

27th May 2025

BY EMAIL

[REDACTED]

Re: FOI request – Ref: FOI_43_25

[REDACTED]

I refer to your request received in this office, under the Freedom of Information Act (2014) for records held by this FOI body.

The request sought:-

“Under the FOI Act 2014, I am seeking the following:

- a copy of all invoices/receipts associated with St Patrick's Day travel for the local authority in 2025.
 - a record of who travelled.
 - a table/spreadsheet/record of all costs if possible.
 - the itinerary for the trip.
 - an information note on the trip if you or your communications department wish to provide one.
- I would prefer to receive this information electronically, ideally in its original electronic format.”

The Decision Makers in this case, were Michael Drea, County Secretary, Billy Byrne, Senior Staff Officer, Economic Development & Alan Fitzhenry, New Ross Municipal District Manager. The decision has been made to grant your request.

The schedule of records and records are now available to view at [FOI Responses | Wexford County Council \(wexfordcoco.ie\)](https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/foi-responses).

Section 37 Personal Information

Section 37 of the FOI Act 2014 states:-

“(1)...a head shall refuse to grant an FOI request, if in the opinion of the head, access to the record concerned would involve the disclosure of personal information (including personal information relating to a deceased individual).”

The records withheld under this section contain personal information of other individuals who are identifiable from the records. We do not have the consent of these third parties to release their personal information and in the circumstances, I do not believe it is appropriate for me to seek their consent. It is therefore my decision that these documents are exempt from release



Schedule of Records

A detailed Schedule of Records is attached to the records; this shows the details of the records that were considered to fall under the scope of your request, and it details the decision in relation to each record. The decision can be to grant, part grant or refuse and this is detailed in the Schedule. Where it is decided to part grant or refuse a document the exemption sections that are relied upon are quoted.

Right of Appeal

If you are unhappy with this decision, you may appeal it. In the event that you wish to make such an appeal, you can do so by writing to the Freedom of Information Unit, Wexford County Council, Carricklawn, Wexford or by email to foi@wexfordcoco.ie.

Your appeal should include a fee of €30 which can be made payable to Wexford County Council. You should make your appeal within 4 weeks from the date of this notification, where a day is defined as a working day excluding weekends and public holidays. However, the making of a late appeal is permitted in appropriate circumstances. The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this body.

If you are unhappy with the response you receive to your internal review request, you have a right to appeal to the Office of the Information Commissioner. This appeal must be made within 6 months of the date of the internal review decision and may be made by writing to:-

Office of the Information Commissioner, 6 Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2, D02 W773.

Phone: +353-1-639 5689

Email: info@oic.ie

As your appeal relates to non-personal information, you will be liable for an upfront fee of €50 (€30 for Medical Card holders) on making of your appeal request. This fee is payable to the Office of the Information Commissioner, details above.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Doran

Susan Doran,

FOI Officer,

FOI Unit.

Email: foi@wexfordcoco.ie

Freedom of Information Schedule of Records - Summary of Decision Making

FOI Request Reference: FOI_43_25

Rec. No.	No. of pages	Date of Record	Brief description of record	Decision Grant Part Grant Refuse	Basis for refusal - Exempt under FOI Act	Other
1	1		Spreadsheet re New York & Savannah Costs	Part Grant	Section 37	Personal Information other than the requesters
2	1	09/01/2025	Invoice from Best 4 Travel	Part Grant	Section 37	Personal Information other than the requesters
3	29		Report to An Cathaoirleach and Members of Wexford County Council on Visit to New York for St. Patrick's Day, 2025	Part Grant		
4	1	19/12/2024	Invoice from Best 4 Travel	Part Grant	Section 37	Personal Information other than the requesters
5	1	06/12/2024	Invoice from Best 4 Travel	Part Grant	Section 37	Personal Information other than the requesters
6	5		Savannah/Atlanta, Georgia Delegation March 2025 Report	Part Grant		
7	1		Spreadsheet re Hartford Costs	Grant		
8	5	11/02/2025	Invoices for travel to Hartford	Part Grant	Section 37	Personal Information other than the requesters
9	10		Wexford County Council Delegation Report Hartford, Connecticut - 13th to 18th March 2025	Part Grant		
10	1		Spreadsheet re Cherbourg Costs	Grant		
11	4		Irish Ferries costs	Grant		
12	6		Le Contentin Delegation March 2025 Report	Part Grant	Section 37	

New York & Savannah 2025							
	Name		Expenditure Code Used				
New York 2025 (12 March to 19 March)							
Flights + Hotel							
	Eamonn Hore	€3,278.33	4 1 0581 1051 73401				
	Gerard Carthy	€3,278.33	8 1 1208 1002 73330				
	Michael Drea	€3,278.34	4 1 0581 1051 73401				
		€945.00	8 1 4010 1002 99050	to be refunded			
		€1,425.00	8 1 4010 1002 99050	to be refunded			
		€945.00	8 1 4010 1002 99050	paid 24.02.2025			
Savannah March 2025							
		(Flights only)					
Flights only							
	Elizabeth Hore	€1,300.00	4 1 0581 1051 73401				
12.03.25 to 21.03.25							
	Edward Taaffe	€1,300.00	4 1 0581 1051 73401				
	Breege Cosgrave	€1,300.00	4 1 0581 1051 73401				
Hotel booked by Economic Dev							
	Oliver Walsh	€1,300.00	8 1 1208 1002 73330				
	Peter Breen	€1,300.00	8 1 1208 1002 73330				
	Catherine Biddy Walsh	€1,300.00	8 1 1208 1002 73330				
	Bridin Murphy	€1,300.00	8 1 1208 1002 73330				
	Frank Staples	€1,450.00	8 1 1208 1002 73330				
	Barbara Anne Murphy	€1,450.00	8 1 1208 1002 73330				
				to be recouped from Councillor	8/5/9345/1999-58800 (refund code)		
		€1,300.00	8 1 4010 1002 99050	paid 10.03.2025			
		€1,300.00	8 1 4010 1002 99050	paid 07.03.2025			
		€1,300.00	8 1 4010 1002 99050	paid 10.02.2025			
		€1,450.00	8 1 4010 1002 99050	paid 13.02.2025			
		€17,350.00					

MR G CARTHY(EXTRA BAG)
C/O WEXFORD CO CO

Date: 09/01/25
Reference: 2R3626
Document No: 212004820/ 0
Vat Number: 6404657K

CONFIRMATION INVOICE

Consultant: [REDACTED]

Principal: ACTING AS AN AGENT FOR CLIENT

Passenger Names Listed Below:

MR GERARD CARTHY(EXTRA BAG)
MR EAMONN HORE
MR MICHAEL DREA

Car No: Z0702
Depart Date: 12/03/25
From: DUBLIN
Destination: NEW YORK
Nights: 6
Reference: 2R3626

Extra names are listed on a separate sheet

Adults: 3 Children: 0 Infants: 0

Wed 12/03/25 EI105... DUB/JFK 11:10/14:50
Tue 18/03/25 EI106... JFK/DUB 22:15/08:40*
Accommodation: CONCORDE HOTEL
CONCORDE HOTEL ROOM ONLY
3X DELUXE QUEEN
NO INSURANCE - NO TRANSFERS

Cost	Amount
BEST4TRAVEL WEXFORD Cost For 3 Passengers @ 3278.33	9835.00
Balance due on or before 29/01/25 please	Total Cost: € 9835.00
Ref: 212004820/ 0	Paid: € 0.00
E. & O. E	Outstanding: € 9835.00

