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**Dear Irish community, friends of Ireland, A chairde,**

Welcome to the winter edition of our Embassy newsletter. We hope you and your loved ones enjoyed the Christmas and New Year holidays and are making the most of the definite stretch in the evenings as spring approaches.

It has been a busy period since our last newsletter in November. The Embassy continues to promote Ireland and its values across the political, cultural, business and educational fronts. To give you a flavour, we have included a selection of photographs of just some of our activities over the last three months.

It is my great pleasure to confirm that we are hosting our Saint Patrick's Day reception – the first since 2019! Please note that we are holding it a day early on 16 March at the *Hradná Reštaurácia* in the grounds of Bratislava castle.

A "save the date" will issue in the coming days with invitations following by email about a fortnight before the event. While we were delighted to host what we hope was an enjoyable community reception in May 2022 following the end of the pandemic restrictions, nothing can compare with gathering together to mark our national day. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

As well as an opportunity to get together, this year's reception will celebrate a number of very important milestones. The Good Friday Agreement, which ended decades of conflict was signed 25 years ago. Protecting the Agreement and peace on the island of Ireland has been and will remain a top priority. In parallel, we are marking the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Slovak Republic in 1993 and with it, 30 years of diplomatic relations between our two countries. We are also celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ireland's accession to what was then the European Economic Community. Over five decades of EU membership, Ireland has been transformed into a more prosperous, open and tolerant society. We are proud to share a common European home with our Slovak friends and look forward to ever closer relations, both through our membership of the EU and bilaterally.

If you know of anyone who has recently arrived in Slovakia and who you think would be interested in being on our circulation list, please encourage them to register with us at [CitizensRegister](#). If we get their details on time, we will endeavour to add them to our guest list for Saint Patrick's Day.

As always, we warmly welcome your feedback and suggestions as we work to improve our service and outreach to you. Please send any comments or ideas to [Bratislava@dfa.ie](mailto:Bratislava@dfa.ie) we would be delighted to hear from you.

The Embassy team looks forward to seeing you in March.

With best wishes, le gach dea-ghuí.

**Dermot McGauran**  
Ambassador of Ireland

## MARIN FUREY to appear at St. Patrick's Day Reception.



We are proud to present **MARIN FUREY** who will perform at this year's St. Patrick's Day Reception in Bratislava.

This is an amazing and unique opportunity to hear him perform in person. Martin has captivated audiences all over the world since the late 1980s with his distinctive musical style.

Martin has established the kind of reputation that makes him truly stand out, a gifted singer/songwriter and spellbinding multi-instrumentalist with a unique brand of contemporary folk music, which takes traditional rhythms and instruments and adds an oblique twist to produce an exhilarating sound that has been wowing audiences for over 30 years.

## Embassy Activities



Marking the 100th anniversary of the publication of Ulysses, we spent a wonderful day discussing James Joyce's masterpiece with staff and students at the Faculty of Arts at [Matej Bel University in Banska Bystrica](#), which runs an Irish Studies Programme.

We were delighted to meet James Ó Conaill who has recently joined the academic staff. Following a stimulating documentary about Ulysses, we had a lively exchange on Joyce's message of hope. The Embassy subsequently displayed an exhibition on Joyce at the university.



It was a great privilege to attend a New Year's gala evening with President Zuzana Čaputová on the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Slovak Republic.

Ambassador

McGauran presenting the [Award for Best Employer RomaSpirit2022](#) together with Plenipotentiary for Roma communities in Slovakia, Ján Hero.

The Embassy is a proud and long-standing partner of Roma Spirit which promotes inspiring stories and activities that bring solutions to the challenges faced by the Roma community. We wish them continued success

*Foto by @ACEC*



Ambassador McGauran was in Dublin at a concert hosted by Slovak Ambassador to Ireland, Andrej Droba where we celebrated 30 years of diplomatic relations between our two countries.



Ambassador McGauran accepting awards on behalf of RTÉ, who received two prizes at the Youth Radio Drama Festival, [PRIX EX AEQUO](#) organised by Radio and Television Slovakia in Bratislava. Once again congratulations to the winners.

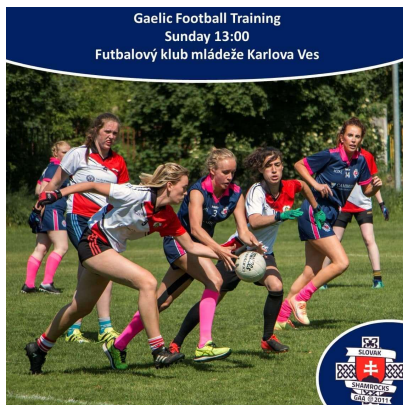
Working with Business



We continue to work with Irish and Slovak companies as they expand the trade links between our countries. We recently met with two technology companies, Trend Technologies operating in Martin, and Real Time Tech in Bratislava. Both companies are affiliated to Irish enterprises and are leaders of innovation in their respective fields.

## News from GAA team Slovak Shamrocks

Dear All,  
this is your local GAA team.



February has been a fine month for the Slovak Shamrocks, the cobwebs dusted off the training gear, the muscles warmed, stretched and willing for the return to the spectacle of Gaelic Football at Molecova every Sunday. **The first event will be an indoor Gaelic Football match against Vienna Gaels on the first weekend in March.** After that, spring and summer tournaments will see us challenge the other European teams for silverware in Poland, Austria, Germany, and Hungary.

**Our handball contingent has been in fine form**, dominating at the Euro1-Wall event held in Brno, taking the majority of the silverware and even defeating travelling opposition from Ireland. We'll look to lead the growth of the sport in the region through hosting our own Euro1Wall event in April as well as participating in the UK Open this month. The event was attended by Erin Swan, Deputy Head of Mission from Irish Embassy in Prague.





The most important part of the club, the social squad, have had their hands full this month with 6 Nations seeing Ireland dominate Wales and France as well **saying farewell to stalwart Mark Bullimore**. Mark has been the driver of the social side of the club and a great person to welcome new recruits. The Shamrocks and the bar trade in Bratislava will be sad to see him depart! Stay tuned to our social medias for how we'll celebrate St Patricks Day in a way that only the Slovak Shamrocks can.

For more information on training, tournaments, and social events please contact us via our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SlovakGAA> or email [secretary.bratislava.europe@gaa.ie](mailto:secretary.bratislava.europe@gaa.ie).



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