



EMBASSY OF IRELAND NEWSLETTER Autumn 2020

Letter of introduction from Ambassador of Ireland Ruth Parkin

Hei,

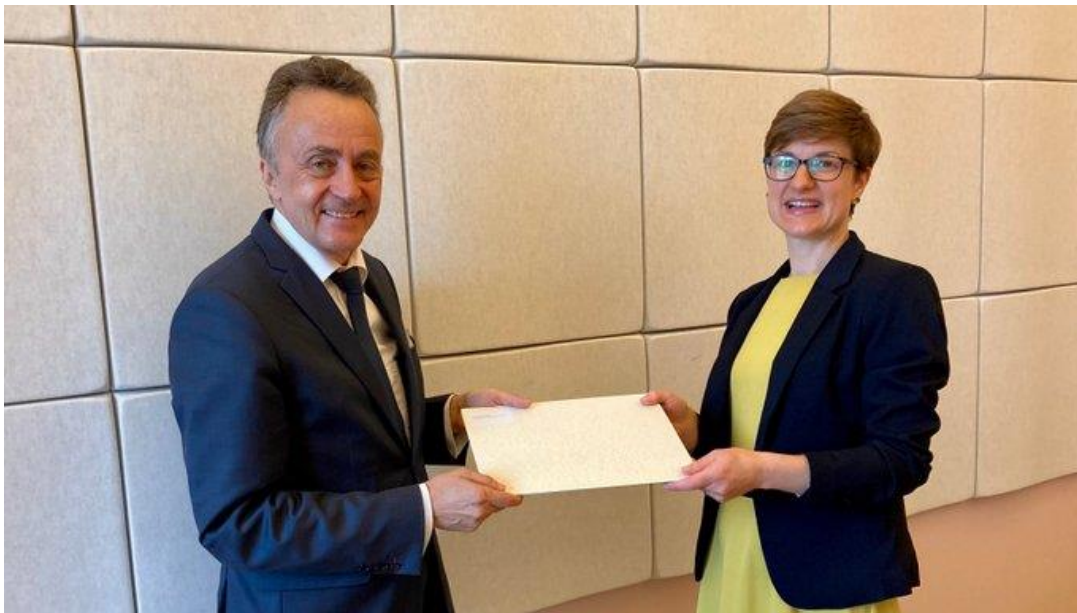
I am honoured to introduce myself as Ruth Parkin, the newly arrived Ambassador of Ireland to the Republic of Finland. I arrived in Helsinki with my husband, Eamonn Maher and two boys (Fionn 5 and Daniel 10) just in time for us to enjoy a bit of the late summer sunshine which has been a fabulous way to get introduced to Finland. I am looking forward to my time working here at the Embassy of Ireland, to getting to know the Irish and Irish connected and interested community.

It is a great privilege to take up this role as Ambassador and to continue Ireland's cooperation with our close partner Finland. Finland and Ireland are small, like-minded nations, and we share common ground across a range of key issues, including climate change, human rights promotion, peace keeping and the digital agenda. Like my predecessors I have been delighted to discover the variety of existing historical and current links between Finland and Ireland - in politics, culture, sports and business.

It's been a strange and in many ways a difficult year this year with so much travel and ordinary life disrupted. While things aren't really back to normal and it seems like we are unfortunately going to have to live with new ways of doing things for some time, I am looking forward to meeting meet the many friends of Ireland in Finland, and further build and develop connections between the two

countries and finding new ways to keep growing our connections. We do have glimmers of hope of keeping some things going and for instance this evening in Dublin, although it's happening behind closed doors, Shamrock Rovers will play in the Europa League (my son is a Bohs supporter so he might be supporting Ilves!)

Regardless of some things going ahead, I know this summer had been difficult overall and we have not all had the chance to see the family and friends or to travel as we might. Ireland continues to advise citizens to avoid non-essential travel and we encourage all citizens considering essential travel to register with the DFA travel app [Travelwise](#) and to follow updates there as well as checking in on www.dfa.ie and the [Embassy website](#). For those resident in Finland it is important to stay up to date with the Finnish advice as well.