With reference to the above reservation, this document is your confirmation Invoice, all the above details are subject to the terms and conditions of the relevant principal's terms and conditions which we are agreeing to on your behalf as your travel agent. All terms and conditions which we agree to on your behalf can be requested for your viewing at any time, To See Best4travel general terms and conditions please go online to view at https://www.best4travel.ie/booking_terms

You must ensure that all these details are correct and contact us without delay if not. May we take this opportunity to remind you that it is your responsibility to arrange any necessary passport/visa/health/insurance requirements for your forthcoming travel arrangements.
E&OE

BEST4TRAVEL WEXFORD is fully licensed and bonded under Commission for Aviation Regulation (TA 0702)

SIGNATURE: Eamonn Hore

Chq No: 3004 Mbrs Foreign Travel 3278.33
Econ Dev Travel 6556.67
€ 9,835.00

Report to An Cathaoirleach and Members of Wexford County Council on Visit to New York for St. Patrick's Day, 2025

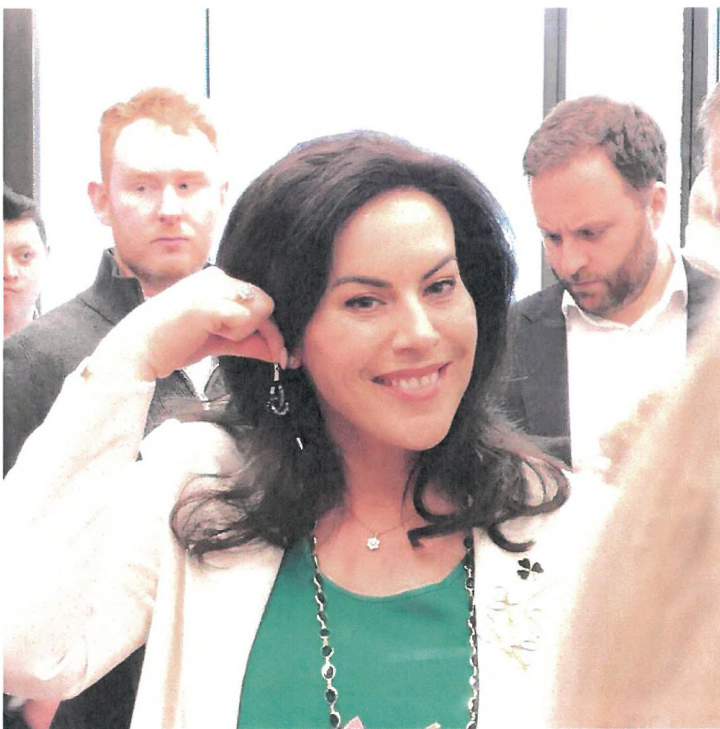
Wexford County Council received an invitation from Wexford man John Murphy, President of the New York County Wexford Association to attend, as special guests of honour, at the 264th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York. Leas Cathaoirleach, Ger Carthy was nominated to represent Wexford County Council and the people of Wexford to support and acknowledge our Wexford diaspora who proudly maintain a long-standing tradition of participation in the world's biggest celebration of our National Saint. Further invitations were received to attend at a reception in the Irish Consulate, hosted by Helena Nolan, Consul General of Ireland, with the formal address given by Dr. Jennnifer Carroll MacNeill TD, Minister for Health. This of course presented an ideal opportunity to network and promote County Wexford, to make new connections and strengthen existing ties.



The Minister greets the Wexford Delegation.



Presentation to Dr. Jennnifer Carroll MacNeill TD, Minister for Health.



The Minister Clearly likes Wexford women Bláithín Ennis' earrings presented by Leas-Cathaoirleach. Not sure about the support staff.

JOHN MURPHY
& Associates

John Murphy
Principal
171 Madison Avenue, Suite 305
New York, NY 10016
jmurphy@johnmurphyllaw.com
Tel: (646) 862-2012

To: Wexford County Council

From: New York County Wexford Association

Re: Invite to Saint Patrick's Day Parade Festivities, March 2025

January 2, 2025

To Whom It Concerns:

As President of the NY County Wexford Association, I write to issue representatives of Wexford County Council an invitation to be honored guests of the New York County Wexford Association at the 2025 New York St Patrick's day celebrations. We look forward to having you and some other esteemed guests join us as we continue our tradition of proudly representing our native county in the world's most famous St. Patrick's day parade.

We anticipate a pre-parade morning reception on Monday, March 76 at our offices, followed by participation in the parade itself and a post-parade gathering. Details provided closer to event.

Once you confirm the email of the attendee(s), I will include on future emails with details.

Looking forward to having you join us.

Sincere best wishes,

John Murphy

John Murphy, Esq.
New York County Wexford Assoc.

The County Wexford Association of New York was established to provide a social and cultural connection for people of Wexford Origin living in the New York metropolitan area. They organise events, including galas and celebrations to honour local heroes and to foster community spirit among Wexford Diaspora members.

The Wexford Delegation attended dinner with members of the Kennedy family, further fostering the strong ongoing links between the family and County Wexford. Present at this lovely occasion were Rose Katherine Kennedy Townsend (who officially opened the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge with An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar), Kiley Kennedy (who attended in New Ross at the JFK 50 celebrations - granddaughter of Senator Ted Kennedy who did so much for the Northern Ireland Peace Process) and Cara Ethel Kennedy-Cuomo of the Bobby Kennedy line.



Dinner with members of the Kennedy Clan.

The Wexford County Council delegation attended at The Ireland – U.S. Council Business Organisation Annual St. Patrick's Day Lunch allowing discussion and the sharing of ideas with some of the most prominent and successful Irish and Irish American businesspeople. This prestigious event also incorporated a pre-arranged meeting with Patricia Harty, editor of the Irish America magazine and US partner of the Irish America Hall of Fame which forms part of the particularly important collaboration between Irish America Magazine and the Dunbrody Famine Ship in New Ross.



Patricia Harty Co-Founder and Editor in Chief *Irish America* Magazine



Wexford to the fore!



David O' Sullivan, Executive Director, The Ireland U.S. Council



Businessman Seán Gallagher with Wexford Delegation.



Spot the Wexford Delegation?



Hilary T. Beirne Chairman New York City St. Patrick's Day Foundation.

At the invitation of Hilary Beirne, Founding Chairman New York City St. Patrick's Day Foundation, the Wexford delegation attended at the annual Flag Raising Ceremony at Bowling Green Park – a ceremony which also honours the first Irish immigrants who arrived in New York. The flag raising ceremony heralds the beginning of the St. Patrick's Day parade celebrations. New York Mayor Eric Adams was also in attendance and spoke fondly of the Irish contribution to America.

The Irish tricolour was raised to fly beside the Stars and Stripes at Bowling Green in Lower Manhattan. The flag raising, organized by the Bowling Green Association, is an annual such event and commemorates the first ever St. Patrick's Day parade which took place in the here back in 1762. Speakers at the flag raising included New York City Mayor Eric Adams, St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal Michael Benn, Bowling Green Association chairman Arthur Piccolo, and NYC parade secretary and chairman of the St. Patrick's Day Foundation NYC Hilary Beirne. (The mayor's St. Patrick's Day Address is included in Appendix I)



Councillor Kieran O' Hanlon, Cathaoirleach Metropolitan District Limerick. Grand Marshal St. Patrick's Day Parade "025, Michael Benn. Deputy C.E. WCC, Eamonn Hore and Leas-Cathaoirleach Wexford County Council, Ger Carthy.



