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The IRISH POST
LONDON
FESTIVAL 2002



ST. PATRICK'S DAY
LONDON
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Your guide to the celebrations of.
LONDON ST. PATRICK'S DAY 2002



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MARCH 17TH

Festival 1pm-6pm
Parade 1pm-2.30pm
(From Westminster Cathedral)



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A message from the Mayor

ON SUNDAY, March 17 London's elected government will, for the first time in history, be officially celebrating St. Patrick's Day to mark the enormous contribution of generations of Irish people to the social, economic and cultural life of London.

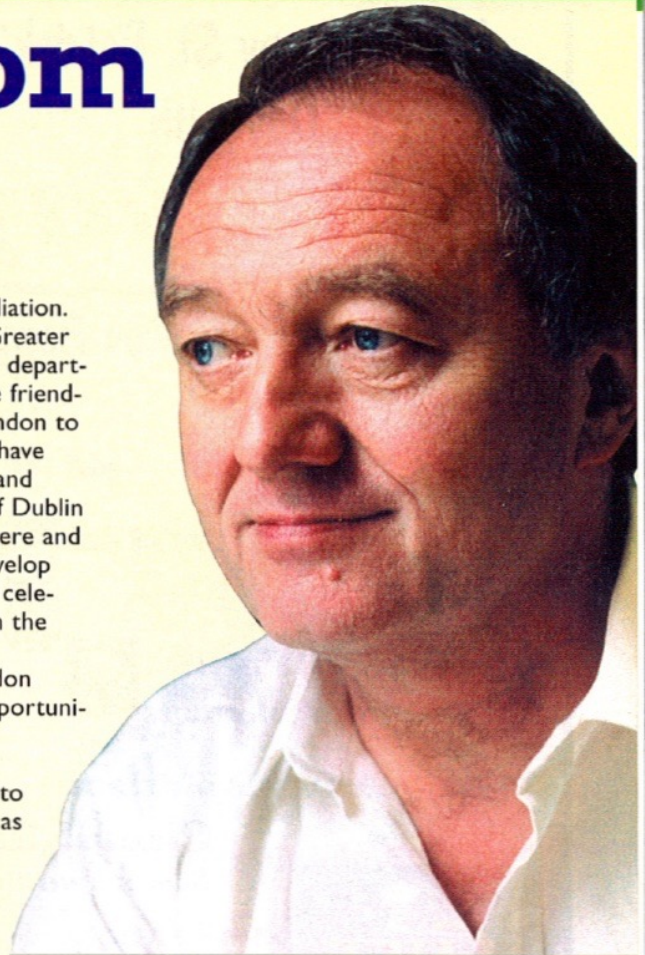
The St. Patrick's Day Parade and festival in Trafalgar Square will be an opportunity for all Londoners, from every community and for visitors to the city, to celebrate all things Irish – from literature to music and song, from dancing to oysters.

The fact that the festivities will take place in Trafalgar Square, the very centre of London, symbolises just how far we have come since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement. And events like this will reinforce the progress already made by promoting the commercial and cultural links which must grow out of

and reinforce peace and reconciliation.

That is why I have asked the Greater London Authority's international department to make Dublin one of five friendship cities with which I want London to be officially linked. To that end I have held two meetings – in London and Dublin – with the Lord Mayor of Dublin and spoken to Irish businesses here and in Ireland about our plans to develop London's St. Patrick's Day into a celebration on a par with the best in the world.

On behalf of the Greater London Authority, I want to take this opportunity to thank the London Irish for everything they have done over many centuries for this city, and to simply say that I am determined as Mayor that the Irish receive in return their fair share of London's wealth and opportunities.



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Welcome all



WELCOME to the biggest ever London St Patrick's Day Festival.

For the first time Trafalgar Square is to form the centrepiece of London's St Patrick's Day festivities as it hosts a massive celebration of all-things Irish.

The historic event builds on the success of last year's St Patrick's Guide — the first time ever we have co-ordinated the many events and celebrations across the capital for Ireland's Patron Saint.

Then we pledged it would be the start of even bigger festivities in years to come — and this year's parade and day of events in the very heart of the capital prove that to be so.

There are as many Irish in London as there are in Dublin with over 10 per cent of London's population Irish or of Irish extraction.

Most were born in Ireland and a growing number of their children and grandchildren keep our culture alive in this wonderfully diverse city.

St Patrick's Day, March 17, is a significant date in the Irish calendar. Nowhere is this more evident than

among expatriate communities around the world. Previously London had never had a strong, central focal point for Ireland's special day but instead enjoyed a plethora of activities organised by Irish organisations, venues and groups.

Now those groups have joined forces to give London its own focus and festival for St. Patrick's Day.

The Irish Post has worked with these representatives of the Irish community and London's Mayor Ken Livingstone to ensure this year's St Patrick's Day is like no other ever seen in the capital before.

As near neighbours Ireland and Britain now enjoy a mature and close relationship with many common areas of interest. Undoubtedly the peace process has played a large part in creating this new climate of trust and co-operation and in recent years Ireland's booming economy has had a tremendous impact on its relations within Europe. The Irish in London, however, have always played a key role in many facets of society. The Irish influence has been felt the world over but particularly here in Britain where so many Irish people have made their home. There could never be a better time to celebrate the rich tapestry of life in our multicultural capital and we would like to extend a warm invitation to all Londoners to join the Irish community in celebrating this special day.

Norah Casey
CEO Smurfit Media

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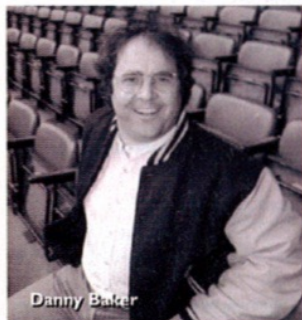
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Danny Baker



Jo Brand



Brenda Emmanus

BBC London wishes everyone a great St Patrick's Day

This year BBC London is the official broadcaster for the St Patrick's Day celebrations in Trafalgar Square. Tune in to 94.9 on March 17th for all the action live from Trafalgar Square.

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A day to remember

IT STARTED as a dream — and this year it becomes a reality.

Almost three years ago Ken Livingstone outlined his vision of a St. Patrick's Day parade and festival in the centre of London to rival New York's celebrated event.

The plans were part of his special commitment to London's Irish community as part of his campaign to be elected the city's Mayor.

And shortly after winning that contest the St. Patrick's Day plans were put into action.

For the past two years the Mayor, Irish Post publishers Smurfit Media, the Council of Irish County Associations and various other community groups have been planning the biggest St. Patrick's Day celebration London has ever seen.

For the first time ever Trafalgar Square will host a massive celebration of the Irish community and its contribution to life in the capital.

Organisers hope the London festival will eventually

grow to become one of the biggest St. Patrick's Day events in the world — rivalling those of New York, Dublin and San Francisco.

This year's festivities get under way at 1pm on Sunday, March 17 when a colourful parade sets off from Westminster Cathedral and winds its way up Whitehall to Trafalgar Square.

There a fantastic afternoon of Irish entertainment has been laid on for the thousands expected to flock to the event.

The square itself will be transformed into a little corner of Ireland in the centre of London — with music, crafts, dancing,

stalls, a children's area and marquees showcasing Irish food, crafts and culture.

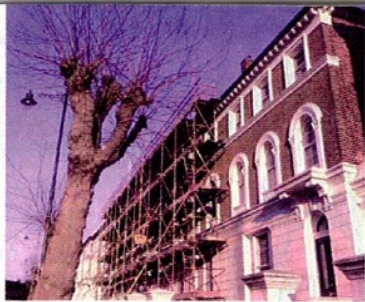
On the main stage in the centre of Trafalgar Square a host of top acts have been lined up for a special concert. Musical legends The Dubliners are flying in from Ireland to headline the event and they will be joined by Mary Coughlan, Finbar Furey, Midlands-based dance group Celtic Feet and new Irish pop sensations Bellefire and No Way Out.

A variety of other surprise acts will also be entertaining the crowds throughout the day.

St. Patrick's Day 2002 promises to be a special event for all Londoners.

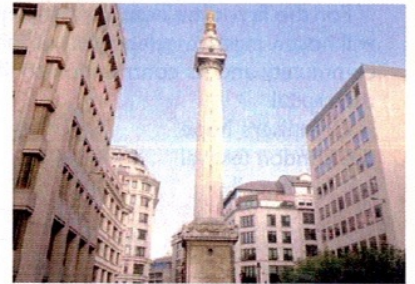
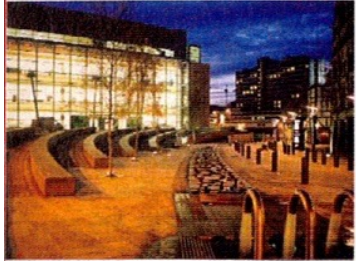
So come and join the fun and make London's St. Patrick's Day Festival a real day to remember.