I'd like to thank Eddie Brannigan for all his great work over the past year and for not only deepening old friendships but for creating new ones and to wish him the best in settling back into Brussels. I may have arrived at a time when we have to do things differently than we might like but I and all the Embassy will keep working in new ways to keep developing the networks going.

We hope that with online events growing and some normal activities ongoing that the newsletter will continue to be a source of information about exciting Irish activity in Finland. I'm delighted to see the list of activities below and hope there might be more out there! Please do keep us up to date on your plans that we might be able to share.

Ambassador Ruth Parkin
27.08.2020 Helsinki

Other news

*When attending events, please remember to follow the advice of the Finnish authorities, maintain good hand and coughing hygiene and avoid close proximity to others to slow down the spread of the coronavirus. THL recommends the use of face masks in situations where close contacts cannot be avoided. Find guidelines to protect yourself and other from the coronavirus from [THL](#) and if you are interested in the advice provided by Ireland it can be found on the [HSE website](#).

Interface: Carrying the Songs

24 – 29 Aug

Online event

A story is told and recorded on Inis Mór, a small island off the West coast of Ireland. That story is retold, from person to person, travelling across Ireland and Europe via zoom, through Scandinavia to Istanbul. The game is called Chinese Whispers in English, rikkinäinen puhelin in Finnish. The story will be in Finland from 24th - 29th August. More about the project [here](#). Carrying the Songs – limited edition prints available [online](#).

Helsinki International Rules Football League: Summer Series

Sat 29 Aug, 10 am – 15 pm

Purotie 8, Helsinki

The Heatseekers and the Helsinki Harps GAA Club are hosting a one-day tournament of International Rules football. Find more information on [Facebook](#) or follow [@HelsinkiHarps](#) on Twitter.

Wild Geese Irish Golf Competition

Sat 29 Aug, 11 am

Kullo Golf Club, Porvoo

The annual Wild Geese Irish golf competition will take place again this year at Kullo Golf club! The price is 40 euro, including free range balls and Sauna. Both an individual and best ball partner competition included. There will be prizes and trophies for the participants. Everyone is welcome. Register with Mal.fay@outlook.com. Give your club, if any, and Hcp.

Irish Dance Classes

Autumn 2020

Vallila & Lauttasaari, Helsinki

InSpiral Dance Company offers Irish dance classes for both children and adults from beginners to Open Champ level! Sign up [here](#).

Galway International Arts Festival

Autumn Edition Sept – Oct 2020

Online event

Galway International Arts Festival has launched an [Autumn Edition](#), reviving many key elements of its cancelled summer programme with many online events included. The festival will open on 3 September. Search for online events [here](#).

Abbey Theatre: This Beautiful Village

17 Aug – 17 Sept

Online event

A new adaptation of the original award-winning play *This Beautiful Village* by Lisa Tierney-Keogh will be available online from 17 August for one month only. It exposes every side of what it means to co-exist in Ireland today, as six people confront their pride, prejudice and privilege. Buy tickets [here](#).

Normal People

TV series on Yle Areena

The television adaptation of Sally Rooney's award-winning TV series *Normal People* is available in Finland on [Yle Areena](#).

Consular

Passport Online

The Passport Service has resumed the processing of online applications. Passport Online is open to all applicants, including children, renewing their passports and those applying for their first passport who are resident in Ireland, UK, EU, EEA and Switzerland. To apply via Passport Online click [here](#).

Registering a foreign birth

Please note that due to Covid-19, the processing of Foreign Birth Registration applications has been temporarily suspended. Find more information from [DFA](#).

Visas

We have resumed issuing long-stay 'D' visa applications. Short-stay visas are not currently being accepted, except for cases that fall under the emergency/priority criteria. Information available at [INIS](#).

Have something for the Newsletter?

If you have an Irish community or cultural event that you would like to publicise, email us at helsinkiembassy@dfa.ie.

Follow us on Twitter & Facebook for all latest news and information
@IrishEmbFinland

If you wish to unsubscribe from our newsletter, please let us know by return email. This Newsletter comes to you as a free and voluntary service of the Embassy for your benefit. It includes event information that has been provided to us from external sources; please be informed that we cannot vouch for the accuracy or veracity of that information nor does it imply that the Embassy is associated with these events.

Best wishes from all at the Embassy of Ireland.