

## News about Ireland

Ireland became the first country in the world to [legalise gay marriage by popular vote](#), following a referendum in which 62% of voters backed the change. The [Taoiseach](#) said that “we have disclosed who we are – a generous, compassionate, bold and joyful people”. On the same day, [voters rejected a second proposal](#) to lower the age at which candidates can contest Ireland’s Presidency.

The Taoiseach has announced that Georgia Tech will play its season opening college football game in 2016 in Ireland. The Aer Lingus Classic will see the Yellow Jackets take on Boston College in Dublin’s Aviva Stadium on September 3, 2016. It will be [Tech’s first ever football game overseas](#), and [information on tickets and packages](#) is already available.

Britain’s Prince Charles and his wife Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, visited Ireland for a programme that included a visit to the lake in [Sligo](#) where Lord Mountbatten was killed in 1979 and a [handshake](#) with the leader of Sinn Féin, Gerry Adams TD.

Unemployment in Ireland fell [below 10%](#) for the first time since 2008. And [Irish exports](#) rose by 21% on the comparable period a year ago.

The Atlanta Business Chronicle examined the achievements of a proud Irish citizen, the founder of Élan Pharmaceuticals, [Don Panoz](#).

The search has commenced for [Ireland’s Best Young Entrepreneur](#).

Atlanta’s Jon Kiger led a US delegation to Cork in Ireland to commemorate the centenary of the sinking of the [Lusitania](#).

Young Irish musicians with ‘[Irish Traditions Atlanta](#)’ and the [Atlanta Junior Ceili Band](#) brought home a phenomenal 24 awards from the Mid-West Fleadh Cheoil in Cincinnati. Well done to all!

Ireland was confirmed as the host country for the [Women’s Rugby World Cup](#) in 2017. And [Brian O’Driscoll](#) will spearhead the campaign for Ireland to host the men’s version in 2023.

And Irish student [Leona Maguire](#) at Duke University in North Carolina has become the top-ranked amateur woman golfer in the world.

## Upcoming Events

The 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of W.B. Yeats – perhaps the greatest poet of the twentieth century – falls on Saturday, June 13. To mark the occasion, the Consulate, together with Emory University’s Irish Studies Programme and the W.B. Yeats Foundation, is organising a major event at Emory that evening. Capacity is limited, but if you are interested in joining this celebration of the finest Irish poetry ever written, please email [atlantacg@dfa.ie](mailto:atlantacg@dfa.ie), marking ‘Yeats Event’ in the subject line.

Atlanta’s Celtic Theatre Company, Arís, will perform ‘The Artist Man and the Mother Woman’ by Mona Pearson between June 4 and 21 at the studios of Georgia Public Broadcasting and [tickets](#) are now on sale.

The [Peach Cup](#), which will welcome Gaelic football, hurling and camogie teams from across the region, takes place at Georgia Soccer Park from 10am on Saturday, June 6, and is hosted by [Clan na nGael](#). All are welcome for a family-friendly day in support of Gaelic games!

Acclaimed traditional musicians Cillian Vallely and Ryan McGiver will play a house concert in Atlanta on Saturday evening, June 6; you can email [Bella Issakova](mailto:Bella.Issakova) for more details.

The Atlanta Celtic Camp, with Irish music and Irish language lessons for kids aged 6-17, takes place in Roswell over June 8-12. You can register and find out more at the [Atlanta Celtic Camp website](#).

The [Baton Rouge Irish Film Festival](#) in Louisiana takes place this year between July 31 and August 3 and promises to be another wonderful celebration of the best in Irish cinema.

The [2015 Shamrock Open](#), the main fundraiser for the Atlanta St. Patrick's Day Parade, will take place at the famous Peachtree Golf Club this year on Monday, October 5. Registration is currently full, but you can sign up for a place on the waiting list by emailing [Melanie.Sherman@Fitzco.com](mailto:Melanie.Sherman@Fitzco.com).

If there are Irish events you'd like us to highlight in future newsletters, please let us know at [atlantacg@dfa.ie](mailto:atlantacg@dfa.ie).

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