Mayor Eric Adams and Superintendent Edward T. Cetnar with the Leas-Cathaoirleach



Leas-Cashaoirleach Ger Carthy greets Barry Ó Séanáin, Director Irish Arts Center



Leas-Cathaoirleach makes special presentation to An Tánaiste Simon Harris T.D.

One of the many highlights of the busy itinerary was the St Patrick's Day mass in the magnificent St. Patricks Cathedral on 5TH Avenue. Again, a big thank you to Hilary Beirne for our guests of honour seating arrangements. His Eminence Timorthy Cardinal Dolan celebrated the mass alongside Irelands Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh, and Primate of All Ireland. (The Archbishops Homily is included in Appendix II)

ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL
"AMERICA'S PARISH CHURCH"
NEW YORK CITY

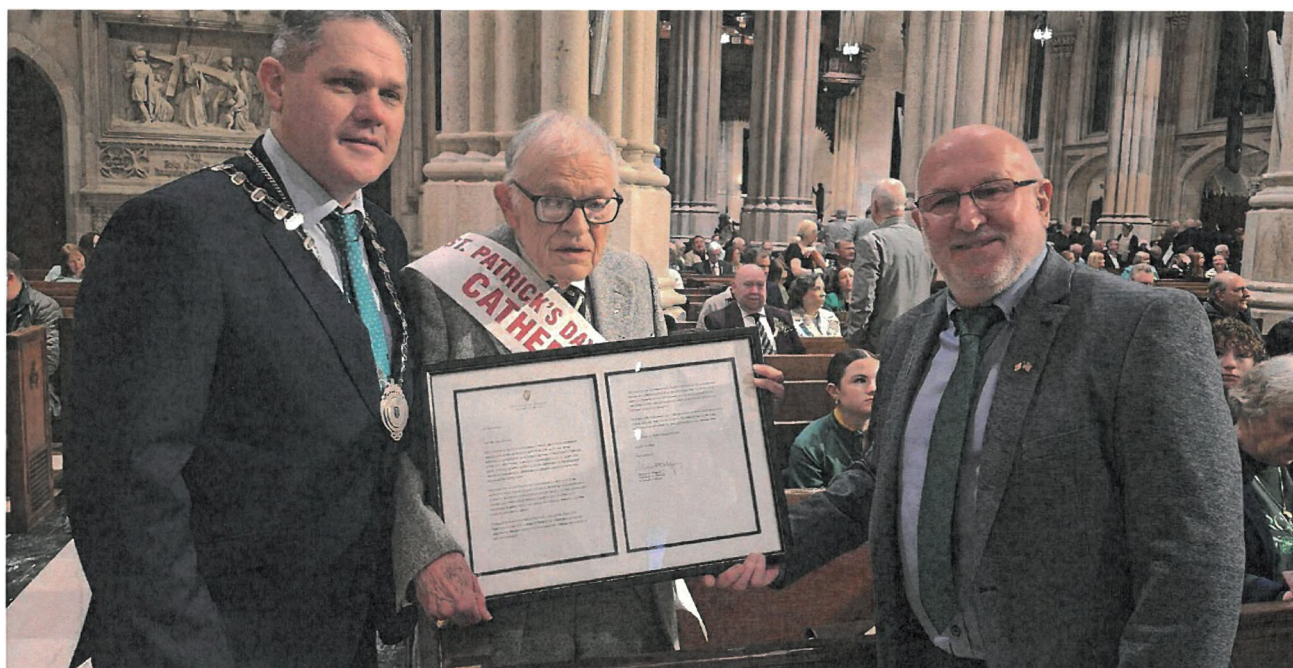


ST. PATRICK'S DAY
PARADE MASS
MARCH 17, 2025

Leas Cathaoirleach Ger Carty also made a significant presentation before the mass to our good friend Liam Murphy, who this year celebrated 40 years of organisation and volunteerism in relation to this magnificent event. Liam a former marine and long-time supporter and activist for the Peace Process was presented by the Leas-Cathaoirleach with a framed commendation from President Michael D. Higgins. (A copy of the President's commendation is included in Appendix III)

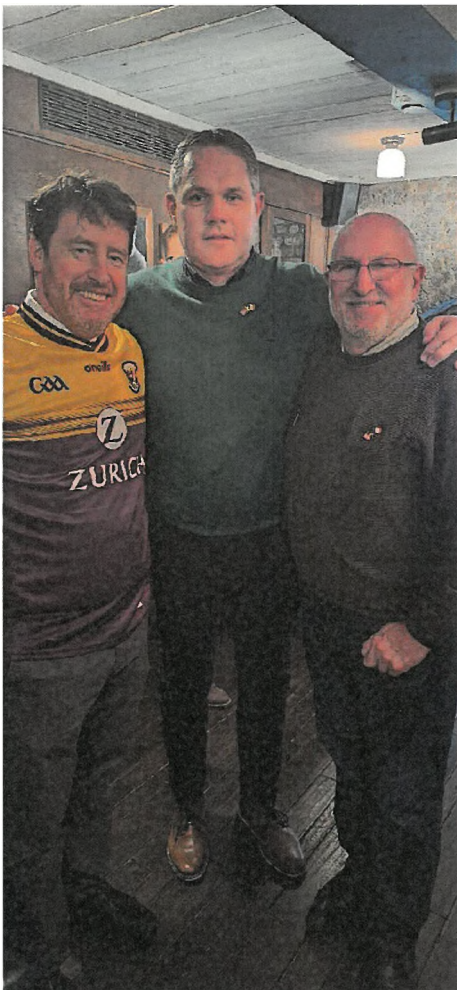


Leas-Cathaoirleach presentation to Liam Murphy.

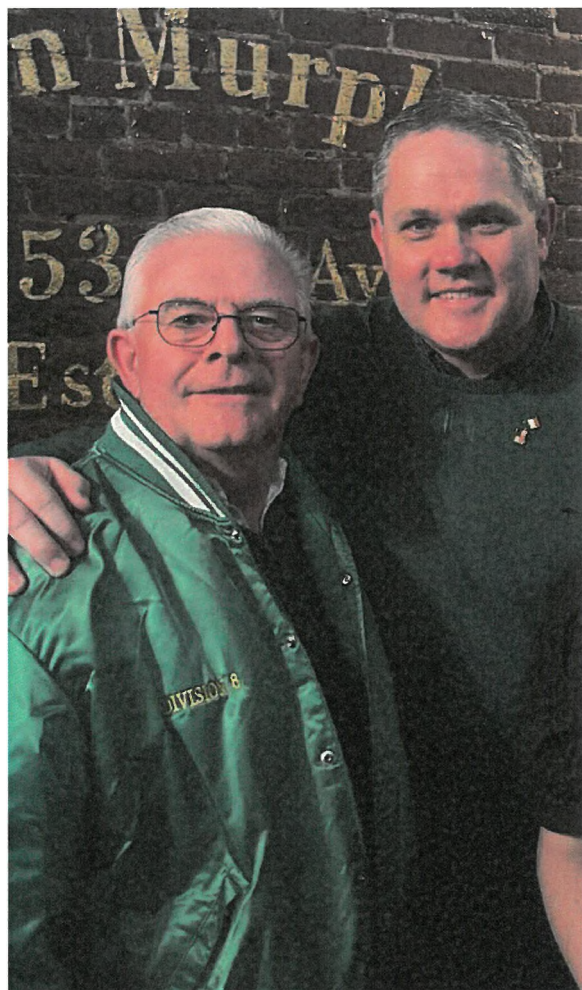


Congratulations Liam Murphy from President Michael D. Higgins.

