

Consulate General of Ireland, Atlanta February 2016 Newsletter

Irish News

The President and Taoiseach today signed the papers to dissolve the Dáil and initiate a February 26 [election](#). This will be one of the shortest general election campaigns in the history of the State.

[Government accounts](#) for 2015 showed that total Irish Tax revenue was €3.3 billion ahead of expectations. The latest [unemployment figures](#) show that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January 2016 was 8.6%, the lowest rate in seven years.

Ireland and Britain mourned the passing of broadcaster [Terry Wogan](#) on 31 January.

Irish Aid, Ireland's national development agency, will provide €9.1 in emergency [relief funding](#) to drought-struck Ethiopia.

The inaugural European Financial Forum was held in Dublin on January 27 to bring together decision-makers to debate the issues facing the European and global financial services sector. See the Taoiseach's [address](#).

Ireland's new [National Skills Strategy 2025](#) will establish a National Skills Council to oversee research, forecasting and prioritisation of skills needs in the economy and will increase support for apprenticeships.

The Taoiseach and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade attended Ireland's National Holocaust Memorial Commemoration on January 22.

See the Taoiseach's Davos presentation on "[How to Reboot the Global Economy?](#)"

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade released details of Ireland's new [economic diplomacy strategy](#) on January 19 2016

[Oracle](#) announced 540 new jobs in cloud computing in Dublin on January 14

The Government's [Action Plan for Jobs 2016](#) aims at creating 200,000 extra jobs by 2020

From September 2016 new fathers in Ireland will have the option to take 2 weeks paternity leave.

On January 7 in New York, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade launched the [programme](#) of more than 200 events being organised around the United States to mark the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Rising.

On January 6 tributes were paid to golfing-great [Christy O'Connor Jnr](#) on his passing.

Global Atlanta published Consul General Stephens's review of [Vivid Faces: The Revolutionary Generation in Ireland 1890-1923 by R.F. Foster](#) in January. On April 14 Prof. Foster will deliver the keynote address at the [ACIS Conference](#) on Pre-Revolutionary Ireland at Georgia State University. This will be open to the public.

Upcoming Events in the South East

The Annual Metro Atlanta Police Emerald Society [Awards Banquet](#) will take place on February 20

[A Celtic Valentine](#), a variety vaudeville fundraiser for the Arís Theatre will take place in Atlanta on February 20 and 21

The [Hibernian Benevolent Society of Atlanta](#) will hold its annual Black Tie Ball on Saturday, March 5, at the Druid Hills Golf Club. This year's event will also host the formal launch of [Irish Network Atlanta](#). Consul General Stephens and Mr Steve Lenox, the President of Irish Network, USA, will attend.

The Consulate General of Ireland's major *1916 Centenary Concert – a Celebration of Irish Culture* will be held at Georgia Tech's Ferst Center for the Arts from 4pm on March 6. The programme will be headlined by [The Willis Clan](#) and [John Doyle](#) and will present an extract from *We have Risen*, a 1916 performance with an African American dimension. Tickets for this wonderful family-friendly event will soon be available from the [Ferst Center Box Office](#) www.ferstcenter.org

The [Irish Chamber of Atlanta](#) will hold its annual St Patrick's Breakfast on March 11

Also on March 11, in line with tradition, the [Hibernian Benevolent Society of Atlanta](#)'s Fr. O'Reilly Memorial Mass and Wreath Laying and will take place at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and Old Atlanta City Hall.

The [Atlanta St Patrick's Day Parade](#), the city's longest running event, will commence at noon on March 12. This year's parade programme will mark the 100 years since the 1916 Easter and include a road race.

"We Have Risen" will be performed in full by Gateway Performance Productions, the Helene S. Mills Senior Multipurpose Facility and the Dekalb School of the Arts in Atlanta on the evening of March 12.

[Huntsville, Alabama's St Patrick's Day Parade](#) & [Birmingham, Alabama's St Patrick's Day Parade](#) will both take place on March 12.

The 2nd [Music City Irish Fest](#) will be better than ever in Nashville on March 12. It will be headlined by *We Banjo 3*, *The Willis Clan* and *Altan*.

The [College of Charleston's Easter Rising Series](#) will kick off with a lecture by Stephen White speaking on Charleston's reaction to the Easter Rising on March 15.

The annual [St. Patrick's Mass](#) at the Cathedral of Christ the King, Atlanta, will take place on March 17

[Savannah's legendary 191st Saint Patrick's Day Parade](#) will take place on March 17

[Charlotte's 19th St. Patrick's Day Parade](#) will set out on March 19

Dublin, Georgia will hold another fabulous [St Patrick's Day Festival](#) throughout the month of March, including a major Parade and Arts & Crafts Festival on March 19.

If there are Irish events you would like us to highlight in future newsletters or if you know others who would like to receive these newsletters [please let us know](#)

<https://www.dfa.ie/atlanta>

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