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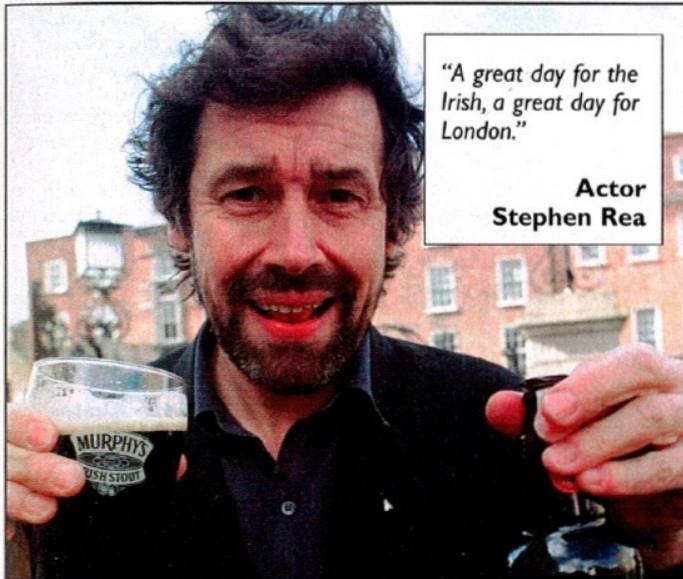
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Wishing you all a very happy St. Patrick's Day

CELEBRITIES, MPs, sportsmen and prominent figures from the Irish community throughout Britain have all sent their good wishes for the biggest Irish event of the year — Trafalgar Square St. Patrick's Day 2002. Here's what they said:



"A great day for the Irish, a great day for London."

Actor Stephen Rea



"May I offer my congratulations, a wonderful initiative which I'm sure will be a great success."

**Eddie Jordan
Jordan Grand Prix**

And here's what some other people had to say about the big day...

"Prospect representing staff in Transport for London as well as over 100,00 other professionals and specialists in the public and private sectors sends best wishes to all Londoners on St. Patrick's Day."

**Paul Noon
Joint General Secretary Prospect.**

"Londoners have been celebrating St. Patrick's Day for many years in areas such as Kilburn — where the whole community joins in. It is entirely appropriate for the festivities to be brought to the centre of Britain's capital city to celebrate the unique contribution that Irish people make as London's largest minority ethnic group. I congratulate the Mayor on an excellent initiative. I wish you every success and believe it will be a great day for everyone."

Paul Daisley MP

"The Prison Officers' Association wishes to record its recognition of the Irish community's

contribution to the diverse culture of our capital city of London. Many POA members are of Irish descent. They bring with them a great richness of humour and understanding of the task of the Prison Service which is so rightly deserving of it."

**Brian Caton
General Secretary Prison Officers' Association**

"I would like to wish you every success with the event"

Liam Brady, Arsenal Football Club

"Congratulations to everybody involved in the organisation of the first ever St. Patrick's Day festival in London and very best wishes to the London Irish community and particularly the many Irish people in my constituency. I'm sure it will be a very enjoyable day and one in which I will be participating in. Let's hope the first ever festival will become a regular event for many years to come."

Ian Coleman MP

"What a splendid idea to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in the heart of London!"

Sir Peter O'Sullivan CBE

"It gives me great pleasure to send my best wishes for St. Patrick's Day.

"I hope that today's events will serve to emphasise the contribution made to the economic, social and cultural life of London by Irish men and women from both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland over many years. I trust that it will also help re-affirm those links that bind together all the peoples of these islands.

"As someone who has Irish ancestry, I wish you every success and trust you have a memorable St. Patrick's Day."

**The Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP
Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition**

Continued on page 10

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"English culture owes a huge debt to the creativity of our Irish colleagues: Swift, Sheridan, Montgomery, are merely a few of the names. As someone who is Anglo-Irish I applaud the Mayor's initiative in celebrating St. Patrick's Day."

Peter Smith General Secretary ATL

"This event will have been worth waiting for. It is the first of many a spectacular St. Patrick's Day."

Tom Brake MP

"Growing up in Tottenham I have always been aware of a strong Irish community — vibrant with its own identity. The Irish Centre in Tottenham is used by the Irish community across London. It is wonderful to have the opportunity to support this year's St. Patrick's Day."

David Lammy MP

"It's time we joined the worldwide celebration of the Irish Diaspora — having lived and worked in America and enjoyed St. Patrick's Day there to the full I am delighted we're going to be able to do it here."

Jon Snow

"Representing North Islington, one of London's traditional Irish areas, I have always been aware of the huge contributions made by the people

from Ireland towards so many of our local services — including the voluntary efforts of so many.

"At the same time, Irish women and men still suffer a great deal of poverty and discrimination despite the strides made in education and political action by the new generation.

"The Mayor is to be congratulated in getting an official celebration at last. Best wishes on this great day and long may it continue."

Jeremy Corbyn MP

"I wish everyone a fantastic St. Patrick's Day. I hope everyone will enjoy the parade and wonderful entertainment."

Stephen Twigg MP

"This is a great opportunity for people of all ages, and in all communities in London to join with others around the country in celebrating an important occasion in a fun way. I hope everyone has a wonderful day."

The Rt. Hon Charles Kennedy MP

"I am delighted to support this celebration of St. Patrick's Day. I applaud the initiative not just as a good excuse for a party but also as an overdue recognition of the enormous contribution made to

London by the Irish community over many generations. It is right that our city should at long last join the thousands of others around the world which mark this day in the appropriate way."

Mick Rix General Secretary ASLEF

"The FDA union sends its warm support and best wishes to the St. Patrick's Day celebration.

"London has thrived on its cultural diversity throughout its history and this new event will help to ensure that the significant contribution of the Irish to London life is celebrated in the future."

Jonathan Baume, General Secretary FDA.

"The Irish are part of London's history. We contributed to the construction of the capital's many fine buildings, we staffed its public services from the buses to the hospitals and we brought humour and song to many of its pubs and clubs. St. Patrick's Day is all about celebrating the contribution of the London Irish."

John McDonnell MP

"It is good to know that London will now join us in Dublin and other great cities of the world like New York, Sydney, Tokyo and San Francisco in being part of the global

celebration of Ireland's National Day.

"For so long London has been a home from home for many Irish people. I myself, was part of that Irish Community in London for a number of years and my life was greatly enriched by the experience.

"The links between Ireland and London are many and strong. It is heartening to know that the time is right to allow those links to be formally acknowledged in a day of celebration on March 17th. Here's to a marvellous and memorable day."

Moya Doherty Riverdance

"Good luck to everyone participating in this year's St. Patrick's Day events. This is a unique celebration and a great way to mark the enormous contribution of Irish people to London. I hope you have a tremendous day and everyone enjoys the music, dance, song and culture."

"Adh mór do gach duine atá páirteach in immeachtaí Lá Fheile Phádraig i London — agus is dóigh iontach é an chomaoin ollmhór atá déanta ag muintir na hÉireann do chathair London.

Tá súil agam go mbeidh lá iontach ag gach duine agus go mbaineann sibh sult as an cheol rinne, amhráin agus cultúr."

Gerry Adams MP, President Sinn Féin

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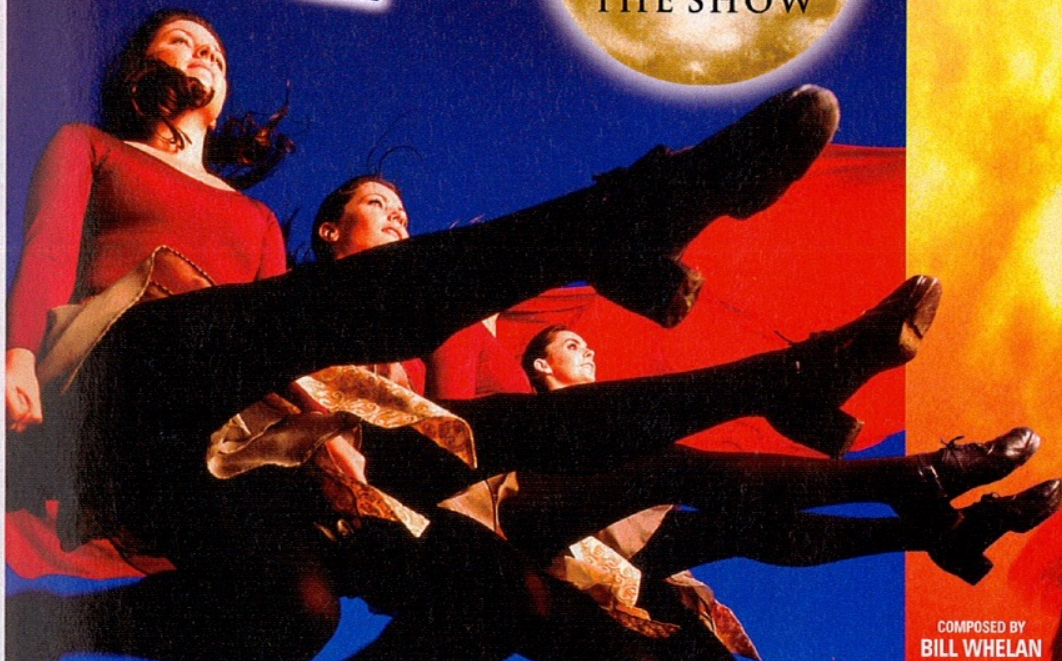
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1) What's a Home and Away?

- (a) Shamrock Rovers' semi-final ties in the Champion's League;
- (b) New Irish soap drama to replace Glenroe;
- (c) A Guinness and a Murphy's.

2) Which of these were invented by Irish people?