Following the mass, the Wexford delegation attended the pre-parade get together of the New York County Wexford Association organised by John Murphy, President of the Association. The Leas-Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council made a presentation to John Murphy to recognise his commitment and contribution to the New York County Wexford Association. The Association is over 110 years old and has served the Wexford Diaspora well over all these years.

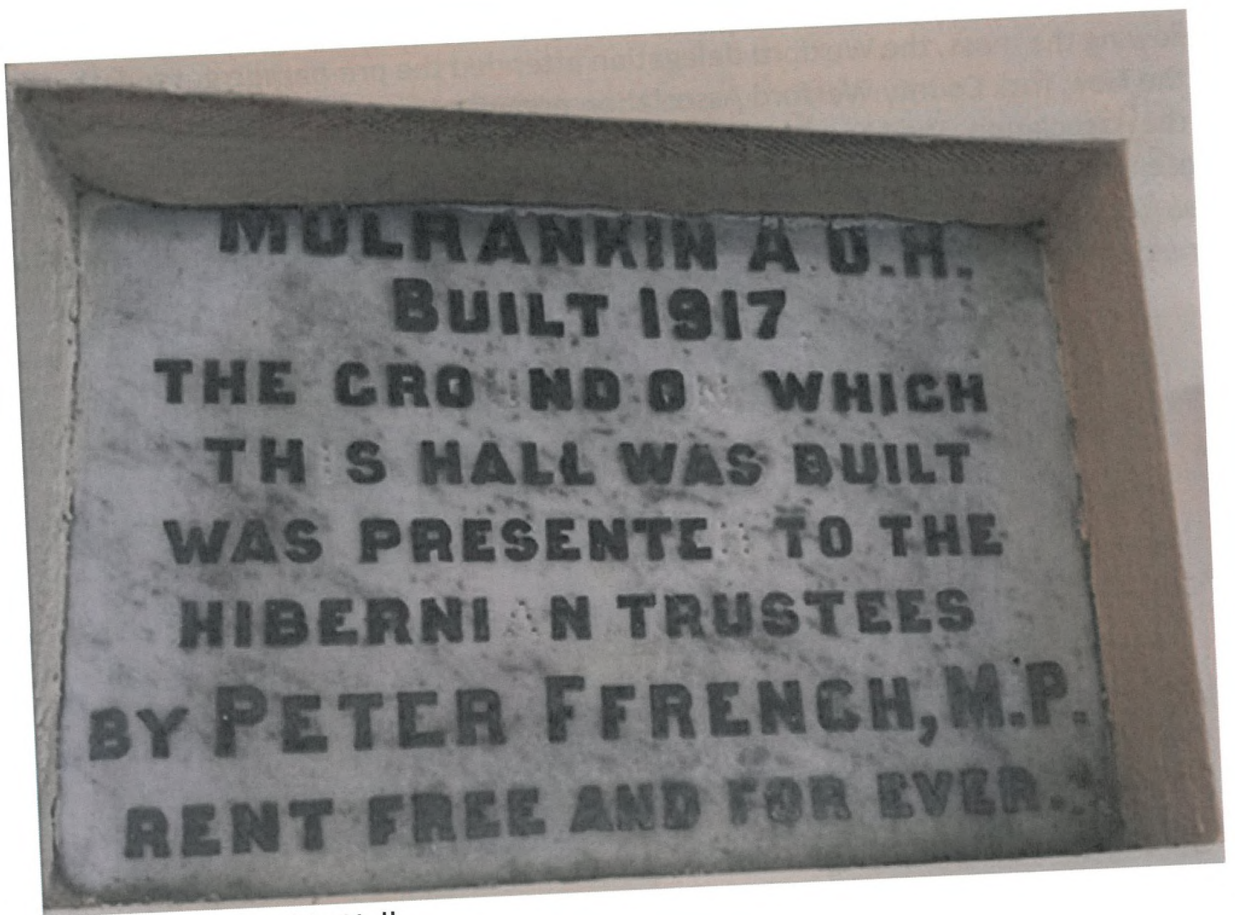


John Murphy President of the Association



Andy Sinnott Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Leas-Cathaoirleach Ger Carthy also helped to resolve a long-standing land registry/ownership matter in relation to Mulrankin Hall following discussion with Andy Stafford, originally from the townland of Quitchery, Ballymitt and current President of The Ancient Order of Hibernians Division in New York. Andy was tremendously helpful and has issued the important correspondence outlined below.



Plaque at Mulrankin Hall.



AOH Mulrankin Hall

Ancient Order of Hibernians in America Incorporated

Organized New York City May 4, 1836



Mike Moran Division 8. Glen Cove New York

Email: andycowex@gmail.com

Phone: 516 641-1826

4/12/25

To whom it may concern,

I understand that, in the village of Bridgetown, Co Wexford in Ireland, a local community group, SCOPE, are in possession and using, for community purposes, the building known as the Bridgetown AOH hall which was built by the Mulrankin branch of the AOH in 1917 on land that was gifted rent free for ever by the then owner of the land Peter French.

I am now writing to you as an Ancient Order of Hibernians division President in New York to advise on behalf of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and in my position as division president that the Order has no objection and is happy and agreeable for the legal title of this property in Bridgetown, Co Wexford, Ireland, to be formally and legally transferred to this community group for the purpose of ongoing community service and activities, now and into the future.

Please advise if I need to provide anything further to allow the title of this property to be transferred to this group which will allow them to continue the great work they are doing and expand on the services they provide.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Andrew Stafford'.

Andrew Stafford, President.

1762

264th

2025

NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade®

"Marching on the streets of New York since 1762 - the oldest, largest, and the best in the world"



Monday, March 17, 2025

NYCStPatricksParade.org

St. Patrick's Day Parade Programme.

The New York County Wexford Association with the Wexford County Council delegation as Guests of Honour marched down 5th Avenue behind the magnificent banner depicting Commodore John Barry, father of the American navy on the front of the banner with the 1798 rebellion displayed on the back of the banner. Cheers of Up Wexford and C'mon the yellow bellies rang out along 5th Avenue.



Leading the County Wexford Association.



Cardinal Dolan greets the Leas-Cathaoirleach at St. Patrick's Cathedral.



You can take the man out of Kilkenny but..... The County Secretary seems a bit confused.



The Boys and Girls of Wexford.

The post-St. Patrick's Day parade witnessed a meeting of the Wexford Diaspora at the Raven. We were joined by the Kilkenny delegation and by Guest of Honour Ted Kennedy III (grandson of Senator Ted Kennedy). Ted gave a word and note perfect rendition of 'The Fields of Athenry.' Ted had also visited New Ross last year and planted a tree in the JFK Arboretum and was afforded a civic reception at the seat of Local Government in New Ross, The Tholsel. The strong family connections to Wexford remain very much cherished and alive. The images below show Ted at the tree his father planted at the Arboretum in 1999 and the tree he himself planted last year, 2024. Ted Kenedy sent a message the following day "What a pleasure to see you and the gang yesterday at The Raven. So fun to reconnect and feel the warmth and love. "



Sláinte. Deputy Chief Executive and Ted Kennedy III. Until we meet again. Go nÉirí an bóthar leat.

