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IRISH HISTORY MONTH

Did you know that throughout the month of March every year, Irish History Month takes place? An initiative brought about by the Irish Arts Foundation, it is now in its fifth year. First celebrated in Leeds in 2007, this year once again goes national with events taking place in Leeds, Sheffield, Leicester, Birmingham, Huddersfield Liverpool and London.

Irish History Month, a pioneering venture in Britain, exists to promote knowledge of Irish History and experiences in Britain and beyond, its purpose is to disseminate information on the many positive contributions that Irish people have made to British society and also to introduce new audiences to the vibrancy of Irish arts, heritage, culture and history.

See www.irishhistorymonth.com for further details or call Irish Arts Foundation on 0113 275 5665.

Please note all details and times are correct at the time of going to print.



Ó aois go nua-aois: Ag ceiliúradh na ndámh Éireannach sa Bhreatain From the Traditional to the Innovative: Celebrating the Arts of Ireland in Britain

AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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THE IRELAND FUND OF GREAT BRITAIN

The GRAND Theatre & Opera House Leeds

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE & CELEBRATIONS

Irish YOUTH Foundation Achievement Starts with Opportunity

Headingley LitFest 2011

Howard Assembly Room

IRISH CENTRE

Design: Justin@FattyBore.com.co.uk All photography: Tríona Ní Dhomhnaill www.trionanidomhnall.com © 2011 Irish History Month Limited

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IRISH HISTORY MONTH

Create Celebrate Debate

www.irishhistorymonth.com

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TUESDAY 1ST MARCH 7.00PM FREE EVENT

In partnership with St Mary's University College Twickenham **FILM AND DISCUSSION**

THE GHOST OF ROGER CASEMENT

(Gilsenan, 2001, 112mins)

Seven Arts Centre, Harrogate Road Leeds LS7 3PD

Irish-born Casement was a senior British diplomat and humanitarian who became a Republican and was executed for treason in 1916. Gilsenan's intriguing film imaginatively explores the enduring legacy of a figure that continues to haunt Anglo-Irish history.

The film will be introduced and discussed by **Dr Angus Mitchell**, editor of *The Amazon Journal of Roger Casement (Anaconda Editions - 2000)* and **Dr Lance Pettitt**, author of *Screening Ireland (Manchester UP 2012)* www.sevenleeds.co.uk

THURSDAY 3RD MARCH 9.30PM FREE EVENT

TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC SESSION IN SEVEN

Seven Arts Centre, Harrogate Road Leeds LS7 3PD

Come and join the friendly atmosphere in the popular *Seven Art Centre* with special guest **Gerry Brownridge** and friends. *Bring your instrument and join in or just turn up for the craic!*

SATURDAY 5TH MARCH 7.30PM

In association with Howard Assembly Room at Opera North **IARLA O'LIONARD**

Howard Assembly Room New Briggate, Leeds LS1 6NU

Best known as the lead singer of the twice Grammy nominated Afro-Celt *Sound System* and now an acclaimed solo artist. **Iarla's** last solo album *Invisible Fields* was released to widespread acclaim. His music melds the ancient echoes of sean-nós with the future sounds of today's sonic explorers. Traditional influences are layered with drones, synthesizers and samplers to create defiantly beautiful music. In this one-off concert Iarla is joined by composer and double bass player **Gavin Bryars**, playing songs from *Anáil Dé* (The Breath of God) composed by Gavin for Iarla.

"...One of the most dramatic voices in contemporary music." **The Guardian**

"Genius' is the operative word here" **Time Out**

www.iarla-o-lionaird.net
Tickets: £12.50
Box Office: 0844 848 2727
www.howardassemblyroom.co.uk

9.00PM FREE EVENT TRADITIONAL MUSIC, SONG AND DANCE FROM LEEDS CCE

Featuring special guest **Bernie Conneely**
Leeds Irish Centre, Leeds LS9 9NT
Call: 0113 2480887

EXPERIENCE IRELAND 11

Need accommodation when attending an Irish History Month event? Please contact our partners Bewleys Hotels on 0113 234 2849 www.bewleyshotels.com/leeds

Are you or one of your parents/grandparents Irish? Then you can tick the Irish box in the coming census. For more information check the website below.