- (a) The submarine;
- (b) The bodhrán; —
- (c) The ECG machine;
- (d) Shorthand
- (e) All of the above.

3) What's the difference between Mulligatawny Soup and Macgillicuddy's Reeks?

- (a) Mulligatawny Soup is the highest mountain range in Ireland;
- (b) Macgillicuddy's Reeks has something to do with smells;
- (c) Carrantuohill is a Reek. —

4) Do you have a dog called:

- (a) Fido;
- (b) Rover;
- (c) Shamrock Rover?

5) Which of the following were born in Ireland?

- (a) Wilfred Bramble (Old Man Steptoe); —
- (b) Jonathan Aitken;
- (c) James Connolly;
- (d) U2's the Edge.

6) Who said:

"They are the most pernicious race of little odious vermin that nature ever suffered to crawl upon the surface of the earth."

- (a) Bob Geldof about the showbands;
- (b) One of the Daily Mail's resident bigots about the Irish;
- (c) Liam Lawlor about his Fianna Fáil colleagues in the Dail;
- (d) Gulliver about the Brobdingnags.

7) Do you ever talk about 'going for the messages'?

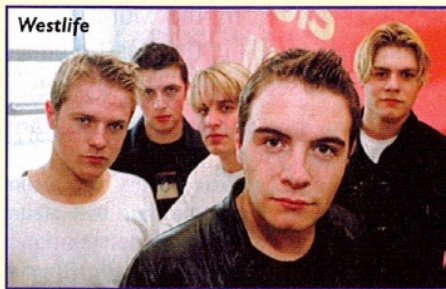
- (a) Don't know what you're talking about;
- (b) Granny used to say it; —
- (c) You occasionally lapse back into the vernacular and surprise English workmates by using the phrase when popping down to Tesco's.

8) What is the main unifying theme in the North?

- (a) The ongoing Peace Process; —
- (b) The ecumenical efforts of the two churches;
- (c) Everyone loves food that's bad for you.

9) If England are playing Kazakhstan at football, do you:

- (a) Adopt a neutral stance;
- (b) Support the English lads — after all most of the Irish international team play in the Premier league;
- (c) Cheer Kazakhstan every inch of the way, as if you've been born and bred on the Kazakhstan steppes?



10) A meal is not a meal if it doesn't include potatoes:

- (a) I disagree;
- (b) Agree;
- (c) A potato IS a meal. —

11) For a casual greeting in the Gaeltacht should you say:

- (a) Top o' the mornin' to ye!
- (b) 'Bout ye big lad!
- (c) How's it goin', head?
- (d) Tá sé go brea. —

12) Vegetables should be served:

- (a) Lightly sautéed; —
- (b) On a separate plate;
- (c) Boiled to a soggy pulp.

13) Westlife is:

- (a) An insurance company;
- (b) An Irish boy band; —
- (c) Not fit to wipe the boots of Thin Lizzy.

14) Do you occasionally hear yourself quoting lines from The Quiet Man such as "I'll do no such shameful thing"?

- (a) Who is the Quiet Man?
- (b) No;
- (c) "I'm Sean Thornton and I was born in that little cottage over there. And I've come home, and home I'm gonna stay. Now does that answer your questions once and for all, you nosy little man?" —

15) Does Danny Boy still bring a tear to your eye?

- (a) Never;
- (b) With the correct intake of alcoholic refreshment; —

(c) Are you kidding? I know all three verses including the one about setting Ireland free but can never get past the first verse due to excessive blubbing.

16) Does the 'mc' in McDonald's mean in Irish:

- (a) 'food tasting like cardboard';
- (b) Grandson of Donal;
- (c) Son of Donal? —

17) Which Irish person beat both Albert Reynolds and David Trimble to a job?

- (a) Liam Neeson;
- (b) Dana;
- (c) Mary McAleese. —

18) Chips are:

- (a) Dangerously unhealthy food;
- (b) OK if taken in moderation; —
- (c) The most flexible meal known to culinary science — you can eat them with your fry-up at breakfast, or as a light snack with a hamburger last thing at night — and any left over can be served as salad the next day.

19) Irish coffee is a drink:

- (a) Made from the finest of coffee beans grown in Leitrim;
- (b) Invented at Shannon (then Foynes) Airport in 1943 to fortify passengers for their onward journey across the Atlantic;
- (c) Contains the four basic, necessary life-sustaining food groups: sugar, caffeine, alcohol and cream.

20) At the office, do you talk about taking:

- (a) the lift; —
- (b) the elevator;
- (c) the hoist.

The answers:

(1) c - 4 points; (2) a point each for a, b, c or d - 4 points for e; (3) c - 3 points; (4) a - 3 points; a bonus of 1 point if you have a snake called Taoiseach; (5) Steptoe and Aitken both born in Dublin; the Edge in Wales and JC in Scotland; 2 points apiece for the first two; (6) b - 1 point; (7) b - 1 point; c - 3 points; (8) Overwhelmingly c - 5 points; (9) Another crucial question: c - 5 points; (10) b - 1 point; (11) a - minus 10; b - 5 points; this is a Belfast greeting; c - 2 points; this is a Dublin greeting; d - 5 points; means approximately "Nice weather"; (12) c - 3 points; (13) b - 1 point; c - 3 points; (14) a - minus 5 points; b - zero points; (15) b - 1 point; c - 5 points; (16) Strictly speaking c is correct so give yourself 3 points; However bung yourself a bonus of one if you hesitated over either of the other two answers; (17) c - 3; Mary beat D. Trimble for a job at the Law Department of Queen's University Belfast, and of course deprived poor old Albert of the Irish presidency; (18) Remember we're looking for the correct Irish answer here, so 3 points if you went for c; (19) See no 19 above - correct answer b; (20) c - 3 points, plus 1 point for the technically correct answer b; (20) c - 3 points.

The score:

If you scored more between 80-70 points then you are an Accredited Celt; a Happening Hibernian, a Genuine Gael. If you scored between 60-70, you're probably well enough acquainted with the Ould Sod, but have been over here in the New Sod too long; 60-40 means standards are slipping - time to go on a Self-Hibernianisation programme; your local Irish club should be able to help; 40-25 is beginning to look bad; You can only consider yourself a Hybrid Hibernian - not quite the real thing; If you scored less than 25 it's time you took a crash course in Irish culture; Between 10 and minus 10 and you could well find your subscription to the Irish Post being forcibly withdrawn.



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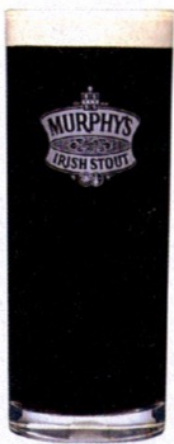
James Jeremiah Murphy founded the Murphy Brewery in Cork, Ireland nearly 150 years ago, in 1856. Using brewing methods that date back to Egyptian times, he began to produce the unmistakable unique taste of Murphy's.

The seven step brewing process has changed little over Murphy's 147-year history. Using only the finest malting barley, grown in County Cork's chalky soil and cool water from the River Kiln, known for its purity, are combined to create the distinctively silky, mellow, taste of Murphy's, which is less bitter, smoother and easily distinguished from other stouts.

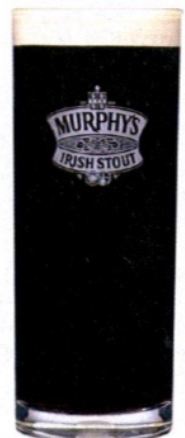
As the perfect St. Patrick's Day celebratory drink, why not try the 'Murphy's Pot of Gold' – a perfectly poured pint of Murphy's with a shot glass full of Irish Cream Liqueur (still in the glass) dropped into the bottom. Be careful though – if you drink too many of these you really will start seeing the little people!

Alternatively, those wanting to celebrate the day in true London fashionata style should try a 'Murphy's Black Velvet' – a glass of champagne poured over a base of Murphy's – the mix of smooth stout and bubbly is a favourite amongst all the St Patrick's Day parade stars.

In order to appreciate St Patrick's Day fully, there are five things that every would be celebrator should know...



- St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland
- St. Patrick wasn't actually Irish: he was English. At the age of 16 he –was captured from the mainland by pirates and sold into slavery in Ireland.
- Contrary to popular belief, the colour of St. Patrick is really blue. The colour green has actually been adopted as the 'colour of the Irish' because of the 'Emerald Isle's' beautiful lush countryside.
- The symbol of St. Patrick evolved as the shamrock because he used the shamrock's three leaves to explain the holy trinity to his congregation.
- The Irish art of 'Blarney' originates from the Blarney Stone – a stone in Cork Castle which bestows the Gaelic gift of the gab when kissed.



So, if you are looking for the perfect excuse to down that extra pint of Murphy's, practice the Irish art of the blarney: "In Heaven there is no beer, that is why we drink it here!"

PROUD TO BE THE **OTHER** STOUT

Brewed in Cork since 1856

The best Irish pubs in London

St. Patrick's Day wouldn't be the same without some liquid refreshment. But where to go? Here's a guide to some of the most popular Irish pubs and bars in the capital.

■ THE ARCHWAY TAVERN

Archway Roundabout, N19,
020 7272 2840.

Situated near to the station, the fixtures and fittings of one bar recall the days of the tram, while the music bar brings us right up to date, decked out like an underground tube station. Owner John Sweeney from Co. Kerry serves food seven days a week and on St. Patrick's Day you can sample free Irish stew whilst enjoying the all-day music festival from 1pm to 1am.