APPENDIX I

New York Mayor Eric Adams' St. Patrick's Day Address

Mayor Eric Adams: Thank you so much. It is such a pleasure to be here and I keep trying to tell the announcer over and over again, it is O'Adams, O'Adams. You know, happy St. Patrick's Day. When you think of March 17, 1862, when the first parade took place here in New York, it has grown into the largest parade in our country.

This is really the Emerald Isle of America right here in New York City. Two million people will be watching, 150,000 participants here, really showing the pride and energy of the Irish people here in New York City. And when you think about it during this day, I've learned when I was in Ireland that this is just liquid sunshine.

We continue to march and enjoy the beauty of the seven shades of green right here in New York City. This is important for us because the Irish community is the bedrock of New York City. Look at our bridges, our subways, look at all of the major edifices and towers that you see. The Empire State Building, which is a symbol of our resiliency after the Great Depression.

Little over one year, that entire building was built and it still stands there to let us know what the contributions are and will continue to be from this community. You are part of our Department of Sanitation, the Police Department, the Fire Department, the teachers, all those things that make us great in the first place is right here in this room as a symbol of who we are and what we are. I'm so proud to march in this parade each year.

I look forward to being here at Gracie Mansion. You grace us with your presence and I cannot tell you enough while we watch strife all over the globe. It is going to be the spirit of the Irish people, the various immigrant groups that came here and showed that this is the greatest city on the globe in the greatest country on the globe because of our diversity. It's the mixture of all of our different ethnic groups and culture that give us the quality that we look for and we should never take that away. I love this country and I love the people who are part of it.

As a member of the New York City Police Department for 22 years, when you put on a bulletproof vest and protect the children and families of the city, you have a different love affair with them that can never go away no matter what happens and I believe, truly, when we sing our song and we state the rockets red glare of the bombs burst in the air gave proof through the night that our flag is still there, and it will always be still here because of the people that are part of this great city in this great country and that is emblematic to all that we see today. Congratulations. Thank you for your contribution. Happy St. Patrick's Day.

APPENDIX II

Archbishop Eamon Martin's Homily

Archbishop Eamon Martin's homily in St Patrick's Cathedral , New York.

Saint Patrick was a pilgrim of hope and in this Jubilee year of Hope I'm honoured to be with you in New York as a pilgrim of hope and bring you greetings from Armagh, the home of Saint Patrick. Thank you, Cardinal Dolan for your kind invitation and warm welcome. Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig oraibh go leir.

We know from his own writings that Patrick was trafficked into slavery in Ireland as a young teenager, but despite his isolation and the pain of loneliness, so far from his home and family, Patrick turned with all his heart to God, and dared to hope.

Much later in his life, as a priest and bishop, he heard the "voice of the Irish" calling him and Patrick had the courage to return to the land of his captivity, this time as a missionary to spread the Good News to the people of Ireland and a message of hope and trust in the Lord. No doubt he was inspired by those words in today's Gospel reading: "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch" and again, "Follow me; do not be afraid; for from now on it is men that you will be catching".

When I was ordained a priest I chose for my ordination card a verse from psalm 31: "Be strong let your heart take courage, all who hope in the Lord (*Psalm 31:24*)."

And I have been privileged during my years as a priest and a bishop to witness hope in the lives of many people – including people who "dare to hope" even in the most difficult of circumstances.

Friends nowadays there seem to be so many reasons to give up on hope – the terrible wars, violence and injustices that seem intractable; the shocking disregard for human dignity and vulnerable life; the almost relentless advance of climate change.

I can't imagine what it must be like to lose all hope. And yet sadly we live in a world where too many people feel overwhelmed by the pressures and worries of everyday and are tempted to despair. But as people of God we can never allow ourselves, or the world, to stop daring to hope. That phrase, to 'dare to hope' comes from chapter 3 of the Old Testament book of Lamentations:

"Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is His faithfulness; ... therefore, I will hope in Him!"

That's the kind of hope that kept Saint Patrick going in his captivity; that's the Hope which sustained the faith of our fathers in Ireland in spite of persecution, famine and forced displacement. That's the Hope which sustained the Irish who came here as immigrants in famine times with little more than the clothes on their backs, but

were inspired to dream, to pull themselves up, and to help build a brighter future for themselves and their families.

The Christian Hope which we celebrate during this Jubilee year is much more than human optimism. It is a Hope forged in adversity which confronts the difficulties of this life with eyes fixed on the Risen Lord.

I've been thinking today about those who built the two beautiful Cathedrals of Saint Patrick, here in New York, and back home in Armagh. Both Cathedrals were constructed in tough times largely from the pennies of the Irish, at home and in the diaspora. The two cathedrals were opened in the 1870s, just six years apart; and interestingly, both have twin spires, reaching to the skies, daring to 'hope against Hope' and pointing to our shared heavenly homeland.

Our patron Saint Patrick was indeed a pilgrim of hope who felt strengthened and protected by God in good times and bad, even when insulted and imprisoned. He tells us himself that he simply couldn't be silent about the great blessings and gifts so kindly bestowed on him in the land of his captivity. He had a deep conviction that he was called to be a witness to faith, hope and love, to spread the name of God 'faithfully and without fear' – Patrick believed that the work of a missionary was a 'holy and wonderful work', something for which he was prepared to willingly give up his life.

No doubt our ancient ancestors would have spoken about Patrick in words like those of the prophet Isaiah in today's first reading:

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news and announces salvation". Isaiah 52:7

I've been thinking a lot about peace during my pilgrimage of hope this last few days. On Friday I travelled to Capitol Hill in Washington DC to reflect with my good friend the Church of Ireland Archbishop John McDowell about the unfinished work of peace and reconciliation in Ireland. Many of the young adults who were attending our talk had little or no memory or knowledge of the violence and conflict that had happened in the island of Ireland. I thanked God for the fact that the beautiful island of Saint Patrick is no longer making the headlines because of death and destruction on our streets.

One young man took me aside afterwards and said "Archbishop, we need to speak more than ever about peace and reconciliation and fraternity, because the world seems to be getting more fragile and fragmented. There's more talk now about rearmament among nations than about the needs of the hungry and the common good". I sensed in his words a yearning for Hope.

Yesterday when I visited the Ground Zero 9/11 memorial with a group of young people from Saint Paul's High School, Bessbrook in County Armagh. One of the

young girls asked me, “Archbishop could this happen again?” And I said, you and I must have hope in God and work and pray for peace to make sure that it never does.

Friends, as sons and daughters of Saint Patrick, somewhere deep inside all of us, the voice of God is challenging us to be pilgrims of hope in this troubled world. I pray this Saint Patrick’s Day that every one of us here will have the courage and strength: to be fearless ambassadors of Hope and charity; energetic peacemakers; compassionate carers for the sick and the lonely; faithful stewards of God’s creation; generous helpers of the poor and the marginalised, and welcoming friends for those who, like Patrick and so many of our Irish ancestors, are forcibly displaced from their homeland.

Guím beannacht ár bPatrúin Naomh Pádraig oraibh uilig, inniu agus i gcónaí. Amen.

APPENDIX III

President Michael D Higgins' Commendation



UACHTARÁN NA hÉIREANN
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

12th March 2025

Dear Mr. Liam Murphy,

Mar Uachtarán na hÉireann, as President of Ireland, may I extend my warmest regards to you on the significant occasion of the 40th anniversary of your leadership in organizing the Saint Patrick's Day Mass at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York. May I extend my heartfelt congratulations to you on behalf of the people of Ireland, as well as to offer my sincere appreciation for the exceptional role that you have played in celebrating and strengthening the bonds between Ireland and the United States.

