

EMBASSY OF IRELAND NEWSLETTER

Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig oraibh go léir!

St. Patrick's Day Celebrations in the Czech Republic, 2015



Ambassador Alison Kelly and the Embassy of Ireland are delighted to wish you a very happy St. Patrick's Day and look forward to meeting with the Irish community and friends of Ireland and to celebrating our National Day. The Embassy's official reception is by invitation only.

GREENING

The Petřín Tower in Prague and the Ostrava City Hall will join **Tourism Ireland's Global Greening initiative** again this year to mark St Patrick's Day. Both landmarks will turn green from Friday evening, 13 March until Wednesday morning, 18 March. The event is open to the public.

St. Patrick's Charity Gala Ball

The Czech Irish Business and Cultural Association (CIBCA) St. Patrick's Charity Gala Ball will take place on Saturday, 14 March at 7.00 p.m. at the Grand Hotel Bohemia in Prague. For more information, please visit the CIBCA website at www.cibca.cz.

Annual St. Patrick's Day Mass

The traditional St. Patrick's Day Mass will take place on Sunday, 15 March at 12.30 p.m. in St. Thomas Church, Josefská 8, Prague 1. All are welcome at this annual event.



Courtesy of Ostrava Cultural Festival

Irish Cultural Festival in Ostrava

This year's Irish Cultural Festival in Ostrava, which takes place from 23 to 28 March, will feature live music on Stodolní Street, as well as Irish theatre and film. The festival will traditionally culminate in a free concert, this year in the newly opened Trojhalí in Karolina, on 28 March. Festival-goers can also enjoy a Week of Irish Cuisine again this year. Further information on the programme is at www.irishculturalfestival.com.

Cultural Festival in Pilsen Region

The 'Irish Days in Pilsen Region' will take place in and around of Pilsen from 13 to 18 March, and will offer live Irish music, Irish short documentaries, discussions on Irish music and language, as well as tasting of traditional Irish beer, whiskey and coffee. For animal lovers there will be several shows featuring Irish Wolfhound. More information can be found on Facebook: 'Irské dny na Plzeňsku' (in Czech).

Other Places to Celebrate in Prague

To celebrate St. Patrick's Day in a traditional Irish environment, you can visit one of the Irish-style pubs in the city: Caffrey's (<http://caffreys.cz>), James Joyce (www.jamesjoyceprague.cz), The Dubliner (www.aulldubliner.cz), J.J. Murphy's (www.jjmurphys.cz), Rocky O'Reilly's (www.rockyoreillys.cz), Pub O'Brien (www.pubobrien.cz), Sherlock's Pub (www.sherlockspub.cz), O'Che's (www.oches.com) and the newest addition to the list – The Irish Times (*Karlova 20, Prague 1*). Other Prague pubs and clubs are also hosting events to mark St. Patrick's Day.

Prague and Ostrava turn green again to celebrate St. Patrick's Day

Czechs to celebrate Irish holiday in style

The Petřín Tower in Prague and the Ostrava City Hall will join Tourism Ireland's Global Greening initiative to mark St. Patrick's Day, 17 March, again this year. Both landmarks will turn green from Friday evening, 13 March until Wednesday morning, 18 March. The lights on the Petřín Tower will turn green on Friday evening, 13 March at 19.00 at Novotného lávka in the presence of Prague City Mayor Adriana Krnáčová, Mayor of Prague 1, Oldřich Lomecký, Irish Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Alison Kelly and other VIP guests. The event is open to the public.



Petřín Tower © Eltodo Citelum



Ostrava City Hall © City of Ostrava

There are many famous attractions and sites around the world which go green to mark St Patrick's Day every year, including the Pyramids in Egypt, the 'Welcome' sign in Las Vegas, the Sydney Opera House, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the London Eye, Table Mountain in South Africa, Niagara Falls, the Empire State Building in New York, the Prince's Palace in Monaco, the Allianz Arena and Odeonsplatz in Munich, the Sky Tower in New Zealand and the Cibeles Palace and fountain in Madrid. Last year the Sleeping Beauty's Castle at Disneyland® Paris, the Holmenkollen ski jump in Oslo or the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Petra in Jordan joined the Greening. Among this year's new additions will be the Colosseum in Rome, the Sacré-Cœur Basilica in the fabled district of Montmartre overlooking Paris and the Grand Ole Opry (the show that made country music famous!) in Nashville.