■ AN POITÍN STIL

407/411 Hendon Way, Hendon
Central, NW4
020 8203 1052.

This pub has a church theme running through it, with old church pews and stained-glass windows in the large ground-floor bar. The Stil is open until 2am every night with a night club at weekends. There will be live music and a DJ on the 17th and plenty of free Irish stew. Could be just the place to confess to Paddy's day indulgences!

■ THE BAILEY

81 Holloway Road, Highbury N7,
020 7607 1981.

A traditional pub with wooden flooring and furnishings, but bright and airy with marvellous views onto the Holloway Road! There's live music every Tuesday night and on the 17th there'll be live music throughout the afternoon. Thai food is served all day. Mayo born Dee McAndrew and her staff promise a friendly and warm welcome.

■ O'CALLAGHAN'S IRISH BAR

Old Quebec Street, Marble Arch,
0870 400 8701.

Kilkenny-born manager Shane Raggett says his pub is an authentic Irish theme bar in London's busy Marble Arch. O'Callaghan's has live music seven nights a week and St Patrick's Day is no excep-

tion. Gaelic games fans will be thrilled to hear they will be showing all the club finals live on the big screen.

■ THE CLADDAGH RING

10 Church Road, Hendon, NW4
020 8203 3368.

The Claddagh Ring has both an old-style Irish bar and a more modern music bar where you can hear live music five nights a week. But it all starts much earlier on St. Patrick's Day with a mix of folk, traditional and Celtic rock bands playing and Irish dancers performing from 1pm. Owner Finbar Holian from Co. Galway invites customers to enjoy Irish Stew, bacon and

cabbage and beef in Guinness between noon and 6pm.

■ CLANCY'S

Benwell Road, Holloway,
020 7607 8405

Laois man Robbie Lyons describes this as a traditional pub "where everyone knows everyone else". A number of celebrities have drunk here including Shane McGowan. The place is also well known for its traditional music sessions and the pub has made welcome many famous musicians. House musicians Six Mile Walk will be playing on St. Patrick's Day and Irish stew will be served all day with proceeds going to a homeless charity.

Continued on page 16



Clancy's — a pub where everyone knows everyone else.

■ **THE CORRIB REST**

76- 82 Salusbury Road, Queen's Park, NW6.
020 7625 9585.

Run by Clare man Paul Foley, the Corrib Rest has two traditional Irish theme bars, one of which is a spacious music bar. Here on St. Patrick's Day you can enjoy live bands, Irish dancing and a menu of traditional Irish dishes. There are also two function rooms for hire if you want to carry on the celebrations at a later date!

■ **THE CROWN**

152 Cricklewood Broadway, NW2
020 8452 4175.

Not only is The Crown a listed building but it is now almost an Irish institution. It has been in existence since 1896 and has recently had a refurbishment. There's a new contemporary Irish bar, a music bar which hosts DJs and live bands, a function room and a lounge area with leather couches, open fires and table service. "Like you might get at home," Limerick-born manager Tommy Moran says. Live music starts at 3pm with a mix of rock and psycho-ceili and there are drinks promotions throughout the day.

■ **THE FAIRWAYS**

Walthamstow Avenue, E4.
020 8527 9892.

As the name suggests, the pub is next to the golfing range. With traditional decor, there is an open fire, pine furniture and beams supporting the ceiling in this homely and comfortable pub. There'll be a mix of live bands and Irish dancing all day on St. Patrick's Day and manageress Christine Hogan from Co. Westmeath will be serving a traditional Irish menu.

■ **KAVANAGH'S IRISH BAR**

92b Old Brompton Road, SW7.
020 7584 6886.

Found in the basement of Jury's Hotel, this bar has a cottage area, snug and a sports bar. Lots of locals come to listen to live bands which play every Thursday and Saturday. There'll be a traditional Irish menu for St. Patrick's Day and live music playing late into the evening. Manager Angus promises a warm welcome and a lively atmosphere.

■ **McGOVERN'S**

307-311 Kilburn High Road, NW6.
020 7624 1157.

For sports fans this pub has two big screens and six televisions, so you won't miss a moment of the action! A traditional pub menu is served six days a week and there's live music at weekends. On St. Patrick's Day you can sample Irish stew



Power's — you couldn't find a more Irish location in London.

and soda bread while listening to Irish bands throughout the day, both upstairs and downstairs, and a DJ late on in the evening.

■ **O'DONOGHUE'S**

174 Goldhawk Road, Shepherds Bush, W12
020 8743 1587.

This traditional bar has big screens which show sports fixtures, including Gaelic games. There's also a dance floor and the bar has a late licence. A traditional pub menu is served every day. There'll be live bands and Irish dancers performing on St. Patrick's Day. Manager Declan Doherty from Co. Donegal will be serving Irish food which you can wash down with Irish cocktails throughout the day. Forthcoming attractions include The Popes and The Wolfetones.

■ **THE PORTER HOUSE**

Maiden Lane, off Bedford Street, WC2.
020 7379 7917.

The Porterhouse stocks probably the largest number of bottled beers in London with 110 different ones on offer! A huge pub, but a number of bars on several levels gives it an intimate feel. Dishes with an Irish flavour are served daily. Not only celebrating the feast day, Peter Hughes from Dublin will be hosting a week-long Irish beer and whiskey festival and several live music sessions.

■ **POWER'S**

Kilburn High Road
020 7624 6026

Slap bang in the middle of Kilburn, this pub offers a free jukebox and 24 different Irish whiskeys. However, Guinness is unsurprisingly the most popular drink on offer and you couldn't find a more Irish location in London than Kilburn to down your pint. There's live music throughout the week and a DJ on Friday and Saturday nights. A new bar menu serves snacks every evening from 6pm. "Nothing planned for St. Patrick's day," says assistant manager Caris, "the place will be mobbed!"

■ **O'NEILLS**

Shepherds Bush Green, W12 and other locations around London
020 8746 1288

This O'Neill's pub has the added advantage of also housing the excellent theatre venue — the Bush Theatre. Positioned right next door to Shepherds Bush Empire it is a lively, vibrant pub. Galway born manager Michael Blake will be serving traditional Irish brunch from 10am and will be open until midnight.

■ **FINNEGAN'S WAKE**

Haven Green, Ealing Broadway
020 8567 2439

Galway man Pat Hynes has run this particular Finnegan's Wake bar for the past five years. This is a truly Irish theme bar and they make no apologies about it. If

sports are your thing then this is the pub to go to with a myriad of sports shown daily. On St Patrick's Day there'll be an Irish themed menu served from 12 until evening and live bands from 5pm

■ **THE SPANISH ARCH**

28 Belmont Circle, Kenton Lane, Harrow.
020 8909 3269.

This pub had the honour of winning a Pub Design of the Year award in 1999. Much of the interior was brought over from Ireland with flooring, stonework and bar counters coming from Counties Meath, Galway, Armagh and Donegal. Manager Fidelma Carty from Galway will be serving Irish food and hosting live music and drinks promotions for St. Patrick's Day.

■ **THE SPINNING WHEEL**

Northfield Avenue, Ealing, W13
020 8567 8348.

This pub has a basement bar and a first floor with Irish prints, photos and murals on the walls. On the 17th, there will be live music all day, a mix of traditional and Celtic rock, and Irish dancers. The first 40 customers will receive a shot of Jameson from Co. Down manager Kieran McClure.

■ **THE SWAN**

215 Clapham Road, Stockwell, SW9
020 7978 9778

Owned and run by the Sheehan family from Kerry, The Swan has become something of an institution. "Practically every Irish musician has played here, from Christy Moore to The Pogues," says entertainments manager John McCormack. As you'd expect there is live music all over the St. Patrick's weekend which includes both U2 and Commitments tribute bands. Admission on St. Patrick's day includes free bar snacks for the hungry among you.



The Swan — something of an institution, with live music throughout St. Patrick's weekend.

■ **TEMPLE BAR**

203 Holloway Road, N7.
020 7609 7162.

A mix of the old and new. A red and purple disco bar shares the ground floor with a traditional stone floor pub complete with wooden beams. A third-floor restaurant serves traditional specialities. On the 17th, Joe Clifford from Derry will be serving an Irish menu and there'll be live music and drinks promotions all day.

■ **T.J. DUFFY**

282 Northfield Avenue, Ealing, W5.
020 8932 1711.

Tommy Duffy from Co. Cavan likes to describe his pub as one you'd find in Ireland rather than an "Irish" pub. There's a weekly quiz night, live music and Take Your Pick on a Sunday evening, and food

served every day. On Saturday 16th March there will be live music and on St. Patrick's Day there is a traditional Sunday lunch and Irish menu. DJ Declan plays everything from The Wolfe Tones to Boyzone!

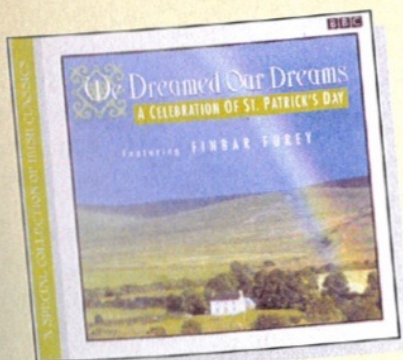
■ **WAXY O'CONNORS**

14-16 Rupert Street, W1.
020 7287 0255.

