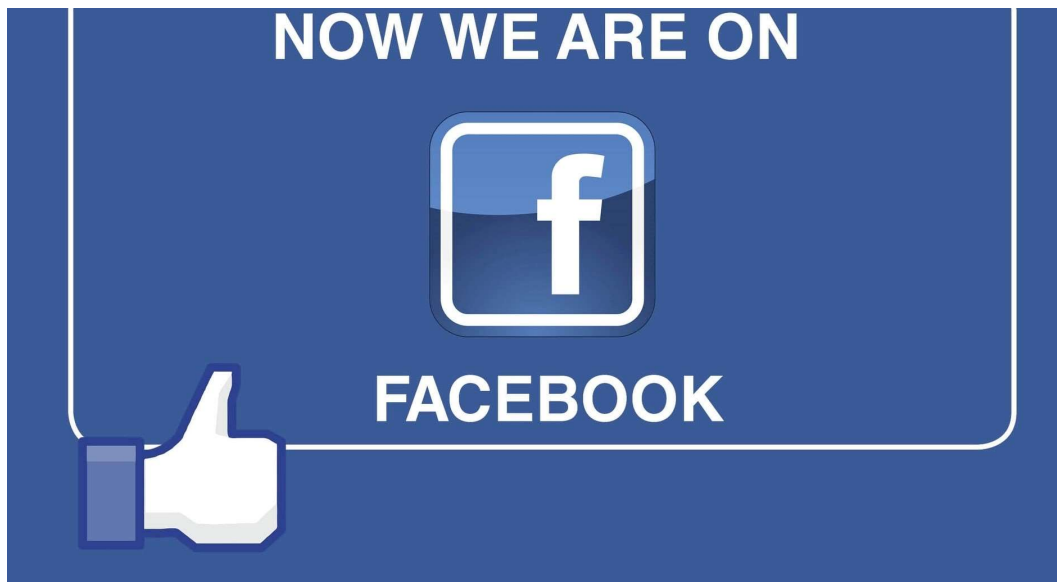


The Passport Service is now directing all Irish citizens to use the online system to complete their passport applications for both first time applications and renewals.

The expanded online service now includes:

- First time applicants - Adults, minors, and renewals/replacements over 5 years outdated
- Renewing a passport that expired within the last 5 years
- Renewing a passport to change your name
- Replacing a passport that is lost/stolen/damaged/visa pages are full.
- To access the online system, please visit: www.dfa.ie/passportonline

FACEBOOK



Consulate General of Ireland, Manchester is now on Facebook

Click [Consulate General of Ireland, Manchester | Manchester | Facebook](#) to follow

Join us to learn more about what's going on in the Consulate, upcoming key dates and follow our Irish Community in the North of England

If you haven't got Facebook, don't worry. You can still stay connected on

[Twitter](#) and our website [Manchester - Department of Foreign Affairs \(dfa.ie\)](#).



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