

Focal id' Chluais.



A word in your ear. March '10.

The History of the First St Patrick's Day Parade.

The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland, but in the United States. Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City on March 17, 1762. Along with their music, the parade helped the soldiers to reconnect with their Irish roots, as well as fellow Irishmen serving in the English army.

In 1848, several New York Irish aid societies decided to unite their parades to form one New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. Today, that parade is the world's oldest civilian parade and the largest in the United States, with over 150,000 participants. Each year, nearly three million people line the one-and-a-half mile parade route to watch the procession, which takes more than five hours.

Up until the mid-nineteenth century, most Irish immigrants in America were members of the Protestant middle class. When the Great Potato Famine hit this country in 1845, close to a million Irish Catholics began to pour into America to escape starvation. Despised for their religious beliefs and accents by the American Protestant majority, the immigrants had trouble finding even menial jobs. The Irish soon began to realize that their great numbers endowed them with a political power that had yet to be exploited. They started to organize, and their voting block, known as the "green machine," became an important swing vote for political hopefuls. Suddenly, annual St. Patrick's Day parades became a show of strength for Irish Americans, as well as a must-attend event for a slew of political candidates. In 1948, President Truman attended New York City's St. Patrick's Day parade, a proud moment for the many Irish whose ancestors had to fight stereotypes and racial prejudice to find acceptance in America.

Chicago is also famous for a somewhat peculiar annual event: dyeing the Chicago River green. The tradition started in 1962, when city pollution-control workers used dyes to trace illegal sewage discharges and realized that the green dye might provide a unique way to celebrate St Patrick's Day. That year, they released 100 pounds of green vegetable dye into the river—enough to keep it green for a week! Today, in order to minimize environmental damage, only forty pounds of dye are used, making the river green for only several hours.

Source: www.History.com

Dealing with unwanted telephone sales calls. **Source:** Citizens Information.

Cold calling means that you receive unwanted sales calls in your home from companies that you have not had any dealings with until that time. You can now register your preference not to receive such cold calls using the National Directory Database. You may still receive calls where your views are being sought in connection with market surveys. Your preference not to receive cold calls is recorded on the National Directory Database by the company who receives a line rental payment from you. This should be done within 5 working days of you notifying them of this preference. It can subsequently take up to 28 days for this information to filter through to marketing companies who make 'cold calls'. This register only applies to calls that are made in Ireland.

Rates: There is no charge for registering your preference not to have marketing calls on the National Directory Database.

How to apply : Contact the company to whom you pay a line rental charge and let them know that you do not wish to receive unsolicited marketing calls from companies. They will then insure that your preference not to receive cold calls is recorded on the National Directory Database.

mfg-Meitheal Mhúscraí, Réidh na nDoirí, Maigh Chromtha, Co Chorcaí.

Tel: 026-45661. eolas@muscraie



Disclaimer: We take great care to research the information contained in this publication. It is, to the best of our knowledge, accurate and up-to-date at the time of publication. Our aim is to provide useful information to those who receive Focal id' Chluais. MFG-Meitheal Mhúscraí cannot accept any liability for any loss or damage arising as a result of reliance on this information.

Cois Cille, Cill na Martra 026-40999.

Lunch Mon, Tues, Wed, & Friday 12.30pm.

Lunch must be booked in advance.

Transport available at 026 45661.

Chiropodist, 23rd of March by appointment.

Massage by appointment, contact 087 6759121

Art Classes with Pauline Dodds Hyland each Tuesday.

For further details contact 026 40999.

Cuan Barra, Béal Átha'n Ghaorthaidh.

Lunch, Mondays & Fridays 12.30pm.

To book call Siobhán/Lucy 087 1378099.

Transport available at 026 45661.

Aisling Ní Laoire Beauty Therapist.

087 6579894 for appointment, dates to be confirmed.

Chiropodist by appointment,

Contact Ann O Donovan 027 50340/086 3679761

Dr Ken Harte each Wednesday 12.00 – 1.00pm.

Art Classes with Pauline Dodds Hyland each Monday.

For further details contact 026 47777.

Ballingeary St Patrick's Day Parade Cancelled.

The St. Patricks Day Committee regrets that, due to the sad bereavement of a committee member, the Parade on St. Patrick's day is cancelled this year. The Pipe Band will perform as usual after 10:00am Mass.

Quick Puzzle.

Cards labelled 1 to 6 are arranged in order as shown below. Rearrange them so that they satisfy the following conditions. You will need a pencil and paper to complete this puzzle.