You can enjoy a drink in one of five different bars here including the Church where you can preach from the pulpit and the Tree room where a 250-year-old beech tree from Ireland "grows" from floor to ceiling. Waxy's serves traditional Irish dishes daily in the bar and in its candlelit restaurant. On the 17th there'll be live music, beer promotions and giveaways throughout the day.

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Saint Patrick: All you need to know



EVERY year millions of people in cities across the world take to the streets to celebrate St. Patrick. But just who was he — and why has the day become a worldwide celebration?

- ❖ St. Patrick's official title is Archbishop Cardinal of Armagh, Apostle of Ireland.

- ❖ Accepted theory goes that St. Patrick was in all likelihood a Roman brought up in Scotland — although other suggestions for his birthplace have included Wales (Abergavenny) and England (possibly Somerset). There is even a school of thought that he was born at Boulogne-sur-Mer in France.

- ❖ People who have Patrick as their middle name: Eric Clapton, Kevin Kennedy (Coronation Street's Curly Watts) and Elvis Costello.

- ❖ It has been claimed that St. Patrick ended his days at Glastonbury and was buried there. The Chapel of St. Patrick still exists as part of Glastonbury Abbey.

- ❖ St. Patrick first came to Ireland at the age of 16 as a slave — captured by Irish pirates.

- ❖ At the time of his death it is said that Patrick, a no-nonsense Christian, obtained four requests from God, one of them being that on the day of judgement all the Irish would be judged by Patrick himself.

- ❖ St. Patrick is also official Patron Saint of Nigeria, and de facto Patron Saint of Montserrat.

- ❖ There are only two surviving authentic writings of St. Patrick — his Confession and a letter to the Roman Coroticus.

- ❖ Largely because of St. Patrick Ireland was the only country in Europe to embrace Christianity without bloodshed or martyrdom.

- ❖ In his early life Patrick was probably called Maewyn Succat.

- ❖ Although St. Patrick is normally depicted as looking like a cross between Billy Connolly and the Pope, no depiction of his physical

features either on paper or as a carving on stone or wood survive.

- ❖ St. Patrick, as well as being Apostle of Ireland, is also patron saint of French fishermen.

- ❖ The popularity of Patrick as an Irish name owes as much to two Irish historical figures — Patrick Sarsfield and Padraig Pearse — as it does to the Apostle of Ireland.

- ❖ St. Patrick founded 60 diocesan churches throughout Ireland.

- ❖ St. Patrick's Day cannot coincide with Easter Day — but it can occur on the same day as Palm Sunday. This last occurred in 1940 and will not happen again until 2399.

- ❖ St. Patrick shares his feast day with St. Joseph of Arimathea, the patron saint of tin workers.

And other interesting facts:

- ❖ Botanically speaking there is actually no such thing as a shamrock. Any of about half a dozen species of clover, sorrel or mendick trade under the name shamrock.

- ❖ The shamrock has no official status in Ireland — the national emblem of the State is the Brian Boru harp.

Your guide to London's big FESTIVAL TIMETABLE

12.30pm: Parade assembles outside Westminster Cathedral.

1pm: Parade begins to move along Victoria Street and Whitehall to Trafalgar Square.

2pm: Free, cultural festival begins in earnest on Trafalgar Square. The St. Patrick's Day festival will be officially opened by Ken Livingstone.

6pm: Festival finishes.

Other activities

There will be marquees with Irish food and crafts on the square as well as music and poetry workshops.

There will also be a children's area featuring a play-bus and face-painting area.

Evensong and candle lighting service at St. Martin-in-the-Field that evening.

Acoustic stage

At the north west corner of Trafalgar Square there will be a free-for-all acoustic stage.

During the day a variety of Irish music and dance sessions will take place there so come and join. If your band want to provisionally book a 20-minute slot on this stage e-mail: ri-ra@ri-ra.co.uk by March 8.

■ For all the latest information on the festival check out: www.mystpatricksdays.com

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St. Patrick's Day celebration

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members

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BELLEFIRE

This all-girl group and future stars, who spent the last year touring Europe and Japan, release their second single a cover of U2's *All I Want Is You* in April.



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The Irish in London

Sunday March 17 sees the first ever St. Patrick's Day Festival in Trafalgar Square — but the Irish community has been deeply woven into the fabric of London life for centuries.

HISTORIANS say Irish migrants were making their way to London from as long ago as the 12th century.

One of the most famous Irish visitors to London in those early years was pirate queen of Connaught Grace O'Malley — who was received by Queen Elizabeth I in 1593. But many other Irish were not so welcome — as proved by two statutes issued in 1243 and 1629 aimed at ridding London of Irish vagrants.

But it wasn't until the late 18th century that the Irish settlement of London began in earnest.

The famous St. Patrick's Church in Soho Square was opened in 1792 to accommodate the large number of Irish Catholics congregated in the surrounding area now known as

Tottenham Court Road.

The neighbourhood became synonymous with overcrowding — and was soon dubbed The Rookeries by Londoners.

Other similar areas of settlement sprang up around Seven Dials — the present day Covent Garden — Bermondsey and Wapping.

The Famine in the 1840s saw the Irish population of London swell to over 100,000 with whole families forced to flee the land and start new lives over the water.

The vast majority were unskilled workers forced from their agricultural lifestyle but there nevertheless significant numbers of professional and artisan classes who made the journey.



Many famous Irish writers had already been making London their adopted home for decades.

Continued on page 25

Last year's St. Patrick's Day Parade in central London.



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Literary legends Goldsmith, Sheridan and Congreve enjoyed the atmosphere of Britain's capital and the tradition continued throughout the 19th century — Boucicault, Wilde and Shaw — and 20th century — Elizabeth Bowen, James Stephens, Edna O'Brien and Ronan Bennett.

The presence of large numbers of Irish people in various areas of the capital saw the exodus continue after the Second World War as London became the favoured destination for most Irish migrants.

This coincided with the biggest wave of Irish migration to Britain since the mid-19th Century.

The massive post-war reconstruction programme in Britain necessitated the recruitment of large numbers of construction workers, nurses and other workers.

London presented occupational and social opportunities not available back home and improved transport links with the Irish ferry ports made the capital more accessible than ever before.

The late 19th century had seen Irish settlement in London extended outwards from the centre to places such as Kilburn, Holloway and Shepherds Bush.

The post-war phase of migration saw this pattern extended further still to areas such as Wembley, Dagenham and Croydon.

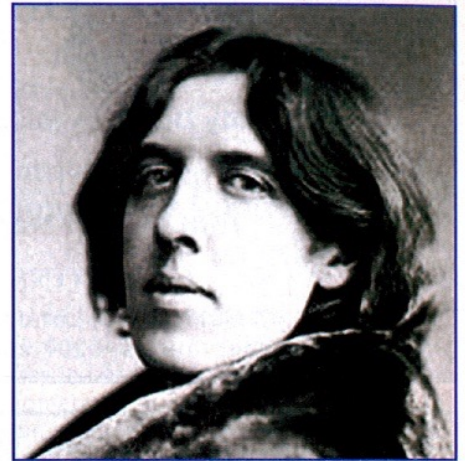
And as Irish immigra-

tion grew, and their children became the second-generation community in the capital, so they began to assume a vital importance in the city's cultural life.

Flashback to 1958 and Irish life may have involved a packed congregation at Sunday morning mass in Kilburn, Irish navvies on a building site in Neasden or maybe a group of newly-arrived migrants at their first dance in the Round Tower Ballroom on Holloway Road.

