



February-March 2022

# LUTON IRISH FORUM

WELFARE, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES, EMPLOYMENT SKILLS

## Fun at St Brigid's Afternoon Tea



Members and guests learnt new facts about some of the most well known Irish women in the movies.

Members and guests celebrated St Brigid's Day 2022 (Lá Fhéile Bríde) with a presentation on 'Irish Women in the movies' and optional Afternoon Tea.

More than 30 attendees watched in Luton Irish Forum's centre with another 50 joining online for our sixth annual St Brigid's event.

After a special message from Isobel O'Connor, First Secretary on behalf of the Irish Embassy, attendees heard about Irish stars such as Maureen O'Hara, Brenda Fricker, Angeline Ball and Demi Isaac Oviawe.

There were some very special guests: Gerry Molumby Director of the Triskellion Irish theatre company who shared his special memories of meeting Maureen O'Hara and her autographing a copy of The Quiet Man poster for him; Sarah Finucane from The Craic is back magazine; and Sarah Owen and Rachel Hopkins, Luton's two MPs completed the guest list.

Thank you to everyone who donated some super raffle prizes including House of Commons wine and chocolates, meals out at local restaurants, gift hampers and a St Patrick's stationery set.

The traditional afternoon teas were made by Jack Berr Caterers and delivered to Luton Irish Forum and recipients homes.

Despite a few technical issues with sound, viewers in LIF and at home enjoyed the event.

"Most inspiring and entertaining," said attendee, Gill, and there was a 'big thank you' from Jacki in Nashville, Tennessee, USA.

Tom Scanlon Chairman of Luton Irish Forum Trustee Board added that he "hopes we can all be together to enjoy a face-to-face event again next year".

This year's St Brigid's 2022 souvenir e-Booklet about Irish Women at the Movies is available at [www.lutonirishforum.org/st-brigid](http://www.lutonirishforum.org/st-brigid)



# Relax – and have a good chuckle!

- The phrase 'Drowning the Shamrock' (to drink alcohol on St Patrick's Day) comes from the custom of floating a shamrock on top of whiskey before drinking it. Belief is that it brings you good luck for a year.
- The first St Patrick's Day parade in Ireland was held in Waterford in 1903, on Sunday 15th March. The world's oldest St Patrick's Day festival is believed to have been in St Augustine, Florida in 1600, with a parade too the following year.
- Our popular saint was actually given the name Sucat at birth and only later given the name Patrick. The name Patrick comes from the Latin Patricius meaning 'nobleman' or 'father figure'.
- The official colour of St Patrick is actually blue. Green became associated with St Patrick's Day because it's the colour worn by immortals and, in Irish culture, it was believed that wearing green helped your crops to grow.
- Legend has it that St Patrick drove all the snakes out of Ireland, but there probably weren't any there in the first place. Ireland was far too cold for any type of snake at the time!
- Your odds of finding a four-leaf clover are about 1 in 10,000!

Have you discovered yet how relaxing colouring-in can be? Give it a try with this shamrock. Find more free colouring pages at [primarygames.com](http://primarygames.com)



How many of these St Patrick themed words can you find in the letter grid below? Ignore spaces between words, letters in the grid may be used more than once.

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| DANCE         | LIMERICK    |
| EMERALD GREEN | MUSIC       |
| FAIRIES       | PARADE      |
| FESTIVAL      | POT OF GOLD |
| GOOD LUCK     | RAINBOW     |
| IRISH JIG     | REELS       |
| JOKES         | SHAMROCK    |
| LAUGHTER      | SINGING     |
| LEGEND        | SNAKES      |
| LEPRECHAUN    | ST PATRICK  |

S	L	P	O	T	O	F	G	O	L	D	W	P	K	W
K	L	A	Y	Z	G	S	H	A	G	Y	P	Q	C	S
C	L	E	V	S	H	V	P	I	L	L	C	I	O	N
U	E	A	E	I	C	U	J	T	E	U	E	B	R	N
L	D	V	U	R	T	H	N	P	G	M	D	Q	M	G
D	A	B	I	G	S	S	R	S	E	I	R	I	A	F
O	R	V	U	I	H	E	E	R	N	R	W	O	H	H
O	A	V	R	T	C	T	A	F	D	T	P	N	S	J
G	P	I	A	H	F	L	E	W	P	J	O	K	E	S
C	H	J	A	Y	D	I	E	R	G	Y	T	L	E	N
X	I	U	M	G	D	K	C	I	R	E	M	I	L	A
C	N	S	R	F	A	W	O	B	N	I	A	R	K	K
Q	G	E	U	D	N	S	I	N	G	I	N	G	Z	E
N	E	E	J	M	C	K	C	I	R	T	A	P	T	S
N	J	W	M	N	E	T	B	R	Z	K	S	Y	Y	I

Why do leprechauns hate running?  
They'd rather jig than jog.

When does a leprechaun cross the street?  
When it turns green.

How did the Irish jig get started?  
Too many drinks and not enough bathrooms!

When is an Irish Potato not an Irish Potato?  
When it's a French fry.

How can you tell if an Irish person  
is having a good time?  
They're Dublin over with laughter.

Knock, Knock.  
Who's there? Irish! Irish Who? Irish you a happy  
St. Patrick's Day!