SUNDAY 6TH MARCH 1.00PM-5.00PM FREE EVENT

'EXPERIENCE IRELAND' HEART

Headingley Enterprise & Arts Centre Bennett Road, Headingley Leeds LS6 3HN

A day of workshops, traditional Irish music sessions and the afternoon concert featuring **Doolin** - an Irish band all the way from France! www.doolin.fr/html/en/home.htm

A family day that has been growing in popularity every year, Experience Ireland 2011 features a variety of events for the whole family. We are delighted to welcome our special guests this year, **Doolin**, a remarkable young traditional Irish band from France who will perform in the afternoon concert. Add to this to an all day traditional Irish music session featuring our special guest, banjo player **Bernie Conneely**, Programme Manager at *Matt Molloy's Bar* in Westport, originally from Bedford, now living in Tourmakeady, Co Mayo. Bernie is joined by London bodhrán ace **Tad Sargent**. The day also features a workshop on ceili dancing with a caller to show you the steps and live music, a bodhrán workshop and a childrens celtic art & face painting workshop - all for free!

8.30PM FREE EVENT TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC SESSION

The Grove, Back Row, Holbeck Urban Village, Leeds LS11 5PL

WE NEED YOU JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN AT WWW.HOWIRISHAREYOU.COM



We are delighted this year to feature Co. Meath photographer, **Triona Ní Dhomhnaill** whose family roots are in Rannafast, part of the Co. Donegal Gaeltacht. Triona established her musical reputation with the seminal band *Skara Brae* and then the highly influential *Bothy Band*.

For more information on Triona's photography and music see www.trionanidhomhnaill.com

WEDNESDAY 9TH MARCH 10.30AM–12.30PM FREE EVENT

IRISH ELDERS COFFEE MORNING

Live Irish music and song
**Potterdale Community Resource Centre, Dewsbury Road
One Stop Shop Centre
Leeds LS11 6ER**
For information contact Leeds Irish Health & Homes on 0113 2625614 www.lihh.org

THURSDAY 10TH MARCH 9.00PM FREE EVENT

TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC SESSION

**The Harp, 25 Cromwell Street
Lincoln Green, Leeds LS9 7SS**
Come down and sample the finest in traditional music in the lounge of the *Harp* bar. Following in a long tradition of music sessions in this part of Leeds we feature a number of Leeds musicians as well as few guests from out of town. Historically the public houses in the Sheepscar area of the city became a meeting point for the considerable numbers of the Irish community who were living in the nearby Woodhouse, Hyde Park, Chapeltown and Harehills inner city districts – bring your instrument or just come down for the company and the music.

FRIDAY 11TH MARCH 12.15PM–2.30PM FREE EVENT

All welcome OVER 55'S IRISH DAY CLUB LIVE IRISH MUSIC AND SONG

**Montague Burton Resource Centre
just off Roundhay Road
near St. Aidan's Church
Leeds LS8 5RU**
www.lihh.org

SUNDAY 13TH MARCH 11.00AM FREE EVENT

ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE Leeds City Centre

The Leeds St Patrick's Day Parade is in its twelfth year and is a celebration of all things Irish. This year's Parade will be followed by celebrations in Millennium Square, including live traditional Irish music and dancing, stalls, food, displays and much more. This is a fantastic event for families and friends of all ages, and all are welcome to join in the fun. **The parade will leave from Cookridge Street at 11.00am.** This year's parade will be bigger and better with a stream of colourful floats, followed by an afternoon of events in *Millennium Square*, showcasing different aspects of Irish Culture.

www.leedsgoinirish.com

3.00PM POST PARADE CELEBRATIONS

**Leeds Irish Centre, York Road
Leeds LS9 9NT**

TUESDAY 15TH MARCH NOON

TUESDAY IRISH ELDERS' CLUB Leeds Irish Centre, York Road Leeds LS9 9NT

Includes bingo, dancing, live music and refreshments. Contact the Irish Centre for details on how to join.
Call: 0113 2480 887
www.theleedsirishcentre.co.uk

THURSDAY 17TH MARCH 8.00PM–MIDNIGHT

ST PATRICK'S NIGHT SPECIAL Featuring the excellent John McNicholl

**Leeds Irish Centre, York Road
Leeds LS9 9NT**
Full details on this on all events at the Leeds Irish Centre:
Call: 0113 2480 887
www.theleedsirishcentre.co.uk

DOORS OPEN 8PM THE TRADITION

New Roscoe, Sheepscar Street South Leeds LS7 1AD

Come and see the finest in celtic-rock from Leeds band **The Tradition**
£10 door

FRIDAY 18TH MARCH 8.00PM

THE GROVE FOLK CLUB 'IRISH NIGHT'

The Grove, Back Row, Holbeck Urban Village, Leeds, LS11 5PL

Featuring a selection of guest musicians as well as local Grove musicians.
Call: 0113 243 9254
www.grovefolkclub.org.uk

SUNDAY 20TH MARCH 7.30PM

In association with Grand Theatre & Opera House Leeds

THE DUBLINERS Grand Theatre & Opera House New Briggate, Leeds, LS1 6NU

There are no musical barriers where **The Dubliners** are concerned. Arguably one of the most influential groups of the Irish folk revival and renowned worldwide, *The Dubliners'* popularity is unquestionable and their contribution to the world of folk music is unparalleled.