1. The sum of the numbers on the top row must be one less than the sum of the numbers of the bottom row.
2. The two cards in the right column must add up to five.
3. The 5 card must be to the immediate left of the 4 card.
4. The 1 card must be placed in the left column.

1	2	3
4	5	6

Answers to last month's puzzles.

Brain Boggler: August is found before July in the dictionary.

Puzzle:

8	2	3	5
5	3	2	8
1	7	6	4
4	6	7	1

Scoraíocht an Déardaoin.

Instead of a Scoraíocht in March there will be a trip to Griffin's Garden Centre in Dripsey which will take place on Thursday the 18th March. We plan to arrive there in time for lunch. Our office will be closed next Wednesday, the 17th due to St. Patrick's Day so to book your place please ring 026-45661 before next Tuesday the 16th.

Saint Lachtaín Parade.

There will be a parade in honour of Saint Lachtaín in Cill na Martra on Sunday the 21st of March after Mass. Refreshments will be served after the parade in the Community Hall. Everybody welcome.

Energy Saving Tips.

The ideal room temperature is 20°C. If it is higher than this turn down the thermostat by 1°C. This can reduce your heating bill by 10%, with an equivalent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

Close doors to separate heated from unheated areas of your home, and minimise the area you are heating.

90% of the energy consumption of washing machines goes on heating the water. Wash clothes whenever possible in cold or cool water

Source: Sustainable Energy Ireland.

Brain Boggler.

Three people check into a hotel. They pay €30 to the manager and go to their room. The manager suddenly remembers that the room rate is €25 and gives €5 to the bellboy to return to the people. On the way to the room the bellboy reasons that €5 would be difficult to share among three people so he pockets €2 and gives €1 to each person. Now each person paid €10 and got back €1. So they paid €9 each, totalling €27. The bellboy has €2, totalling €29. Where is the missing €1?

Happy Birthday Focal id' Chluais.

This month marks the second birthday of the Focal id' Chluais. When it was first published there was a mailing list of 50, but over the past two years it has grown to 250. The Focal id' Chluais can be viewed from anywhere in the world via our website, www.muscraie.ie. This success is down to you the readers. The stories, prayers, ideas and other pieces of material that are sent in to us is what makes the Focal id' Chluais, so keep up the good work! Thank you all very much again.

Naomh Abán. 546 – 650

Naomh Abán was the son of a Leinster King called Cormac and his mother Mila was the sister of a bishop called Ibar. In his youth he expressed a desire for the monastic life rather than kingship and as a result he was chained and held in captivity by his parents. The chains miraculously fell away and he was then allowed pursue the religious life. When still a mere boy Abán showed his miraculous powers by restoring to life a young calf that had been devoured by a wolf.



Like Brigid and Conlaoth in Kildare or Clare and Francis in Assisi, Gobnait had her anamchara or confessor – St Abán. His church was also located on the south bank of the Sullane river, about half a mile away from Saint Gobnait's church. There is a Holy Well and a Holy Water font located here as well as three ogham stones inscribed with the words Lacavagni, Litubiri and Vaitelia. Also there is a box in the ground with a piece of bone from Naomh Abán in it. The Rounds at Killabán is noted for the healing of illnesses especially of the bones. He died in Ballyvourney in 650 A.D. aged 104. His grave, marked by a bullán-topped cairn, is all that remains of his church. The local football team is named after Naomh Abán. His feast day is March 16th.

Saint Lachtaín.

Feast Day: March the 19th

Saint Lachtaín, patron saint of Cill na Martra parish, established a church in close proximity to the pagan site in Cloch Aidhneach in the middle of the sixth century. By his death, in 622, the foundation had acquired quite a reputation as a place of Christian devotion. Lachtaín's hand was preserved as a relic, which was greatly revered and many cures were attributed to it. Cloch Aidhneach became a place of pilgrimage to an extent that it impoverished the locality, as the people struggled to provide for the needs of the pilgrims. The church became known as Cíll Lachtaín. Later the Church was called "Cíll na Martra", the church of the relic, because the relic of Saint Lachtaín's Hand was kept there. The Vikings attacked the church in 836. The people restored it and continued to worship there until the 16th century, when it collapsed and was abandoned. It had served as a centre of Christian worship for a thousand years. Among the changes effected during Elizabethan times, 1533 – 1603, was the abandonment of the huge and ancient graveyard, a link with pagan times, which faded into obscurity. **Source: Slí na Staire i gCill na Martra.**