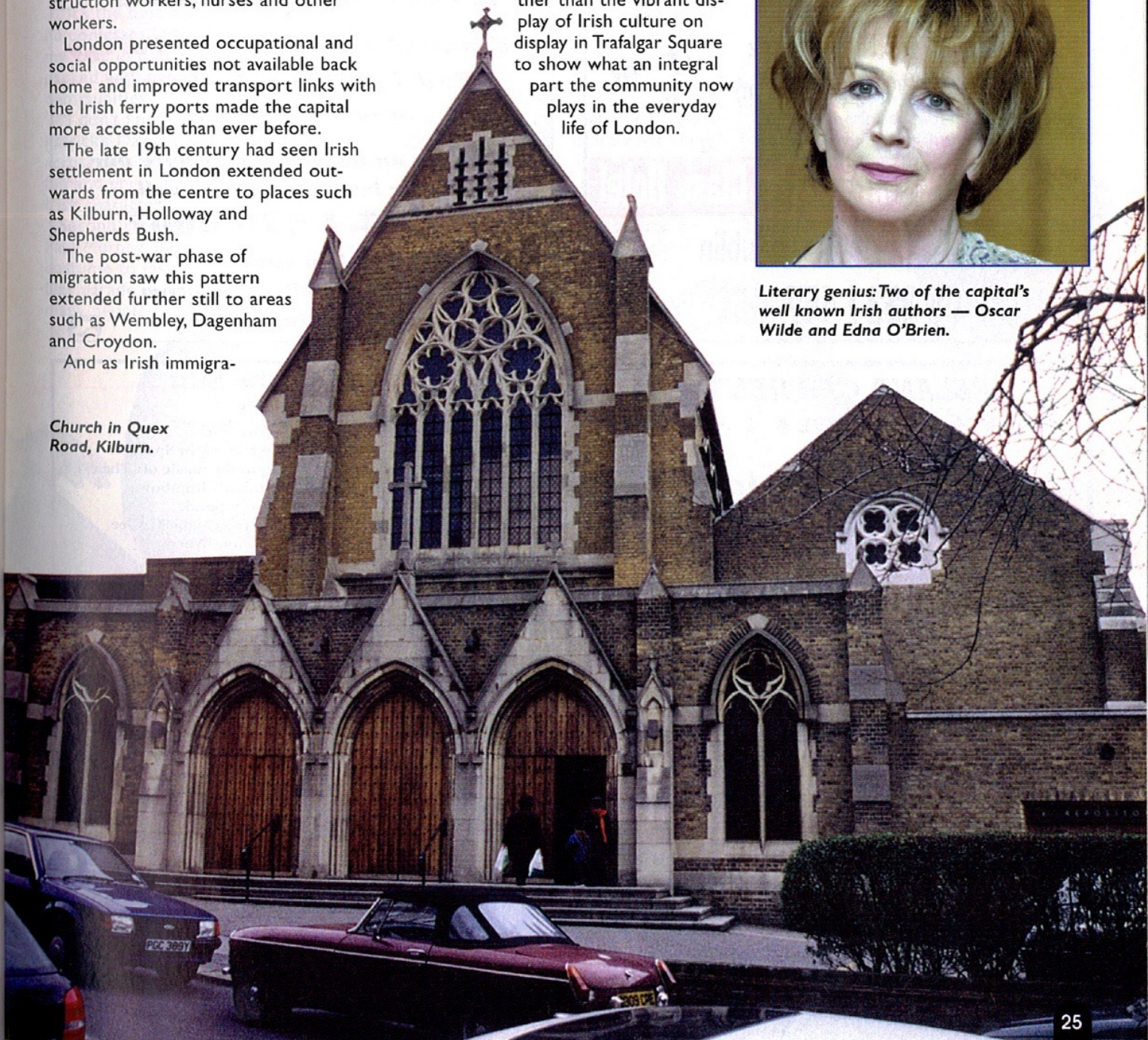
Thirty years later the images may have been of delegates at a London Irish Women's conference in Camden Town, marchers on a January afternoon commemorating Bloody Sunday in Derry or maybe the performance of a J.B. Keane or Oscar Wilde play in the West End.

And in the 21st century? Look no further than the vibrant display of Irish culture on display in Trafalgar Square to show what an integral part the community now plays in the everyday life of London.



Literary genius: Two of the capital's well known Irish authors — Oscar Wilde and Edna O'Brien.

Church in Quex Road, Kilburn.



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A day like no other

St. Patrick's Day is the most important date in the Irish calendar — but you don't have to be Irish to enjoy it. We asked a cross-section of Londoners what March 17 means to them.

ENGINEER John Travis has never even crossed the Irish Sea — but every March 17 he becomes an honorary Irishman for the day.

The 33-year-old has been celebrating St. Patrick's Day each year since he arrived in London from his native Manchester in 1994. And he wouldn't miss it for the world.

"It's the best day of the year for me," he confesses. "I always go down to my local in Kilburn and it is always packed with people from all communities.

"I don't know why but somehow St. Patrick's Day is just a festival that cuts across all boundaries. It is a day to have fun and enjoy yourself. It must be the Irish character."

Second-generation London-Irishman Paul Murphy always dons a fancy-dress costume to take part in a St. Patrick's Day parade — and is amazed at how many people come together to cele-

brate Ireland's Patron Saint.

"It's become such a tradition in London and right across the world," he says.

"There's no other day that is celebrated by so many people every year and it does make you very proud to be Irish.

"It's nice that other nationalities join in and celebrate what being Irish is about. I suppose it shows what an influence we've had on the world."

Irish-American Fiona Dunphy will be getting her first taste of St. Patrick's Day in London after arriving from her hometown of San Francisco to work in the capital just six months ago.

"I can't wait for the day," she admitted. "It's going to be something special as it will be the first time the parade has ended with a festival in Trafalgar Square so I feel quite privileged.

"There's always a big parade in San Francisco but celebrating St. Patrick's Day right in the centre of London is so cool.

"I'm gathering together all my friends whether they are Irish or not and we are going to make it a day to remember."



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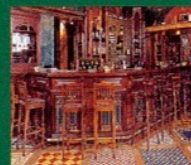
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The way to an Irishman's heart



ROISIN DUFFY recommends some of the best places to sample Irish cuisine in London.

"The Irish have an in-built feeling for hospitality, a sixth sense which steers them infallibly towards good parties. This generosity of spirit makes the Irish really good restaurateurs and chefs." So says The Evening Standard restaurant critic Charles Campion. So what better way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day (or any other occasion for that matter) than with a meal at an Irish restaurant?

To help you choose we've put together a gastronomic guide to some of the best Irish restaurants in London. Whether you prefer traditional cooking or enjoy more contemporary cuisine, there's something for every taste. Prices given are approximate and per person for a three-course meal.

THE ARD RÍ DINING ROOM
The O'Connor Don, 88 Marylebone Lane, W1. Tel: 020 7935 9311.
Price : £16-25

Diarmuid, one of the O'Callaghan family who runs the O'Connor Don, knows his history. He explains that the name of the pub comes from

the Royal House of O'Connor Don, the Kings of Connaught. "Burke's Peerage recognises it as the oldest blood line in Europe," he says. This royal theme is also found in the name of the eating area, The Ard Rí or High King. Diarmuid emphasises that "it's a dining room, not a restaurant. What you'll find here are tables properly set up for lunch and dinner, an open fire. It's comfortable. It's what you might experience at home or in a hotel, not in a chain-run restaurant". The menu offers traditional Irish and modern dishes where Beef and Guinness Casserole features alongside Chicken Breast in Mild Thai Batter with a Honey Mayonnaise.

BENEDICT'S RESTAURANT & WINE BAR
106 Kensington High Street. Tel: 020 7937 7580.
Price: From £15

Sandwiched in-between McDonald's and a mobile phone shop, the doorway to Benedict's is easy to miss. "Most of our business comes

by word of mouth and recommendation," explains Jack, the manager. Entering at street level, a staircase takes you up to the first floor. Diners arrive to sample both the traditional and modern cooking on chef Noreen Connor's menu. Specials like Irish Stew, Cabbage & Bacon are popular but so too the more unusual dishes like Paddy's Pizza, which is made with a potato base instead of the usual dough one. The pies, which include chicken and beef & Guinness, are also recommended and can be washed down with one of the many wines on their extensive list.

BRONDES AGE RESTAURANT & BAR
328 Kilburn High Road, NW6.
Tel: 020 7604 3887.
Price: £10-15

In this Irish-owned restaurant, the eating area is cosy with modern art decorating the walls. If you prefer your breakfast at 3 o'clock in the afternoon there's the All Day Irish Breakfast, served with soda bread brought in, freshly made, from the bakers next door. There is an interesting choice of meat, vegetarian and fish dishes and the menu has included such tasty examples as Venison Sausage with Mash and

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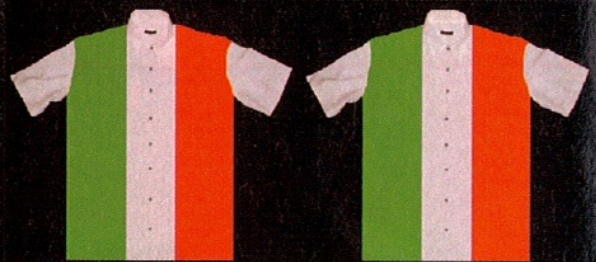
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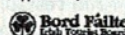
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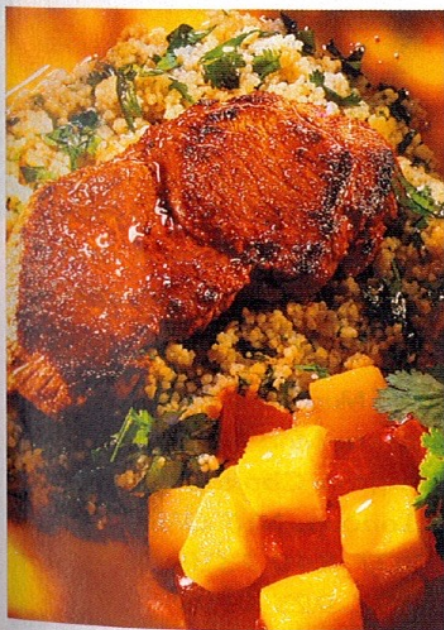
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LINDSAY HOUSE
21 Romilly Street, W1.
Tel: 020 7439 0450.
Price: £19.50-44

Richard Corrigan has been described as one of the best chefs to come out of Ireland. His Lindsay House restaurant was awarded its first Michelin star in January 1999. Having won "Outstanding London Chef" at the London Restaurant Awards in 2000, he was also nominated for the same award last year. So what is so special about Mr Corrigan? His dishes at the Lindsay House are French in style but made with seasonal Irish ingredients. Mixing the traditional with the innovative, mash potato — said to leave you wanting a third helping — has sat alongside Fig Tart with Tobacco Flavoured Syrup. This is one of Charles Campion's favourite restaurants and he describes eating there as "the authentic Irish experience".

