

# COUNTY CARLOW ASSOCIATION LONDON

[www.carlowassociationlondon.co.uk](http://www.carlowassociationlondon.co.uk)

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## MARCH 2014 NEWSLETTER

The Month of March is generally recognised as a very Irish month. On the sporting front the 6 nations is hitting a climax with the final weekend left and everything still to play for. The Cheltenham Racing festival will headline the sporting pages of all the newspapers with a heavy wave of Irish owners trainers and supporters over to soak up the atmosphere of a fantastic sporting event. The GAA club finals in both Hurling and Football in Croke Park are all played to the backdrop of our national holiday on 17th March.

St Patrick's Celebrations are central to all of this with parades in major cities and in small towns, and various cultural displays in music song dance and lots more. All are getting ready to wear the Green. Well the Carlow Association London is certainly up for wearing it together with the red and yellow also and this year it's going to be celebrated 'BIG TIME' here in London, Carlow and in Dublin. Read on.....

- **Cheltenham Racing Festival**

Cheltenham has always been a successful outing for Willie Mullins and we hear it from the horse's mouth he'll be taking the spoils again this year. Far be it for us to name them but we are told to watch him carefully especially the ones Ruby is on. Enough said!

- **London Lecture - Controlling the Carlow Corridor during the Middle Ages Thursday 13 March. Society of Antiquaries, Piccadilly at 5.00 sharp**

Linda Doran lectures in medieval history at University College Dublin and carried out a study of medieval settlement along the valleys of the Barrow, Nore and Suir rivers (2002-2004) funded by the Heritage Council of Ireland. She has published numerous papers on settlement and communication and her lecture **Controlling the Carlow Corridor during the Middle Ages** highlights the early roadway, the 'Sligh Culann' with a number of ancient associated roads, as well as the navigable Barrow and Nore rivers. The control of the Corridor, the communication route ways and the good agricultural resources was important to Gaelic Irish lords, the Vikings and later the Normans who developed a number of commercial towns along the routeway. Her talk will examine the settlement and control of this Corridor in the middle ages the struggle for the command of this area mirrors the political and military fortunes of the various groups contesting its domination. The Lecture will begin promptly at 5.00 pm, with tea and light refreshments served before the lecture from 4.15 pm onwards. Questions are taken afterwards, and guests are invited to enjoy a glass of sherry at the end.

If you are interested in attending please contact the Society no later than the day before (Wednesday - to avoid disappointment as space may be limited) and say you are guests of Linda's from the Carlow Association. Contact can be via phone (020 7479 7080) or email ([admin@sal.org.uk](mailto:admin@sal.org.uk)). The Society of Antiquaries of London is located at Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BE.

- **London's St Patrick's Celebrations Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March**

The parade again sees the County Carlow Association London taking part as a walking group and you'll be pleased to hear Carlow will be the first county up. The parade moves off at 12.00 sharp so its advisable to be there at 11.00 to get into your place and meet up with your fellow Carlovians. Local tube stations are Hyde Pk Corner or Green Park. The route is about one and a half miles long passing some of London most iconic Landmarks including The Ritz, Piccadilly Circus, Trafalgar Square and onto Whitehall. You'll enjoy it.

The free St Patrick's Day Festival in Trafalgar Sq follows afterwards with a chance to experience Irish culture at its best with traditional music, dancing, comedy and film, and sample some produce from home. The 2014 festival is set to be a dance fest, with a focus on the "World of Dance". Headlining the festival is Riverdance, returning to London ahead of its 20th anniversary tour. Other acts not to miss include performances from cast members of the musical The Commitments, The Late Late Show Band, Irish folk group Kila and the likes of stand-up stars Aisling Bea and Jarlath Regan in the London Irish Comedy Festival Marquee. But there are lots more. As part of the festival, check out the best of Irish film-making at The Prince Charles Cinema near Leicester Square as part of the St Patrick's Day Film Festival. Ballroom dancing fans will not want to miss the first edition of the St Patrick's Day Ballroom Dance, which hosts of Irish bands in the majestic Westminster Cathedral Hall.

As well at the Trafalgar Square festival the London Irish Centre has a full agenda of events going on and certainly worth a follow.

- **All Ireland Club Hurling Final**

Croke Pk as is traditional on St Patrick's Day plays host to the All Ireland Club Final and we are pleased to say the Carlow Association London will be back supporting Carlow 's Leinster Champions, Mount Leinster Rangers as they take on Portumna from Galway in the final. #thetoughest . Check out Pat Byrne's song 'Dancing in Kilcoltrim' written in honour of the lads <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3WcY9TxPyw> A lot has been written and said on the so called fairytale journey this team has made to Croker but this was always a story waiting to be written and we would like to wish them the best of luck as they compete for All-Ireland Glory. Throw in is at 2.00pm on the big day and for people abroad you can view it on TG4 and hear it on [www.kclr96fm.com](http://www.kclr96fm.com) with Brendan 'I told everybody' Hennessy and Terrance Kelly in the commentary box.