Tickets: £19.50–£23.50
Box Office: 0844 848 2727
www.leedsgrandtheatre.com

8.00PM FREE EVENT QUIZ

Seven Arts Centre, Harrogate Road Leeds LS7 3PD

The popular weekly quiz takes on an Irish theme!

THURSDAY 24TH – SATURDAY 26TH MARCH

MAIN STAGE: 7.30PM SATURDAY MATINEE: 2.00PM

DANCING AT LUGHNASA

The award winning play
written by Brian Friel
**Lawrence Batley Theatre
Queen's Square, Queen Street
Huddersfield HD1 2SP**

Summer 1936. In the shadow of the hills of Donegal stands a cottage. Here the five Mundy sisters live a simple life with their older brother Jack, a missionary priest, and seven-year old Michael. Barely able to make ends meet, the sisters acquire their first wireless radio and dream of happiness and love.

Years later a grown up Michael looks back at the events of that fateful Summer, when the knockings of change finally caught up with the Mundy family. The sisters laugh, cry and dance in their boots, fighting the forces of change as dusk sets on the life they know.

Produced by
The Original Theatre Company

"An unforgettable experience of great theatre, great music... surely one of the UK's leading touring theatre companies"
East Magazine

Tickets: £16.00/£14.00/£12.00/
concessions £2 off
Box Office 01484 430528
www.thelbt.org/dancing-Lughnasa

THURSDAY 24TH 7.30PM FREE EVENT

In partnership with Headingley LitFest www.headingleylitfest.org.uk

'A LITERARY DUBLIN: THREE IRISH WRITERS'

Documentary:
Written & Produced by Anthony Cronin
**Flux Gallery, Midland Road Hyde Park
Leeds LS6 1BQ**

Flann O'Brien, Brendan Behan and *Patrick Kavanagh* spent their lives and did their work through confusions, some of this self created. **Cronin** describes this literary period in the late 1950's and early 1960's as 'an era the importance of which is only recognized when it is over'

There will also be an opportunity to meet with Leeds based County Sligo born **Eamonn Hamilton** who has realised his true literary passion by creating an online second-hand bookshop. With three brands (Irishbooks, Evaebooks and Bodhran Books) Eamonn now has some 35,000 books in his collection: pride of place goes to an eclectic mix of Irish books ranging from *Joyce* and *Yeats* through to *O'Connor* and *O'Brien*.

www.irishbooks.eu.com

FRIDAY 26TH MARCH 1:05PM–1:55PM FREE EVENT

In partnership with The University of Leeds International Concert Series 2010–2011

LUNCHTIME RECITAL OF TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC

**Clothworkers Centenary Concert Hall
School of Music, University of Leeds
Leeds LS2 9JT**

Des Hurley (fiddle) and **Chris O'Malley** (piano, accordion and guitar) are joined by **Desi Wilkinson**. Desi is a well known leading exponent of the 'timber flute' (Irish simple system wooden flute), the tin whistle and traditional singing. He joined the *International Centre for Music Studies* at the *University of Newcastle* in September 2005 as *Head of Performance, BMus in Folk and Traditional Music* having previously worked for the *University of Limerick* and the *University of Concordia in Montreal*. His current projects include *Traditional Music and identity in Québec and its Irish ingredient*.

"Desi Wilkinson is one of our finest musicians, his playing of dance music has a rhythmic, emphatic style based on the Sligo-Leitrim tradition. He is an articulate and humorous presenter of the music."
Ciaran Carson, poet and writer

www.leeds.ac.uk/music/concerts/calendar2010.shtml

SUNDAY 27TH MARCH 2.00PM FREE EVENT

TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC SESSION

**The Grove, Back Row, Holbeck Urban
Village, Leeds LS11 5PL**

With special guests Tyneside based **Paul Ruane** (fiddle) and **Deirdre Ruane** (button accordion) and from 'Milun' Indo-Irish musical crossover project, Reading based **Sam Proctor** (fiddle).

DON'T MISS THIS! THURSDAY 31ST MARCH 7.30PM FREE EVENT UNTOLD STORIES

The O'Meara Suite, Leeds Irish Centre

This year the *Irish Arts Foundation* are proud to launch **Untold Stories** which is an archive of the Irish community in Leeds, a project that has been funded by the *Heritage Lottery Fund*. There will be a screening of the documentary featuring members of the Leeds Irish community and an introduction to the interactive website. There's a panel of guest speakers and refreshments will be provided.

It's a FREE event, everyone is welcome!