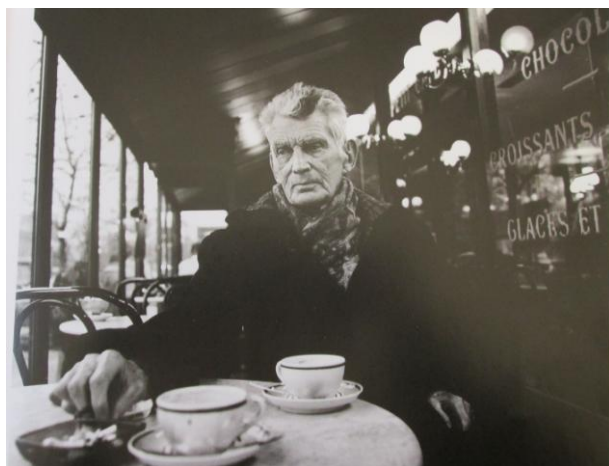
Saint Patrick's Day is traditionally celebrated all around the world. It is especially popular in the United States, Canada and Australia, where there are many people of Irish descent, but it has also been increasingly popular in Europe and in the Czech Republic in the past years. The day commemorates Saint Patrick and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland, as well as celebrating the heritage and culture of the Irish in general. Celebrations generally involve public parades and festivals, colouring food or beer green and the wearing of green attire or shamrocks.

The Greening has been made possible through the generous support of Žabka stores, Prague Classic Rental, The Irish Times Pub, Hertz Lease and Prime Hide.



More information about the Greening, including photographs from last year, is available on Tourism Ireland's website (<http://www.tourismireland.com/Home!/Our-Marketing-Overseas/The-Global-Greening-2014.aspx>).

Upcoming Cultural Events



Samuel Beckett © John Minihan

Exhibition of Photographs by John Minihan 'Beckett and the Wake'

The Embassy of Ireland is honoured to present a selection of the work of renowned Irish photographer John Minihan. The exhibition, opening on 10 March in Karolinum, Prague 1, will feature a number of Minihan's iconic photographs of the legendary Samuel Beckett as well as images of the photographer's home town of Athy. These include works from the "The Wake of Katy Tyrell", a series of photographs documenting the final journey of a local Athy woman from deathbed to grave which were described by critic Harold Hobson as "sad, poignant and sublime". See the Embassy website for more information <https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/czech-republic/news-and-events/>.

22nd Days of European Film Festival

The Days of European Film will take place in Prague in the Světozor and Lucerna cinemas from 9 to 16 April, and in the Scala cinema in Brno from 17 to 20 April. The Echoes of DEF will be held in the following towns: Plzeň, Boskovice, Jablonec nad Nisou, Havířov and Hradec Králové from 23 to 27 April. The festival will feature one Irish film this year – "Calvary" directed by John Michael McDonagh (10 April at 18.45 p.m., Lucerna cinema, 14 April at 20.30 p.m., Světozor cinema and 17 April at 20.30 p.m., Scala cinema), courtesy of the Irish Film Institute and Culture Ireland. The festival is a joint initiative by the European Commission and Member State Embassies in Prague. For further information visit www.eurofilmfest.cz/en.



Calvary



Irish Film Institute



Culture Ireland
Cultúr Éireann



Irish May – Festival of Irish Culture in Prague

The Irish May festival will traditionally take place during the first weekend in May (1-3 May) in the Celetná Theatre in Prague (www.divadloceletne.cz). The programme will comprise dance and theatre performances, a literary reading and a workshop. Special guest of the festival will be Irish dancer Colin Dunne, best known for his dancing performance and choreographic art in shows Riverdance and Dancing on Dangerous Ground. Information may be found at <http://irsky-maj.cz/en>.

Open-air Festival on Střelecký ostrov

The Representation of the European Commission in the Czech Republic organises a series of events commemorating Schuman Day (9 May) so called 'European Days.' The main event celebrating the Europe Day will be an open-air festival held on 7 May on Střelecký ostrov in Prague. The programme will feature live music (J.A.R. and others), public information stands, debates and contests, as well as a supervised play area for children and other activities. The Irish Embassy will have a stand at the event.