Since 1985, over the past four decades your dedication to this tradition has ensured the Mass's significance year after year in becoming a vital and cherished moment in the lives of countless Irish-Americans, visitors, and Irish citizens alike. Through your tireless efforts, you have provided a space for people of all backgrounds to gather, reflect, and celebrate the enduring connection and deep bonds between our two nations.

During all of my previous visits to New York, I have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to meet with so many members of the various Irish groups and organisations who have done so much to nurture and celebrate the connections with their homeland.

/...

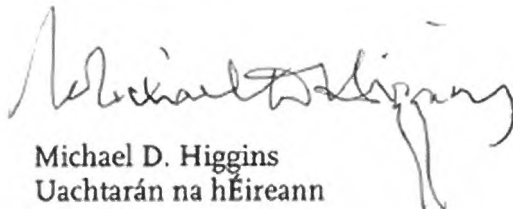
The Saint Patrick's Day Mass at Saint Patrick's Cathedral is one such event that has become a powerful symbol of our shared heritage. May I thank you for the sense of community that you have fostered, one that speaks volumes of your commitment to the Irish community and indeed to the cultural, spiritual, and historical ties that bind us together.

On behalf of the Irish people, may I offer my sincere gratitude for all that you have contributed to the New York Saint Patrick's Day celebrations over the years. May I extend my best wishes for continued success in your important work.

Beannachtaí Lá Fhéile Pádraig sona duit.

Le gach dea ghuí,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Michael D. Higgins', with a stylized, flowing script.

Michael D. Higgins
Uachtarán na hÉireann
President of Ireland



MS B MURPHY
C/O WEXFORD CO CO

Date: 19/12/24
Reference: TKL7UQ
Document No: 212004763/ 4
Vat Number: 6404657K

CONFIRMATION INVOICE

Consultant: [REDACTED]

Passenger Names Listed Below:

MS BARBARA ANNE MURPHY
MR FRANCIS STAPLES
[REDACTED]

Principal: CLUB TRAVEL
Car No: Z0702
Depart Date: 12/03/25
From: DUBLIN
Destination: SAVANNAH
Nights: 9
Reference: TKL7UQ

Extra names are listed on a separate sheet

Adults: 3 Children: 0 Infants: 0

12MAR DUB-ATL 12:00-17:05 12APR ATL-SAV19:43-20:47
18MAR SAV-ATL 12:26-13:42 20MAR ATL-DUB22:05-09:45
Accommodation: Not Booked
Not Booked

NO INSURANCE

Cost	Amount
BEST4TRAVEL WEXFORD Cost For 3 Passengers @ 1450.00	4350.00
Balance due on or before 19/12/24 please	Total Cost: € 4350.00
Ref: 212004763/ 4	Paid: € 0.00
E. & O. E	Outstanding: € 4350.00

With reference to the above reservation, this document is your confirmation Invoice, all the above details are subject to the terms and conditions of the relevant principal's terms and conditions which we are agreeing to on your behalf as your travel agent. All terms and conditions which we agree to on your behalf can be requested for your viewing at any time, To See Best4travel general terms and conditions please go online to view at https://www.best4travel.ie/booking_terms
You must ensure that all these details are correct and contact us without delay if not. May we take this opportunity to remind you that it is your responsibility to arrange any necessary passport/visa/health/insurance requirements for your forthcoming travel arrangements.
E&OE

BEST4TRAVEL WEXFORD is fully licensed and bonded under Commission for Aviation Regulation (TA 0702)

SIGNATURE: Elizabeth Hare

Chg No: 003003 €2,900 → 811208 1002 73330 (Members x2)
€1,450 → 814010 1002 99050 (Refud x1)
€ 4,350

MR P BREEN
C/O WEXFORD CO CO

Date 06/12/24
Reference: W4TKSY
Document No: 212004713/ 0
Vat Number: 6404657K

CONFIRMATION INVOICE

Consultant: [REDACTED]

Principal: CLUB TRAVEL
Car No: Z0702
Depart Date: 12/03/25
From: DUBLIN
Destination: SAVANNAH
Nights: 6
Reference: W4TKSY

Passenger Names Listed Below:

MR	PETER	BREEN
MS	CATHERINE	WALSH
MS	ELIZABETH	HORE
MS	BREEGE	COSGRAVE
MR	OLIVER	WALSH
MS	BRIDIN	MURPHY
MR	Edward	TARFFE

Extra names are listed on a separate sheet

Adults: 7 Children: 0 Infants: 0

12MAR DUB-ATL 12:00-17:05 12MAR ATL-SAV19:43-20:47

18MAR SAV-ATL 12:26-13:42 20MAR ATL-DUB22:05-09:45

Accommodation: Not Booked

Not Booked

NO INSURANCE, OWN ESTA, CHECKED BAG EACH

Cost	Amount
BEST4TRAVEL WEXFORD Cost For 7 Passengers @ 1300.00	9100.00
Balance due on or before 06/12/24 please	Total Cost: € 9100.00
Ref: 212004713/ 0	Paid: € 0.00
E. & O. E	Outstanding: € 9100.00

With reference to the above reservation, this document is your confirmation Invoice, all the above details are subject to the terms and conditions of the relevant principal's terms and conditions which we are agreeing to on your behalf as your travel agent. All terms and conditions which we agree to on your behalf can be requested for your viewing at any time, To See Best4travel general terms and conditions please go online to view at https://www.best4travel.ie/booking_terms

You must ensure that all these details are correct and contact us without delay if not. May we take this opportunity to remind you that it is your responsibility to arrange any necessary passport/visa/health/insurance requirements for your forthcoming travel arrangements.

E&OE

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SIGNATURE:



Wexford Delegation strengthens economic and strategic ties in US visit to Savannah and Atlanta.

Wexford County Council has returned from a successful delegation visit to Savannah and Atlanta, Georgia which has paved the way for further significant economic, educational and cultural development opportunities for County Wexford.

Led by An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Pip Breen and comprising municipal district representatives, senior council officials and enterprise leaders, the visit built on the long-standing sister city agreement with Savannah and explored new trade and investment opportunities in Atlanta. The visit sought to deepen economic linkages, develop strategic partnerships, and promote educational and cultural exchange with key institutions and organisations in both regions.

Economic and Infrastructure Development

A highlight of the visit was the delegation's strategic engagement with the Georgia Ports Authority. Strategic discussions focused on shared infrastructure challenges and growth strategies. This knowledge sharing partnership is expected to drive innovation, knowledge exchange and infrastructure development critical to the South East Region of Ireland. Our partners Wexford Enterprise Association joined Wexford County Council at a business forum with our Tradebridge partners Savannah Economic Development Authority.



Through engagements with Enterprise Ireland, the IDA and the Consulate office and business organisations, the delegation promoted Wexford as a prime location for trade, investment, research and innovation. Further strengthening trade ties, the delegation explored opportunities to expand the Tradebridge programme, originally developed between the South East of Ireland and 16 counties in South East Georgia into the greater Atlanta region.



