



# IRISH CULTURAL & SPORTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN CT



Cumann Cultúr agus Spóirt na hÉireann

Feabhra / February 2022

## The Pulse

### President's Message

A Chairde,

Just a quick note to say we are very excited to be able to finally start filling these pages with live and in person activities!! We have some great events coming up, and are planning even more. Please come out and support your club! We are looking for members (and their friends) to march with us for the Milford Parade—details are in this letter, or you can contact any board member for more info.

Slan,

Margaret

## BIG NEWS IS BREWING!!!

We are excited to announce IC&SA's new venture in collaboration with No Worries Brewery. PADDY'S LAMENT, a new Imperial Stout, will be introduced at a very special event on Friday, March 4th, 4-8 PM, at No Worries, 2520 State St., Hamden. What a perfect way to end the work week... with good friends, great beer, Liz singing and playing, good food, and BAGPIPES!! What more could you ask for? A portion of Paddy's Lament sales will go to support the Association's many cultural and sports endeavors.

Come on down!! Hope to see you there!

**Paddy's Lament**  
Imperial Stout

ICSA  
&  
NO WORRIES  
BEER LAUNCH EVENT

WHEN: FRIDAY MARCH 4th  
WHERE: NO WORRIES BREWING 2520 STATE ST HAMDEN  
TIME: 4pm to 8pm  
WHAT: NO WORRIES BREWING IN COLLABORATION WITH THE IRISH CULTURAL AND SPORTS ASSOCIATION PRESENT A BEER LAUNCH EVENT TO CELEBRATE THE ST. PATRICK'S SEASON. PORTION OF SALES SUPPORTS THE IC&SA NONPROFIT 501 (C)3 ORGANIZATION

LIVE MUSIC FROM LIZ MCNICHOLL  
FOOD TRUCK  
IRISH GOODS SALE  
SPECIALTY BEER VARIANTS  
BAGPIPES  
PLUS MORE!

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ...



## ... IN CASE YOU FORGOT

Renewals can be made via check, cash, or through Venmo using our handle/name; **@ICSAMHamden**. Dues will remain \$25 for an individual and \$40 for a family membership. Checks can be mailed to ICSA, 40 Putnam St, # 6562, Hamden, CT 06517. Please make a note in your correspondence (or right on your check) that your payment is for membership dues. If you choose to use Venmo as your form of payment, please indicate your full name as well as the type of membership for which you are paying.



## CHARLIE GORMAN'S WAKE

Saturday, March 5th

The long awaited Sneak Peak of Charlie Gorman's Wake is almost here!! Don't miss out on all the fun that's sure to show up both on the screen and in the hall!! This delightful play/nov feature film, written by our good friend Paul Pender and featuring many of our well known local thespians, is a sure winner!! Hope to see you there on:

Saturday, March 5th at the Meriden AOH Hall, 71 Melville Ave. Showings will be at 2 PM and 6 PM. Don't miss this chance to catch the sneak preview of this "irreverent Irish comedy"! It WON'T disappoint! The ICSA has procured a block of tickets for the 2 PM showing. Contact contact Paul Pender at 203-213-1651 or

paulopender@gmail.com to reserve your ticket.

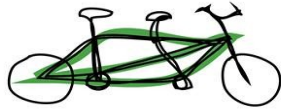
## Gaeilge—Irish Language

We've been cooped up for so very long, it seems!! Hopefully, we will be travelling again as we used to ... so here are some handy travel words to keep your Irish up!!

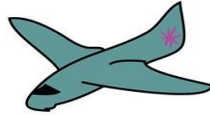
### Taisteal agus Saoire *as Gaeilge*



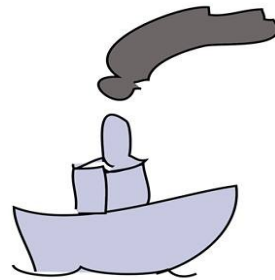
Tacsaí  
"Taxi"  
(tacksee)



Rothar Beirte  
"Tandem Bicycle"  
(roher bearcheh)



Eitleán  
"Airplane"  
(etchlawn)



Bád  
"Boat"  
(bawd)



Bus  
"Bus"  
(bus)



Ag Siúil  
"Walking"  
(egg shool)



Ag Tiomáint  
"Driving"  
(egg tomawntch)



Ag Eilt  
"Flying"  
(egg etchilt)