- **Carlow and London and the GAA**

It appears Carlow and London are matched up in a lot of the GAA games this year. They are both in the same divisions of the league - Hurling and Football and will also play each other in the first round of the championship. Carlow had a convincing win against London in hurling at Dr Cullen Pk recently and now top the table. They are away to London in the football and play their game on 22 March in Ruislip and we all hope you'll get a chance to see it. But the game we all want to be at will be the Leinster Championship clash on April 27 Ruislip. We all hope you can make that one. The Carlow County Board have already been in touch with us here with the idea of a London branch of the Carlow Supporter's Club. Do you think it's good idea? Would you like to become a member? Why not give our Chair a call and chat more.

- **Social Networking**

Are you into Social networking? As well as our website the association can be contacted also on our FB page Carlow Association London and Twitter page CarlowinLondon.

- **Linking up with Carlow Museum**

Early this year we mentioned a Quiz project with Carlow County Museum on Carlow Trivia. At this stage we haven't had a chance to put this in place but can assure you all will be ready to kick start in out next newsletter. But have you visited the museum recently? It's located in the Cultural Quarter of Carlow Town and is entered through Carlow Tourist Office. Over four exhibitions galleries get a snapshot of the wonderful history and heritage of the county. View the famous and magnificent 19th century hand carved pulpit from Carlow Cathedral. The pulpit has been included in the book 'A History of Ireland in 100 Objects' by Fintan O'Toole, winner of the Bord Gáis Energy Irish Book Awards 2013 'Best Irish-published Book of the Year'. Also on view is the original gallows trapdoor from the Carlow Gaol; see the smoking pipe of Captain Myles Keogh, killed at the Battle of Little Big Horn; read about the great 19th century scientist John Tyndall who was the first man to discover the greenhouse effect. Visit us & see what you're missing. More information can be found at [www.carlowcountymuseum.ie](http://www.carlowcountymuseum.ie)

- **Making Contact**

If you have just settled here in London or have a family member or friend that has why don't you get them to make contact or better still forward on this newsletter to them.

- **Who is Roland Byrne Irish Artist?**

Roland (or Roly) a very good friend of the Association is a native of Wicklow but has lived and worked in Carlow for the past twenty five years. He is a full time artist, part time photographer, broadcaster and blogger. You'll hear him on his Sunday afternoon show on Garden County Radio

[www.gardencountyradio.ie](http://www.gardencountyradio.ie) as the Barrow Piker but in his work in painting in watercolor he is something else! He works in oil on canvas and other innovative mediums also. His work is held in the private collections of the fashion designer Richard Lewis, The Irish Defence Forces, The Department of Defence, Bank of America, Electric Ireland and many other corporate organisations. It may also be seen in various galleries throughout Ireland. Check out his website <http://roland-byrne.artistwebsites.com/> for some interesting paintings of Carlow river scenes and other fantastic stuff.

- **Great News is that Carlow is performing well in Tourism**

Carlow has forged ahead as an attractive holiday destination for overseas and domestic visitors according to the latest Fáilte Ireland figures. In 2012 Carlow welcomed 69,000 overseas visitors with Great Britain the largest market accounting for 41,000 holidaymakers. Mainland Europe was the next most important source area with 16,000 tourists followed by the US with 8,000 while long haul markets including Australia and Japan accounted for 4,000 visitors. These tourists contributed €37 million to the local Carlow economy.

Chairperson of Carlow Tourism Tom Barry commented "These figures present a very positive overview of the value of tourism to Carlow, with the industry a very important part of the overall economic development strategy being pursued for the county. Every €1 million of overseas tourist expenditure helps to support 34 tourism jobs, so this expenditure is directly attributable to 1,258 jobs for the people of Carlow. Importantly tourism expenditure stays primarily in the local economy, recycling itself in the form of wages and spend in accommodation, restaurant and hospitality premises".

Commenting on the publication of these figures Eileen O' Rourke, C.E.O. Carlow Tourism noted that "Carlow can look forward to more positive results when the 2013 figures are released in October of this year, given the huge success of the Gathering initiative in the county. Carlow ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in the South East region for its number of Gatherings per head of population and a minimum increase of 7% in overseas visitor numbers and revenue is expected as a result".

Visit [www.carlowtourism.com](http://www.carlowtourism.com) for information on all your holiday requirements

- **Last but by no means least ... our 46th Annual Dinner is on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October**

It took us a while to resolve but we can now confirm our 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner is fixed for the 18<sup>th</sup> October. Special guests already confirmed as attending will be representatives from Mount Leinster Rangers our Leinster Senior Hurling Club Champions – and first Carlow hurling club ever to receive such an award. More news on our 'Special Evening' will be released in our next newsletter.

That's about it for now... I hope you enjoyed reading through  
Here's wishing you all a Happy St Patrick's Day and Festival where ever you spend it.  
**'Beannacht Lá Fhéile Pádraig'**

Kind regards

County Carlow Association of London