Night of Literature

The Night of Literature is an event organised by the Czech Centres in cooperation with EUNIC and Book World Festival in Prague. It aims at presentation of contemporary European literature in new translation into Czech to the broad public. The event, which will include a reading of *The Master* by Colm Tóibín, will take place on 13 May, on the eve of Book World Festival in over 20 venues in the Prague 6 Dejvice district. The venues are within walking distance and one reading (performed by a popular Czech actor/actress) takes about 30 mins. For further information visit <http://www.literaturenight.eu>.

Prague Feis

The 7th Annual Delaney Academy Prague Feis will be held from 30 to 31 May at Tyršův dům in the Lesser Quarter (Malá Strana) in Prague. The feis, which is run by the Rinceoirí Irish dance group, is an international competition open to all dancers from all regions. Several hundred dancers are expected to compete in both hard shoes and soft shoes dance competitions of different levels from beginners to Open Championships. Visitors are welcome between 8 a.m. and the evening on Saturday and from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Sunday. More details can be found on Facebook.



Courtesy of Prague Feis



© Markéta Utišilová

Set Dance Weekend in Prague

24th - 26th April 2015

with Kevin & Carol Monaghan
and the Salamanca Ceili Band



weekend.sonasol.com

Bernard's Summer School 2015

The fifteenth annual summer school will take place in Prague from 15 to 21 August. The festival will offer dance and music lessons, sean nós singing, a ceili evening, music sessions and Irish language lessons. For further information visit www.bernards.cz.

News from the Centre for Irish Studies



Ambassador Alison Kelly met with Mirjam Fried, dean of the Faculty of Arts, Charles University and presented her with the *Art and Architecture of Ireland* volumes for the University Library.

The Centre for Irish Studies at Charles University is pleased to announce the forthcoming publication of *The Irish Franciscans in Prague, 1629-1786* (Prague: Karolinum – Charles University Press, 2015), a history of the Irish Franciscan College in Prague by Jan Pařez and Hedvika Kuchařová. The book will be launched in Prague and in Dublin in the spring.

The Centre will host the III International Flann O’Brien Conference on 16-19 September. Following on the major recent conferences held in Vienna and in Rome (covered in detail by the *Irish Times*), the Prague conference aims at an exploration of the metamorphoses of O’Brien scholarship and on the links between the novels, stories, plays and columns penned by Flann O’Brien/Myles na gCopaleen (and others) and European modernism and the avant-garde. The social programme of the conference will include a variety of performances and screenings, together with a reading by Kevin Barry (author of the award-winning novel *City of Bohane*); the events will be open to the public.

Information on the activities of the Centre past and present is available on its website (http://ualk.ff.cuni.cz/irish_studies), which contains an extensive searchable bibliography of the cultural relations between Ireland and the Czech lands from the 17th century up till the present day, studies on Czech-Irish relations in the 20th century by Daniel Samek, and an online library catalogue. Courses of the Irish language are offered on three different levels, taught on the premises of both Charles University and Palacký University, Olomouc.

The Centre gratefully acknowledges the support by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and of the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs, Ireland.

Enterprise Ireland News and Czech-Irish Business

Enterprise Ireland (EI) is the Irish government agency responsible for the development and internationalisation of Irish indigenous companies. In 2014, Enterprise Ireland focused on creating jobs in Ireland, growing exports of indigenous companies and stimulating innovation. Enterprise Ireland supported companies now, directly and indirectly, account for more than 300,000 jobs in the Irish economy (16% of total workforce). Total direct employment in Enterprise Ireland client companies stood at 180,072 in 2014. Of these, 156,202 are full-time jobs. Enterprise Ireland committed to investment in 102 new High Potential Start Up companies with associated job commitments of 1,516.

Enterprise Ireland’s office in Prague serves several markets in Central and Southeast Europe and provides customized market research and introductions to buyers in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Bulgaria and in the Balkans. According to the Czech Statistical Office, exports of goods to the Czech Republic increased by 16.7% to €742m in 2014, while imports increased by 5% to €376m. Irish indigenous companies continued to expand their footprint in Czech and Central European markets. In April 2014, over 50 companies participated in “Selling to Central Europe” conference in Dublin which marked 10 year anniversary of EU enlargement. A number of Irish companies participated in subsequent sector-focused seminars and met new Czech buyers. Dozens of Czech high-tech companies travelled to the Dublin Web Summit in November 2014.