Ag Taisteal  
"Travelling"  
(egg tashtil)

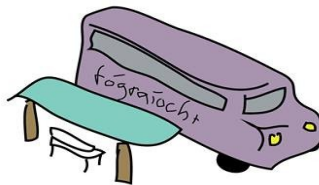


Ag Fámaireacht  
"Sightseeing"  
(egg fawmairacht)

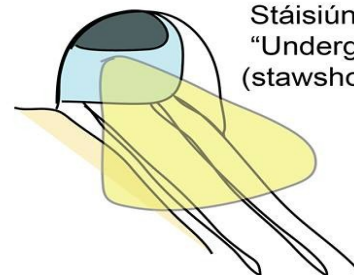
Bealach Iompair  
"Runway"  
(balach umpair)



Aerfort  
"Airport"  
(airfort)



Busárus  
"Bus Station"  
(busawrus)



Stáisiún Faoi Thalamh  
"Underground Station"  
(stawshoon fwee halav)



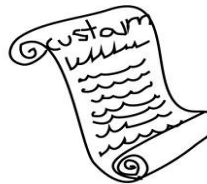
Cás  
"Suitcase"  
(caws)



Pas  
"Passport"  
(pas)



Víosa  
"Visa"  
(veesa)



Dearbhú Custaim  
"Customs Declaration"  
(darwoo custam)



Ticéad  
"Tickets"  
(tikayd)

*by Kaytria Stauffer for Irish Language Learners.*

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## YAY!! It's Back: MILFORD SAINT PATRICKS DAY PARADE

The ICSA is excited to once again take part in the Milford St. Patrick's Day Parade, to be held on Saturday, March 12th. Let's make it a great showing for the ICSA at this most enjoyable event. Step Off will be at 1 PM at Wasson Field, 70 West River Rd. Marching units will muster at the rear of Parsons Complex on West Main Street. We will march up River Street and down Broad Street on the green. Come and march proudly for your club and help support all our friends in Milford. All club members, family and friends are welcome. There is limited parking available at Parson's Complex, so come early!



### EASTER RISING FLAG RAISING

The ICSA is currently in the planning stages to bring back the traditional Easter Rising Flag Raising. A **TENTATIVE** date has been set for Sunday, April 24th. If you would like to work on this committee, please contact Margaret at [mspren@snet.net](mailto:mspren@snet.net).

Stay tuned for more information in upcoming issues of An Cuisle and Club emails.



# IRISH HISTORY

Though 2022 is not a leap year, this is an interesting bit of February-related Irish history.

## The Irish history and traditions behind Leap Day

According to Irish traditions, women are allowed to propose to their suitors on this day that only comes once every four years.



***February 29 only comes around every four years - do you know the Irish history and traditions of Leap Day?***

Ireland's folklore is full of wonderful, funny, strange, but sometimes outdated traditions and during a Leap Year, a year of 366 days, we are greeted with one of the most well-known.

Although you may have thought it was a myth, according to the old Irish tradition, the Leap Year is the perfect chance for a woman to take matters into her own hands and get down on one knee.

This year, 2020, is a Leap Year, meaning February has 29 days rather than 28. While women are definitely capable of asking a man for his hand in marriage on any day of the year that she so wishes, traditionally in Ireland, this right was reserved specifically for the Leap Year.

In 2010, we saw the Amy Adams movie "Leap Year" - [a movie Irish people love to hate](#) - based on this premise that a young woman travels to Ireland, and then after she lands she has to continue, apparently the whole way across the island, in order to get to her fiancée in time to propose on this one special day. (Although, she takes a very strange route around the country while she's at it.)

### ***History of Ireland's Leap Year traditions***

Looking back through ancient Irish history, it is said that the tradition began in 5th century Ireland when [St. Brigid of Kildare](#) bitterly complained to St. Patrick that women had to wait far too long for men to propose.

The legend says that St. Patrick decreed the women could propose on this one day in February during the leap year. I'm sure the women were thrilled.

The tradition was then taken to Scotland by Irish monks.

Back in 1288, the Scots passed a law that allowed a woman to propose marriage to the man of their dreams in a leap year, with the law also stating that any man who declined the proposal on this day would have to pay a fine.

The law was [allegedly passed](#) by an unmarried Queen Margaret (although records show she may only have been five years old at the time) and she put in place a rule that all those women proposing must wear a red petticoat while doing so.