Educational and Cultural Exchange

The delegation were guests of honour at the Georgia Southern University, Statesboro Campus launch of the **Wexford HUB** at the Henderson Library which is a designated key location space at the university of 26,000 students building on the intake programme of students coming to Wexford which commences at the end of Spring. To date the successful relationship has seen over 300 students attending the GS International Learning Campus in Wexford. In addition, discussions took place on further developing the iconic adoration convent in Wexford which will see over €6 million investment to a new student accommodation. A new focus of the linkages with GS are the opportunities for research and innovation with SETU and its application to opportunities for both regions.

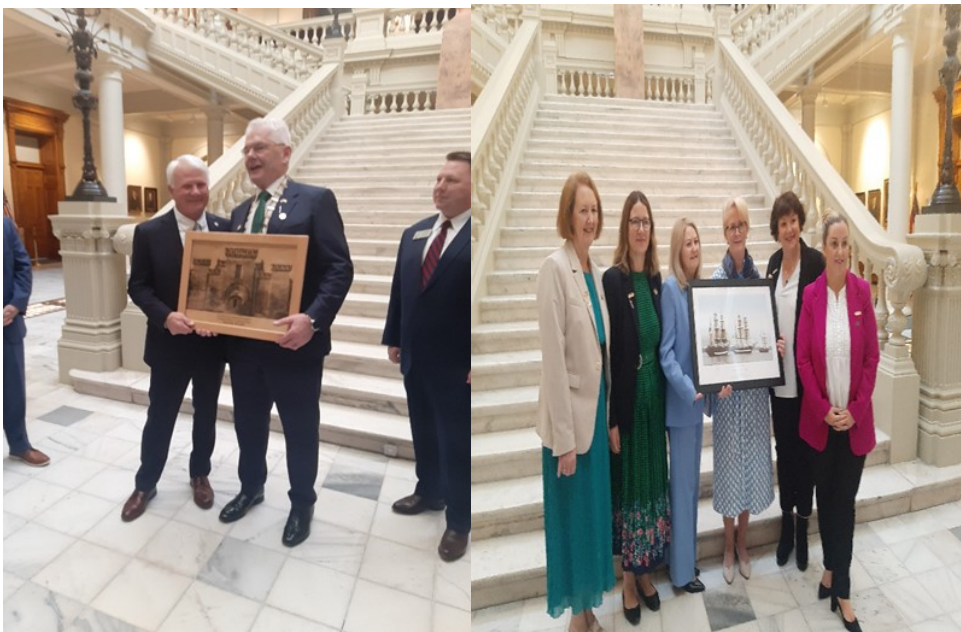


High Level Political and Civic Engagement

The delegation's presence at the Savannah St. Patrick's Day Parade, attended by over 800,000 people, showcased Wexford on an international stage with the Cathaoirleach conducting TV media interviews regarding the collaboration between our two regions.



In Atlanta, An Cathaoirleach cllr Pip Breen addressed the Georgia House of Representatives and was honoured with a proclamation from Speaker of the House, Jon Burns, reinforcing strong diplomatic ties and recognising County Wexford's contribution to international partnership and cultural diplomacy. Wexford was honoured to be the first County in Ireland to be recognised by the Georgia House of Representatives in recognition of the key achievements of the linkages with Savannah , Georgia Southern University and Tradebridge.



An Cathaoirleach Cllr. Pip Breen said “This visit has further strengthened the foundations for long term economic growth, international collaboration and shared learning. Our engagements in Georgia open exciting new doors for County Wexford in areas from port development and renewable energy to education and enterprise”

Chief Executive Eddie Taaffe commented “The relationships built during this visit will contribute directly to job creation, infrastructure advancement, educational exchange and the global promotion of Wexford as a dynamic future focused county”.



Hartford 2025			
Travel Details	Name	Cost	Expenditure Code Used
Flight to Boston, Massachusetts, 13th March	Michael McCormack	€2,479.39	4/1/1467-1002-73401
Doubtree by Hilton, hotel in Hartford, Connecticut, 13th - 18th March	Patrick Barden	€2,479.40	8/1/1208-1002-73330
Return flight to Dublin, 18th March	John Fleming	€2,479.40	8/1/1208-1002-73330
Transfers to Hotel		476.98	US Dollars
Transfers to Airport for return journey		597.71	US Dollars

Mr Michael McCormack
New Ross Municipal District
Wexford County Council
The Tholsel
New Ross
Wexford
Y34CF64

@hilarymurphytravel.com
051 421629

Booking Confirmation

Booking No: 1652

Departure Date: Thursday, 13 March 2025

PO No: 851250060

Destination: Boston, MA

Booked By: Eadaoin

Passenger(s): Mr Michael McCormack, Mr Patrick Barden, Mr John Fleming

Thursday, 13 March 2025



Air: EI133 Aer Lingus

Route: Dublin to Boston Logan International Apt

Depart: Thursday, 13 March at 11:35

Arrive: Thursday, 13 March at 14:50

Seats: 3 x Economy

Status: Confirmed



Tour: Boston

Company: American Holidays

From: Dublin Thursday, 13 March

To: Tuesday, 18 March

Accommodation: Doubletree by Hilton Hartford Downtown(3 x double king size bed)

Nights: 5

Room: 3 x King

Meal Plan: Bed & Breakfast

Status: Confirmed

Confirmation No: D1299480(Claire/11Feb25)

Important Notes:

- To confirm a booking, we require correct passport names(Copies of passports ideally)
- We recommend that passports be valid at least 6 months later than the return date.
- We recommend that each passenger be pre-approved for their U.S ESTAs prior to booking.
- We highly recommend having travel insurance in place to cover their stay in the U.S., we can arrange quotes if required.
- Once confirmed, change fees and cancellation fees apply.
- Preassigned seats not included. Seats will be allocated free of charge at check in.
- Each passenger is allowed 1 x 23kg checked bag and 1 x 10kg carry on bag.

Total Cost (EUR)

7,438.19

Tuesday, 18 March 2025



Air: EI136 Aer Lingus
Route: Boston Logan International Apt to Dublin
Depart: Tuesday, 18 March at 22:20
Arrive: Wednesday, 19 March at 08:15
Seats: 3 x Economy
Status: Confirmed

Total for Services	(EUR)
Balance Due 11-Feb-25	7,438.19
	7,438.19

Please let us know if we can help with any further travel arrangements.

BLACKLANE

Customer no.8374576

Booking no.320665615

Booking date2025-02-12

Invoice no.US2218389KE

Invoice date2025-03-14

Invoice

#	Quantity	Description	Price
1	1	Transfer Ride starting at 13/03/2025, 15:40 from Boston Logan International Airport, East Boston, 02128 , Massachusetts to DoubleTree by Hilton Hartford Downtown, Trumbull Street 315, Downtown, 06103 Hartford, Connecticut (Business Van)	476.98 USD
Price total			476.98 USD

The amount has been charged to your credit card: *****4477

No VAT-duty in Germany.

Thank you very much for using our services. We are looking forward to welcoming you again soon.

