



Dia dhaoibh, hello and croeso to this first short newsletter from the Consulate General of Ireland, Cardiff.

The Consulate team, like many of you, have lately had to adapt to working remotely. Our goal remains the same: to help strengthen and promote the unique bonds between Ireland and Wales. We are sharing this newsletter as a new means to engage with you, Irish people and friends of Ireland in Wales, keeping in touch and sharing useful information. We are always pleased to hear your feedback and ideas, so do get in touch via our [website](#), [Twitter](#) or our brand new [Facebook](#) page. Keep an eye out for our Samhian stories there over the Hallowe'en weekend!

Irish in Wales Online Community Event



The Consulate were proud to host many of you at the inaugural online “Irish Community in Wales” gathering on the 30th of September. This event was the first in a series that we will host with and for the many Irish people, groups and communities in Wales, and we are keen to [hear your feedback](#) on it and ideas for future themes.

The evening was a mix of conversation and music, and we were honoured to hear from Minister for the Diaspora, Mr Colm Brophy TD as our first guest. He spoke about the

Irish Government's diaspora policy and long-standing supports and took questions from the attendees. Another active question and answer session followed with Ms Rosie Keane from the Embassy of Ireland in London, covering the situation for Irish people living in Wales after Brexit. Some relevant resources provided are:

Irish Government website: ["Getting Ireland Brexit Ready"](#)

Irish citizens information bureau: ["Brexit and You"](#)

Even in the Zoom format, we enjoyed some music and sport, as Dr Rick Lines of South Wales Pipers played two great hornpipes named after South Wales, and explained the connections between Irish uilleann piping and South Wales. Uilleann piping has been recognised by UNESCO as intangible world heritage, and the South Wales Pipers are working hard to promote the tradition, including offering free lessons - [you can contact them here.](#)

Last but not least, the Chair of the GAA in Britain, Dr Paul Foley, updated us about the growth and energy in the GAA clubs around Wales, their importance to strengthening connections, and to physical and mental health in these unusual and challenging months. A recent highlight was when the students from St Joseph's Swansea actually played in Croke Park in Dublin during the half-time event at the iconic All-Ireland Final. You can watch their fantastic adventure [here](#). The clubs are keen for new members, so find [your local one](#) and get in touch!

Latest Developments at the Consulate



The Consulate General re-opened in Cardiff in April 2019. While we have all had to change many plans since then, our ambition remains the same: to support and promote the strong and vibrant political, economic, and cultural links between Ireland and Wales.

You may already be following us online, or have joined us for our St Brigid's Day event in February which celebrated the creativity of women. Maybe you were one of the hundreds of guests who would have joined us to celebrate our first St. Patrick's Day in the National Museum of Wales in March. While we had to postpone the reception, Wales was well represented in the "global greening" as Senedd Cymru and Caerphilly Castle [lit up in green](#) in recognition of our close relationship.

As we begin to create partnerships with individuals and organisations across Wales We have been thrilled to meet so many people celebrating Irish history and heritage here in Wales, and those fostering strong bonds across the Irish Sea, including the impressive [Ireland Wales programme](#). The Consulate is part of "Team Ireland" and we work closely with the Embassy in London, the Consulate General in Edinburgh and the State agencies – Culture Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, Bord Bia, Tourism Ireland, and the IDA.

Following up on our very first Community Event, we'll be sharing information about the next event in the series, so keep an eye out for more in your inbox and on the Consulate's social media channels.

A Postcard from Wales



Music is a key thread among the multiple connections binding Ireland and Wales, and the Consulate was proud to continue our support, along with the Contemporary Music Centre, to Cardiff-based flautist Emma Coulthard. Emma's repertoire includes showcasing contemporary Irish flute composers around the world. On the 28th of August, Emma performed a livestream of five pieces by Irish composers Fergus Johnston, John Buckley, Paul Hayes, Anna Murray and Michael Holohan.

The performance is still available to watch on Facebook and is accessible on the button below.