MULLIGAN'S
13-14 Cork Street, W1.
Tel: 020 7409 1370.
Price: £20-30.

Managers Helen Davies and Paul McCluskey describe Mulligan's as like a restaurant you would find in Ireland rather than an 'Irish' restaurant. They like to think the menu reflects contemporary Irish cuisine, taking the best from traditional cooking and experimenting to invent new dishes. Filet of Irish Beef with Prune and Stout Jus, and Warm Potato and Shallot Tart with Watercress Salad are two such tasty-sounding examples. Although the food may be experimental, their customer service ethos is very simple. "Our service is professional but welcoming and relaxed," says Helen. "Once you're here you can stay as long as you like, we won't hurry you out the door."



THE POET
20 Creechurch Lane, EC3.
Tel: 020 7623 2020
Price: From £15

This restaurant is owned by Irishman Peter Dunne, who has made a name for himself running pubs. The venue has both a brasserie and a restaurant with seating on ground level and in the basement. The menu offers a varied selection of meat and fish dishes and changes regularly, with weekly specials often having an Irish flavour. Steph the manager emphasises the importance of customer service at The Poet. "We want our service to be professional. If you order three pints of Guinness here, there'll be two of us onto it."

THE ROBIN HOOD
King Street, Hammersmith.
Tel: 020 8748 9560.
Price: From £12-20

Founded by Louth man Jim Kelly, this restaurant is now run by Martin O'Neill. "The Robin Hood is one of the last traditional Irish restaurants in west London," he claims. The menu is varied with a range of Irish meat, fish and vegetarian dishes and home-made soda bread is baked daily. If you like your traditional Sunday lunch, a roast is served every week. Excellent value for money, the generous portions will satisfy the biggest of appetites. Open later than other restaurants in the area, many a late-night/early morning session is rumoured to have taken place here in by-gone days, with diners coming for dinner and staying for breakfast!

WAXY O'CONNOR'S
DARGLE RESTAURANT
14-16 Rupert Street, W1.
Tel: 020 7287 0255.
Price: From £15

Diners will have no problem building up an appetite for the Dargle Restaurant —

just wander around the 9,000 sq ft that is Waxy O'Connors before sitting down to eat! In the evenings, away from the crowded bars, this candlelit restaurant can seat 45 people. While peering out from Irish shop windows, you can sample traditional Irish dishes like Rossmore Oysters, Waxy's Seafood Platter of mussels, chargrilled salmon and Lamb's Liver and Cutlet with Bacon and Parsnip Mash with Rosemary and Sage Sauce. "We pride ourselves on serving excellent quality food at very reasonable prices and we try to use as much Irish produce as possible," explains Deputy Manager Ian Carroll.



Award winning chef Richard Corrigan's Lindsay House is described as providing "the authentic Irish experience".

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Singers, dancers, traditional Irish musicians and dozens of stalls showcasing arts and crafts will take over the square for a massive showcase of Irish talent.

Organisers promise there will be something for everyone — including a special children's area for younger members of the family.

Among high-profile artists appearing at the festival are the internationally-acclaimed dance troupe Celtic Feet — who have received rave reviews across the world for their heady mixture of Irish dance, music and theatre.

The group has already performed for a host of celebrities including Formula 1 boss Eddie Jordan and Virgin founder Richard Branson and are looking forward to thrilling the Trafalgar Square crowd with their show.

Also on stage during the afternoon will be Irish girl band Bellefire, Mary Coughlan and the original line-up of the legendary Dubliners featuring Ronnie Drew.

But visitors to the festival have more than just an exciting musical line-up to look forward.

Dozens of exhibitors will also be giving

you the chance to sample the best of Irish food and drink at the various stalls around the square.

Visitors will even have the chance to sample the unique Atlantic Seaweed —



Acclaimed dance troupe Celtic Feet

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St. Patrick's Day listings

MARCH 7-15th

Lewisham Irish Festival takes place from Thursday, March 7 until Monday, March 25. Storytelling, music workshops and crafts. Performances from Sharon Shannon, Jack Charlton, Cara Dillon and more. For more information contact Lewisham Irish Centre on 020 8695 6264.

Lewisham Irish Pensioners St Patrick's Day dance will take place from 2-5pm on 8th March at Lewisham Irish Community Centre. All are welcome.

An exhibition of paintings by the Irish Artist Brian Whelan takes place from 8th March until 30th June at The Broadway Theatre Foyer, Catford Broadway SE6. Open daily from 12noon until 10pm. Phone 01379 740 335.



Detail from *Finnegan's Wake* by Brian Whelan.

A benefit dance will be held on March 15 at St Joseph's parish centre, Highgate Hill, N19. Entertainment includes live music by a visiting Irish band. Tickets £3 in advance and £5 on the door. For more information contact 020 7272 1263.

MARCH 16th

South London St Patrick's Day parade will assemble at Lewisham Irish community centre at 11am and will move along Rushey Green towards the Shopping Centre where there will be Irish music and dance displays. The parade then returns to the Irish Centre where a reception will take place with live music from Zelda & the Terrahawks also present will be DJ Puff Paddy. Free admission.

Celebrate the eve of St Patrick's Day on the river in the company of acclaimed Irish authors and poets, traditional musicians and dancers. Cumann Celtica returns to this unique central London venue at HMS President moored on Victoria Embankment. Traditional Irish music group Lammas will entertain guests and with two fully licensed late bars it is sure to be the perfect way to bring in St Patrick's Day. Tickets are £9/£7 cons and are available from 020 8690 0002.

A St Patrick's ceili set dance will be held at the Mazenod Community Centre, Quex Road,

Kilburn from 9pm. Entertainment includes live music by Delga Trad. Admission £4. For more information contact Phyllis on 07956 323694.

A St Patrick's party will be held at the House of Fun, The Forum, Kentish Town, London. Entertainment includes U2 tribute band Zoo-2, Irish Karaoke and stilt walking leprechauns. Admission £7 members, £9 non-members. For more information contact: www.house-of-fun.co.uk

MARCH 17th

A St Patrick's Day Sunday lunch will be held at Holy Cross & All Saints Church, Warley, Brentwood, Essex on from 12.30 pm. For more information contact 01277 228295.

The National Portrait Gallery will be holding a lecture at 3pm entitled *Seamus Heaney and Questions of Nationality* — a special talk to mark St Patrick's Day given by Rebecca Lyons. The Portrait Restaurant will be serving Irish themed food and drink that day. For more information call 020 7312 2483 or 020 7306 0055.

River cruises will be hosting a St Patrick's cruise boarding at Chiswick Pier at 2pm-6pm. There will be a live Irish band with a fully licensed bar and light buffet. Price is £20. For more details contact 020 8789 3653.

Lewisham Irish Festival is holding a Music & Dance Pub Fleadh at The Woodman Pub on Sunday 17 March from 2pm and a St Patrick's night Grand Ceili at Lewisham Irish Centre from 8 pm. For more information contact Lewisham Irish Centre on 020 8695 6264.

Elephant & Castle Leisure Centre will be holding its martial arts event Irish-style to welcome Irish Martial artists coming over from Ireland. There is a lot of music and other art forms included in the show. For more details contact 020 7734 6391. The Show runs from 6pm until 11pm.

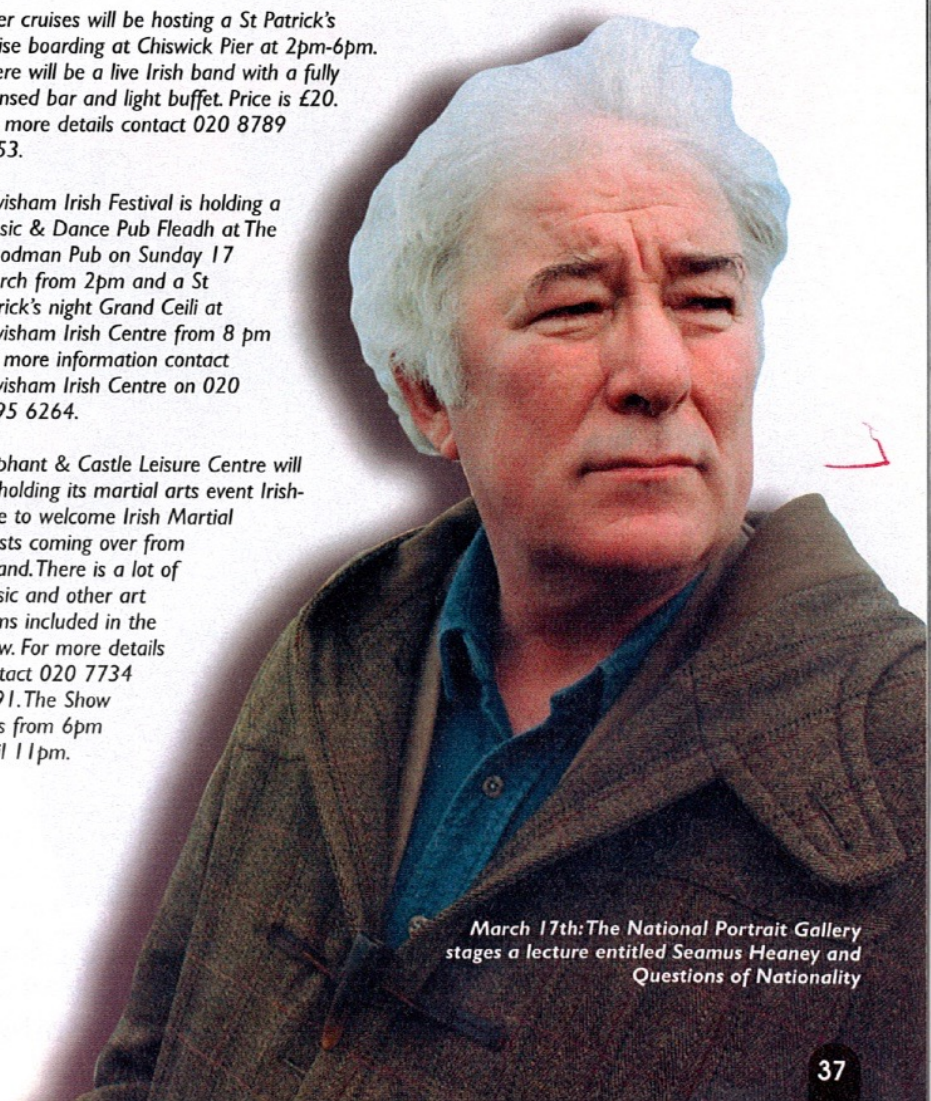
A St Patrick's night ceili will take place at the Lewisham Irish Community Centre from 8pm until midnight. Music by Wraggle Taggle. Admission £6 (members £3).