European Commission’s Winter Economic Forecast notes Ireland’s record real GDP growth in 2014 that reached 4.8% underpinned by economic recovery of key trading partners, investments and increasing consumer confidence. A strong GDP growth of 3.5% is also forecast for 2015. Meanwhile, the general government deficit

dropped to 4.0% of GDP in 2014 and will further decrease to 2.9% of GDP. Public debt is projected to fall to 107.9% of GDP in 2016, down from 123.3% in 2013. This marked improvement largely reflects the liquidation of the Irish Banking Resolution Corporation (IBRC) (45), along with the pick-up in growth. The standardised unemployment rate in January 2015 was 10.5%, down from 12.1% a year earlier.

There was also good news on the inward investment front. IDA Ireland reported that there were 197 investments in 2014, equating to a 20% increase on 2013. There was a notable rise in new name investment, with 88 new name investors in 2014, equating to a 13% increase on 2013. Among the leading investments secured in 2014 were Amazon, Bristol Myers Squibb, Fidelity, LinkedIn, Survey Monkey, Air Bnb, PayPal, Ericsson, SAP, Johnson & Johnson, West Pharmaceuticals, Zendesk, Adroll and New Relic. In February 2015, Apple announced €850m investment to their new data centre to be located in Athenry, Co Galway.



CIBCA - Celebrating 20 Years at the heart of the community

It is with great pride that this year, CIBCA celebrates 20 years of bringing people together – corporates, families and individuals through our diverse range of business, cultural and social events and activities.



CIBCA 20 YEARS

The CIBCA Committee would like to thank all our members and friends for their outstanding support and generosity during 2014/2015. It has been a pleasure to welcome you to events which included: CIBCA Golf Championship at Karlstejn, 20th Anniversary Member Mixer, Hockey Night in association with IBF and CANZA, Art Fashion & Jewellery Evening, Christmas Party at the James Joyce, and the International Wine & Poetry Evening. Our St. Patrick's Day Ball will take place in the sumptuous surroundings of the Grand Bohemia Hotel on 14th March. This year we are proud to further strengthen our relationship with Prague Hibernians GAA, together with whom we will be hosting a GAA family day in May.

*Interwoven Shamrock & Lipa Leaf Design
to celebrate our 20th Anniversary
Designed by Studio Gribbin, České Budějovice*

We are delighted to announce that 2015 marks the second year of our highly successful CIBCA Children's Drawing Competition, promoting Irish culture and engaging students from schools all across the Czech Republic on the theme of 'Friendship with Ireland'. This year marks a major expansion of the initiative, which is supported by our Charity Committee and led by Mary Keane. We are especially grateful to Eurocentrum (European Information Department) for their support in helping us expand the competition this year.

To stay up to date on the latest CIBCA news and for information of interest to the Irish community and friends of the Irish community in the Czech Republic, follow us on Facebook (Czech Irish Business & Cultural Association). For membership enquiries, please email info@cibca.cz.

On behalf of your CIBCA Committee - Lá Fhéile Pádraig sona daoibh!



The Certificate of Irish Heritage is an official Irish Government initiative to recognise the continuing emotional attachment of the descendants of those who left our shores to the land of their ancestors. The Certificate recognises the enduring emotional ties and sense of identity bestowed by Irish ancestry. The official certificate is a must-have for anyone with Irish roots and a perfect gift for your Irish friend.

Embassy of Ireland contact details

Tržiště 13

118 00 Prague 1

Tel: 257 011 280

Fax: 257 531 387

Email: [Contact Us](#)

<https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/czech->

Enterprise Ireland contact details

Tržiště 13

118 00 Prague 1

Tel: 257 199 621

Fax: 257 532 224

www.enterprise-ireland.com

Citizens Registration

If you are an Irish citizen resident in the Czech Republic or visiting the country as a short stay tourist or on business you will wish to be aware of the citizens registration facility for Irish citizens travelling overseas.

We would be grateful if you could (re-)register your travel details in the system at the following link <https://www.dfa.ie/travel/citizens-registration>. When you register with the Department, it means that we have a record of your details. The information will allow us to contact you and provide consular assistance, if necessary and possible, in the most effective and expedient manner.