The fine to be paid if a man declined could range from a kiss to payment for a silk dress or a pair of gloves.

This tradition comes from another tale about St. Patrick and St. Brigid in which she drops straight to her knee at Patrick's decree, instantly proposing to him. Patrick declined her offer - he was probably too busy saving Ireland from snakes - but he gave her a kiss on the cheek and a silk gown to soften the blow.

This, too, is dubious. Although many people believe that St. Patrick and St. Brigid met and that she offered her vows to him, Brigid would historically have been only nine or ten years old when Patrick died in 461 AD. If you believe he died later, however, in 493 AD, it may have been possible, although it's still not altogether likely.

In some upper-class European societies, the custom of denial involved buying 12 pairs of gloves for the woman you were rejecting. To hide her shame at not having a ring to wear, of course!

In some places, February 29 has been renamed Bachelors' Day because of the tradition.

There is also precedent for the tradition in English law. February 29 was ignored and had no legal status. People believed that traditions would also have no status on that day as it was not a legal day and so it was possible to have women propose, altering an unfair custom that allowed only men to propose marriage.

Here in the United States, the tradition was also celebrated with some people referring to February 29 as Sadie Hawkins' Day. On this allotted day of the four-year cycle, women, allegedly, have the right to run after unmarried men to propose.

Sadie Hawkins was a female character in the Al Capp [comic strip](#) "Li'l Abner" who inspired Sadie Hawkins Dances where girls would ask boys to attend.

Poor St Oswald was also cast with the women as his feast day was placed on February 29. Celebrating it on the proper day when possible, his feast day is more commonly remembered on February 28.

Be warned, if you're going to give this old tradition a go, it can go just as wrong for women as it can for men. All in the name of equality!

- *Originally published by IrishCentral in 2012, updated February 2020*





### Upcoming Club Meetings

Executive Board—Monday 14 March 7.30 pm

Social Committee—Monday 21 March—7.30 pm Playwright

Monthly Meeting—Monday 21 March—8pm Playwright

We need members to join standing committees for the flag raising, golf tournament and the bazaar. If you are interested, please contact Siobhan at the email address below.

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*Stay tuned for news from the CT Irish Theater Troupe regarding 2022 events!*

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**Irish Language Classes:** Irish Language classes continue to be on hold at this time. Any questions regarding Irish language can be directed to Cultural Director, Rich Regan at [rregan@icsa-home.org](mailto:rregan@icsa-home.org).

**Irish Radio Show: Echoes of Erin.** We encourage you to listen to our friends and club supporters at Echoes of Erin Radio show (88.7FM), broadcasting live every Sunday from 12 to 2 p.m. from the University of New Haven in West Haven CT and over the internet at <http://www.wnhu.org/> This is your source for Irish music, news, sports and community events. Hosted by Chuck Vigue..

**Irish Radio Show: Ceol na nGael.** Club member Molly Monahan Grunner is the co-producer of this show on Fordham University's NPR Radio Station, WFUV, 90.7 FM on your radio dial or live streamed at [WFUV.org](http://WFUV.org). Listen in on Sundays from noon to 4pm. You can also listen to several weeks of archived shows at [WFUV.org](http://WFUV.org).



### 2022 Officers

**President**—Margaret Prendergast—[mspren@snet.net](mailto:mspren@snet.net)

**Vice President**— [Sdacey@icsa-home.org](mailto:Sdacey@icsa-home.org)

**Secretary**—Mary Williams—[mwilliams@icsa-home.org](mailto:mwilliams@icsa-home.org)

**Treasurer**—Shaun Donnelly—[sdonnelly@icsa-home.org](mailto:sdonnelly@icsa-home.org)

**Financial Secretary**—Meaghan Whalen—[mwhalen@icsa-home.org](mailto:mwhalen@icsa-home.org)

**Cultural Director**—Rich Regan—[rregan@icsa-home.org](mailto:rregan@icsa-home.org)

**Program Director**—Tim Whalen—[twhalen@icsa-home.org](mailto:twhalen@icsa-home.org)

### AMAZON SMILE

Do you know about Amazon Smile? If you enroll in Amazon Smile and designate Irish Cultural and Sports Association of Southern CT as your non-profit of choice, Amazon will donate small percent of the sale to the ICSA. If you could use help with enrolling, contact Mary Williams at the email above. Every penny helps!

