

# Newsletter



Ard-Chonsalacht na hÉireann | Caerdydd  
Consulate General of Ireland | Cardiff  
Swyddfa Prif Gonsul Iwerddon | Caerdydd



*Dia dhaoibh, hello and croeso!*

*Exciting news this month with the official visit of the Irish Naval vessel LÉ Róisín to Cardiff Bay next week - details in the newsletter on how and when you can visit. We also bring you sporting updates from Ireland and Wales; Comhaltas Cardiff success at the All Britain Fleadh; update on celebrations for Pride Month and Bloomsday.*

*Last but not least, Consul General Denise Hanrahan in her farewell message shares some reflections on the Ireland Wales relationship and the journey of re-establishing the Consulate General in Wales over the last three years.*

*Follow our [website](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#) for the latest news, and do keep in touch.*

*Denise Hanrahan, Niall Veale, Luke Webber, Fred Till  
Consulate General of Ireland, Cardiff*

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## A farewell message from CG Denise Hanrahan



*It is always a bittersweet moment to complete an overseas posting, but as I reflect on my time in Cardiff, it is hugely satisfying to look at where we are now compared to April 2019. Then, our “pathfinder”, Mark O’Sullivan arrived in Cardiff with a laptop, the support of the Embassy, and a warm welcome from Wales. Now, in July 2022, the Consulate comprises a great team of four based in our permanent Consulate in Cardiff Bay. Thanks to all of you who have made us so welcome, and shared your stories, ideas and energy with us.*

*Our goal of strengthening and deepening the vibrant and multi-faceted connections across the Irish Sea is such an exciting one simply because there are so many other people and organisations who share our ambition. The Irish heritage in Wales is extraordinary, from the legends of the Mabinogi, to today’s cutting edge collaborations in research. Above all the, cultural and community connections buzz with life and potential - from music, dancing, poetry, GAA exchanges, historical explorations, town twinnings to the national level partnerships between our Museums and Arts Councils. The innovative [Ireland-Wales Shared Statement](#) aims to build on this out to 2025.*

*Of course, these have been complex years for all of us, with the losses and challenges of Covid, including Irish people not being able to travel home from Wales. Despite all of this, I and the team have had the honour of representing Ireland all over Wales. There are so many highlights that stand out it's impossible to mention them all: welcoming the Taoiseach to Cardiff City Hall; presenting then-103 year old Mrs Lenehan RIP with her Irish citizenship in Pontypridd; being guests of honour with Irish cultural acts at the National Eisteddfod in Llanrwst; doubling the number of Welsh organisations receiving Irish Government diaspora support funding; our virtual gatherings, especially the "Ciorcal Cómhrá Cymru" ; the outstanding Other Voices Festival which will be back in Cardigan this November; meeting the staff and students promoting the study of Irish in*

*Aberystwyth & Cardiff Universities; and of course our fantastic inaugural Ireland Wales Ministerial Forum last October, co-hosted by First Minister Mark Drakeford MS and Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney TD.*

*It was an absolute joy to celebrate St Patrick's Day in person with so many of you and our partners from across Welsh life in Cardiff City Hall in March this year, and showcase the fabulous local talent of Comhaltas, the South Wales Pipers, and the O'Donnell Maguire Dancing School. The incoming Consul General, Denise McQuade, and her family, will be taking up the role in August. She is looking forward to meeting many of you and sharing the next stage of the journey.*

Please do follow us on our [website](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#) for the latest news.

*Go raibh míle maith agaibh, diolch agus slán go fóill!*

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## Irish Naval Ship in Cardiff Bay



We are delighted that from 18th-20th July, Irish Naval vessel LÉ Róisín (pictured above) will be visiting Cardiff port!

We are very pleased to invite you - the Irish community in Wales - to come onboard. This is a rare opportunity to visit a Navy ship, meet the crew, and learn about the Irish Defence Forces and their experiences of seafaring.

A fantastic day out for all the family!

LÉ Róisín will be docked at **Britannia Quay, Cardiff Bay, CF10 4PJ**, a short walk from the Millenium Centre and Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament.

The ship will be open for **free** public viewings from:

**14:00-17:00 - Monday 18th July**

**10:00-1:00 - Tuesday 19th July**

**14:00-17:00 - Tuesday 19th July**

We hope to see you there! Please note that the ship is not fully accessible, but crew members will be able to speak to you on the quayside - please contact us for further information as needed.

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## **SPORT - GAA Updates & Sligo Rovers FC in Wales**



### **Soccer: Sligo Rovers v Bala Town FC**

Last Thursday 8th July, saw the UEFA Europa League 1st leg match between Sligo Rovers and Bala Town FC. Ireland's Vice Consul for the North of England, Carina O'Brien, joined almost 500 Sligo Rovers supporters at the Park Hall Stadium in Oswestry, Shropshire, who jubilantly celebrated their side's 2-1 victory.