## St Patrick's Children's Craft Session Saturday 6th March - FREE

11:00am-3:00pm. Smith's Square, The Mall shopping centre, Luton

Have fun with your little ones, making your own St Patrick's headband, cards, hanging shamrocks and more!

## St Patrick's GAA Blitz Saturday 12th March - FREE

12:30-3:00pm. St Joseph's playing fields, Gardenia Avenue, Luton, LU3 2NS



An afternoon of Gaelic Football featuring youth teams from St Dymphna's GFC Luton GAA and Luton GAA St Vincent's GFC, plus the women's team Claddagh Gaels LGFC.

Thank you to O'Kane Irish Foods for donating snacks and soft drinks for the players!

## St Patrick's Afternoon Celebration Thursday 17th March - £6/£8

11:00am-3:00pm. Celtic Club, Chobham Street, Luton LU1 3BS

Live Trad session, great Irish country music plus talented local Irish dancers and more entertainment!

Tickets £6, available from LIF Centre and Celtic Club; from 21st February for LIF Members, 7th March for LIF Non-members.

# Parade, Music and Dance day

Sunday 13th March

## Seán Ó'Riada Mass

9:30am. Our Lady Help of Christians RC Church, Castle Street, Luton, LU1 3AG  
Including hymns in Gaelic sung by LIF Choir.

## St Patrick's Parade - FREE

12:00pm. Parade leaves Luton Irish Forum, LU2 0ES, arriving at Market Hill, LU1 2AF, at 12:45am. A family-friendly and colourful procession of Irish and local community groups, marching bands and a few favourite characters!

## Outdoor Stage, Market Hill, LU1 2AF - FREE

10:30am-3:15pm. Award-winning vocals, country singing and Irish Dancing. Highlights include Tracey McAuley (1pm) and John McNicholl (1:40pm) plus a special Festival performance of the two country stars singing together.



Coming to Luton St Patrick's Festival – stars of Country, John McNicholl and Tracey McAuley.

## The Mall Indoor Stage, Smith Square - FREE

10:30am-3:30pm. A showcase of Irish Dancing with amazing footwork and high leaps; beautiful vocals and great music. Featuring award-winning dancers from both England and Ireland.

## After Party in The Hat Factory - FREE

65-67 Bute Street, Luton LU1 2EY  
3:00-8:00pm. Trad, Celtic, Folk- and Punk- Rock. Highlights include Neck and Missing The Ferry.



*Left to right: Emily Brown, Noelette Hanley, CEO of LIF; Elleesa Rushby, LIF Trustee; Co-Operation Ireland staff Hannah Hayes, Evan Short and Anne Anderson Porter; Ciara McAree and Oliwia Franczak on a mural visit during the trip to Belfast.*

## An exciting opportunity for 'Future Leaders'

Luton Irish Forum is delighted to be partnering with Co-operation Ireland on the inspiring Future Leaders Programme as part of our East West Partnership. Three young people and two LIF personnel attended a conference and more in Belfast – read about it in our next issue!

## Winter fuel payments

If you were born on or before 26th September 1955, you could get between £100 and £300 to help pay your heating bills. This one-off, tax-free payment made during the winter is known as a 'Winter Fuel Payment'.

Most payments are made automatically in November or December so all payments should have been received for winter 2021 to 2022.

But if you did not get your payment, contact the DWP's Winter Fuel Payment Centre on 0800 731 0160 (Freephone) or use the online enquiry form <https://secure.dwp.gov.uk/contact-winter-fuel-payments-centre/contact-form>. The deadline for making an application for 2021/22 is 31st March 2022, but put in your claim now!

## Diary

This programme is subject to change. At time of publication, pre-booking is not required, please get in touch for updates should Covid restrictions change.

Saturday 12th to Thursday 17th  
**Luton St Patrick's Festival** – see page 3

Monday to Friday 9:30am-4:30pm  
**Welfare Advice Service and Passport Applications Assistance & Witnessing** – by appointment  
**New welfare enquiries:** Please phone on a Tuesday 9:30am-12:00pm

Monday to Friday 9:30am-4:30pm  
**Digital Skills and Employment Support**

Mondays (from 28th Feb) 11:00am-1:00pm  
**Traveller and Gypsy Women Drop In**

Tuesdays 10:00am-2:00pm  
**Art Class by Zoom**

Tuesdays 11:30am-1:30pm  
**Tuesday Club** including bingo

Tuesdays 7:00-8:00pm  
**Irish Language Chat** via Zoom

Wednesdays 11:30am-1:00pm  
**Wednesday Club** including bingo

Wednesdays (from 2nd March) 1:00-2:00pm  
**Gentle Exercise**

Thursdays 10:00-11:30am  
**Tea and Chat**

Fridays 09:30-11:30am  
**Baby and Toddler Group** (term time only)

Fridays 12:00-2:00pm  
**Art Class**

Fridays 2:30-4:30pm (last Friday of month)  
**Calligraphy Class by Zoom**

Sundays 11:00am-1:00pm  
**Pipe Band Practice**

## Luton Irish Forum

Kathleen Connolly House, 102 Hitchin Road, Luton, LU2 0ES T. 01582 720447  
info@lutonirishforum.org www.lutonirishforum.org F Luton-Irish-Forum T @IrishinLuton  
Charity No. 1113069 Company No. 5651900