Modern Ceili plus old tyme dancing at McNamara Hall, Camden Irish Centre from 8pm onwards. Phone AntÚn Coyle on 020 7272 5815.

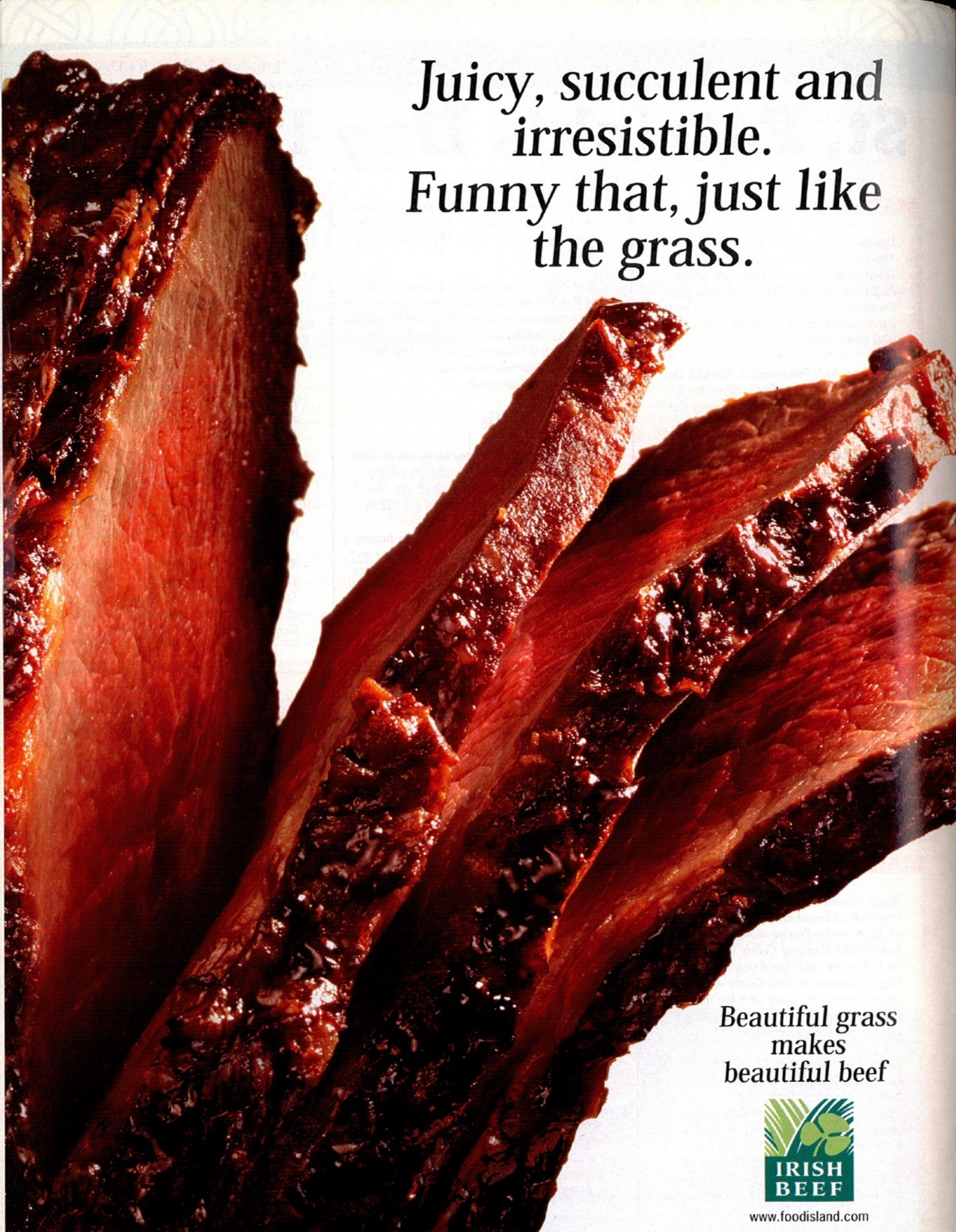
A St Patrick's day parade will take place in Higham Hill, London. Entertainment includes floats, traditional musicians, Irish dancers and stilt walkers. For more information contact 020 8496 6409.

A St Patrick's day celebration will take place in Langthorne Park, Leytonstone, E11 from 1 pm. Entertainment includes live music, dancing, food and drink and bouncy castles. For more information contact 020 8521 7111.

St Patrick's Day celebrations will take place at The Churchill Arms, 119 Kensington Church Street from 7pm. Entertainment includes lots of everything! For more information contact Gerry O'Brien on 020 7727 4242.



March 17th: The National Portrait Gallery stages a lecture entitled *Seamus Heaney and Questions of Nationality*



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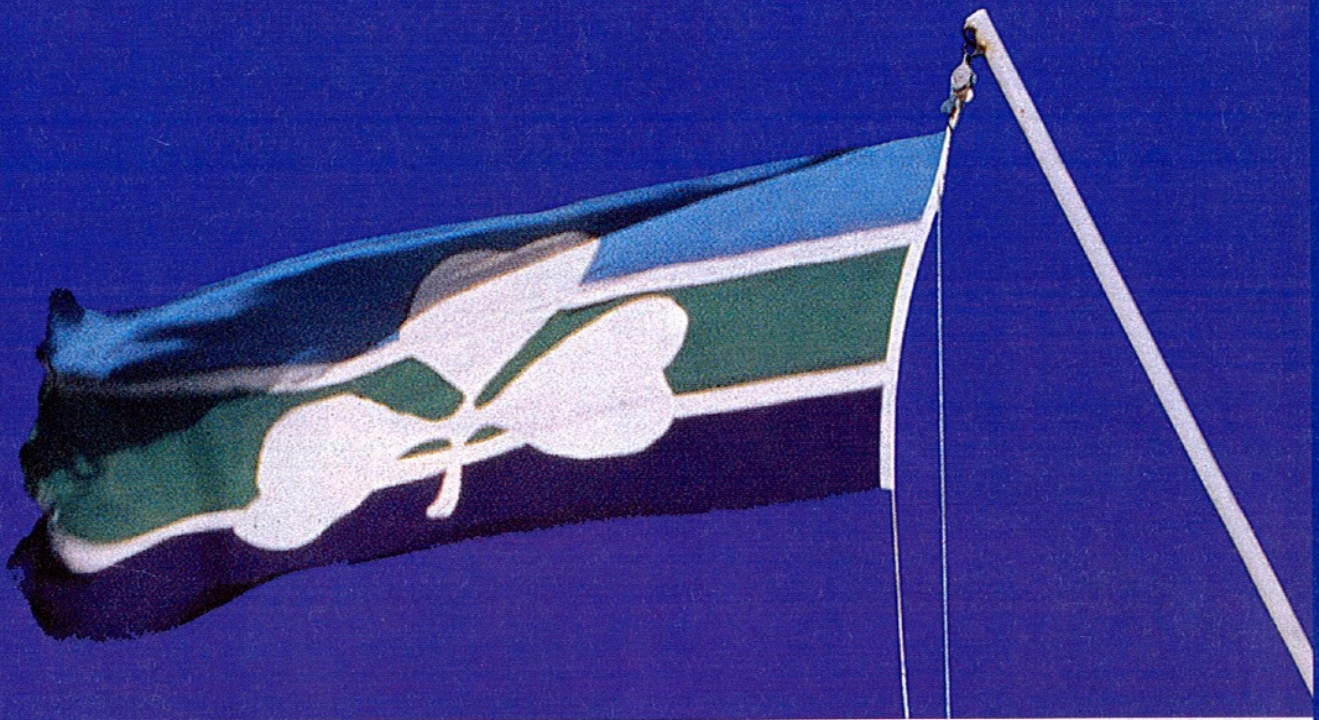
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