The two teams will play each other again in the 2nd leg game this Thursday 14th July.

### **GAA**

#### **Championship news**

This year's GAA championship schedule sees the All-Ireland Hurling Final take place this coming Sunday July 17th, with the men's All-Ireland Football Final one week later on July 24th. Leinster hurling champions Kilkenny overpowered Clare to secure a place in the hurling final where they will take on Limerick who narrowly beat Galway in their semi-final clash.

In the football semi-final action, Galway comfortably defeated Derry, while Kerry beat Dublin by the narrowest of margins in the very last seconds of the game.

The ladies' All-Ireland Football Finals take place on July 31st with the Camogie finals on August 7th. The quarter final competitions this past weekend saw Donegal defeat Dublin, Kerry overcome Armagh, Mayo knock out Cork, and Meath triumph over Galway. Camogie quarter final places have so far been secured by Limerick, Waterford, Dublin & Kilkenny.

**Pride of Erin Newport GAA** was recently showcased on S4C - [watch back](#) the really joyful introduction here and find out more on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

### **Update from St Colmcilles Cardiff GAA**

"St. Colmcilles Cardiff are in the middle of their Championship season with games coming thick and fast through June and July.

In the preliminary round we played the Celtic Alliance in Bristol, after a hard fought spirited game St. Colmcilles secured a good win to kick start their championship campaign.

The second round of the championship was against Brighton Crawley Gaels and involved us undertaking a 330 mile round trip. After controlling the game for long periods the Welsh team were lucky to be getting back on the bus with a draw.

Our next fixture is a home tie against local rivals Western Gaels, the date of this fixture is yet to be confirmed, please see St. Colmcilles social media for the latest info."

**Follow them on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).**

### **Rugby - Ireland v New Zealand**

And...of course...we celebrate Ireland Men's historic 23-12 defeat of the All Blacks!!!

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## Comhaltas & O'Donnell Maguire School of Irish Dance



### Comhaltas

Our warmest congratulations to the musicians of the Newport, Cardiff & South Wales branch of Comhaltas Ceotóirí Eireann, “Amairgín the Gael”.

At the recent annual All-Britain Fleadh, members Marianne McAleer, Ed Duffy, and Dave Murphy all won silver or gold awards, which bring with them a coveted spot at the All Ireland Fleadh this summer.

The group are very welcoming to new members at their weekly session/lesson in Lisvane Memorial Hall - for more information see [Comhaltas Irish Session Club Cardiff | Facebook](#)

Photo taken at our St Patrick's Day Reception 2022. Courtesy of Comhaltas Cardiff.

### O'Donnell Maguire School of Irish Dance

Consul General Denise Hanrahan was delighted to present cups and medals at the O'Donnell Maguire School of Irish Dance's annual class feis in Newport last month.

Well done to all the talented young dancers, volunteers, family members and organisers Michelle and Marie for making the event a great success.

[Find out more about School on their Facebook page.](#)

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## IDAHOT & PRIDE MONTH 2022



On 17th May, we were proud to come together with our Embassy, Consulate and Enterprise Ireland colleagues across Britain to mark International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT).

Ireland strongly supports the promotion and protection of the rights of the LGBTQI+ people.

On 28th June, Ireland became a signatory to the Diplomats for Equality London Joint Statement and "committed to championing these rights internationally and supporting those who defend them." The London Statement can be read here: [Diplomats For Equality Joint Statement — Culture Canada](#)

For anyone visiting Edinburgh, we recommend taking time to visit the 'Out in the World' exhibition at the Scottish Storytelling Centre, organised by our colleagues at the Consulate General of Ireland, Edinburgh. This exhibition, created by EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum, highlights twelve stories from the vast history of Ireland's LGBTQI+ diaspora with themes of exclusion, community, love, defiance, solidarity and return. The exhibition runs until 24th July.

[Latest News - Celebrating the the Hidden History of Irish Emigration - Department of Foreign Affairs \(dfa.ie\)](#)

We are looking forward to [Pride Cymru](#) on 27th and 28th August!

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## Bloomsday 100

James Joyce's Ulysses was published 100 years ago. On 16th June, people from all over the world read his words in the Irish Foreign Ministry's original short film 'Hold To The Now' which explores the themes of time, history and human connection.

'Hold to the Now' has already been viewed over 2 million times on Youtube and by 11 million viewers across all platforms. We are proud to share the short film here for you to watch and enjoy.





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