Best regards,
Your Blacklane team

New Ross, Co. Wexford Visit

Arrive Thursday March 13, 2025

Staying at Doubletree by Hilton Downtown Hartford

Friday March 14th

10am Liz will pick you up at the hotel for drop off at FOX61 for television interview
(come camera ready)

11am Meet Julio Concepcion Metro Hartford Alliance 185 Asylum St. in the lobby

12 Noon Hartford City Hall meet with City Council members

6pm Parade Mass - St. Patrick St. Anthony Church, Church St. Hartford
(Dinner after mass at Agave in Hartford right around the corner from church)

Saturday March 15th

9am Congressman John Larson Event at the Society Room Pratt St. Hartford

11am Hartford St. Patrick's Day Parade State Capitol

Irish American Home (Liz will transport after the Parade)

Sunday March 16th

10/10:30a.m. Irish American Home meet with Hartford GAA (liz will transport to the location)
Time and location may change according to Pat Roy he will confirm and I will be in touch with the boys

Monday March 17th

Suggestions-- Vaughan's, Urban Lodge, Brownstone all within walking distance

Tuesday March 18th

Until next time our friends, Safe trip home

BLACKLANE

Customer no. 8374576
Booking no. 930039670
Booking date 2025-02-17
Invoice no. US2225733KE
Invoice date 2025-03-19

Invoice

#	Quantity	Description	Price
1	1	Transfer Ride starting at 18/03/2025, 17:00 from DoubleTree by Hilton Hartford Downtown, Trumbull Street 315, Downtown, 06103 Hartford, Connecticut to Boston Logan International Airport, East Boston, 02128 , Massachusetts (Business Van)	597.71 USD
Price total			597.71 USD

The amount has been charged to your credit card: *****4477

No VAT-duty in Germany.

Thank you very much for using our services. We are looking forward to welcoming you again soon.

Best regards,
Your Blacklane team

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Wexford County Council Delegation Report

Hartford, Connecticut - 13th to 18th March 2025



In recognition of the strong bond of the Sister City relationship between Hartford and New Ross since 1995, the Central Connecticut Celtic Cultural Committee invited a delegation from New Ross Municipal District to attend the 53rd Annual Greater Hartford St. Patrick's Day Parade. The parade is a huge event each year with c.60,000 spectators lining the streets of Hartford and is always held on the Saturday before St. Patrick's Day.

The NRMD was delighted to accept the formal invitation and Councillors Pat Barden and John Fleming were nominated to attend, along with Mick Mc Cormack TRO deputising for Alan Fitzhenry District Manager NRMD .

In advance of the trip, the NRMD began requesting and setting a series of meetings in Hartford, in order to discuss economic, educational and cultural connections and how best to progress and grow the link into the future.

ITINERARY

Thursday 13th March

An early start and a full day of travel. Our group travelled from Dublin Airport to Boston and transferred on to Hartford, Connecticut.

Note: Direct flights from Dublin to Hartford with Aer Lingus re-start at the end of March, meaning better connectivity for the large population of Irish Heritage.

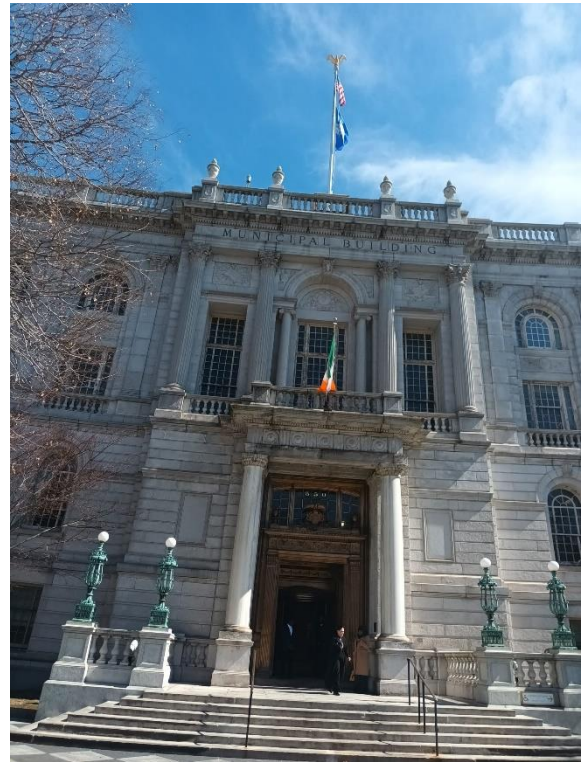


Friday 14th March

We were collected early and brought to Fox61 for television Interview. Fox 61 is a television station in Hartford, Connecticut serving the Hartford-New Haven market and an affiliate of the Fox Network. We did a 10 minute live broadcast with Fox 61 news teams and promoted New Ross and County Wexford and explained the sister city links between, New Ross and Hartford. This station has high viewer figures around Connecticut and has a high audience share.



Following this we met and had constructive meetings with Julio Concepcion and his colleagues from Metro Hartford Alliance. We had a good discussion with Julio and the team at Metro Hartford Alliance around regeneration of the downtown area, challenges in relation to vibrancy and footfall in the town centre and discussions about how these challenges could be overcome.



We then travelled to City Hall for a Civic Reception with the Mayor of Hartford City Council, Arunan Arulampalam along with his fellow City Councillors and Town Clerk Denise Petteys. During the reception, speeches were made along with official presentations. We had extensive discussions with the City Councillors and spoke on many issues and how the relationship between the sister cities could be strengthened.

We invited Hartford City Council to New Ross and there was a formal proposal that they should visit as a Council in the coming years. The Mayor advised that he would like to see this happen in the next few years and that it would be discussed at upcoming meetings of their Council.



In the evening, we were special guests at the St Patrick's Parade Mass, held in St Anthony's Church. We met with many members of the Irish community and enjoyed a beautiful ceremony full of music. Chairperson Liz Saunders and members of the Central Connecticut Celtic Cultural Committee (CCCCC) then invited us to a pre-parade dinner and presentations were made between the groups.

Saturday 15th March

A very busy Parade Day started with an invitation to a breakfast event hosted by Congressman John Larson. The Wexford Council delegation was warmly welcomed at the Society Rooms in Hartford and here we met with a number of influential Irish American politicians and officials and we spoke of Irish/American issues and of the links between New Ross and Hartford.

We spoke with Congressman Larson afterwards at length about Wexford and New Ross and about our sister city relationship with Hartford.



Our delegation then gathered outside the State Capitol building and formed in Division 1 of the 9 Division St. Patrick's Day Parade. A massive cultural event annually, the parade route was lined with 60,000 people who loudly celebrated and cheered us on. We marched with the New Ross banner around Bushnell Park and down Main Street, before joining CCCCC members on the parade

viewing stand to watch the other 8 Divisions of the parade pass by. An event full of colour and music, making us proud to be Irish.



We then travelled to the suburb of Glastonbury to visit the Irish American Home Society as guests of the community & the CCCCC along with staff from the Irish Consulate from New York. Here we watched live traditional music and a showcase of Irish Dancing from the children of a local dance school. We met and engaged with many of the diaspora and promoted Wexford as a key holiday destination within Ireland.

Sunday 16th March

Our delegation was invited by members of Hartford GAA to meet with them and we watched a number of games with them at their club grounds. They also thanked us for Visit Wexford partial sponsorship of their scoreboard and advised that the Visit Wexford logo will be going on the scoreboard shortly.

We had a number of meetings also with members of the Kennedy Cup sister cities golf grouping who will be coming to New Ross in 2026 to continue the strong sporting link between the 2 sister cities. They will compete against the New Ross golfers in and around County Wexford in 2026 and bring a party of up to 20 people to take part in this biennial golfing tournament.



Monday 17th March

On our final full day in Hartford we visited New Ross Park in Hartford and also toured the city meeting with Irish diaspora and promoting New Ross and Co.Wexford. New Ross park is an urban park dedicated in 1995 to commemorate the Sister City relationship. The park hosts a skate park designed by famous American skateboarder Tony Hawk and its external walls are “Wexford Purple”.

There are plans due to be presented to the City Council to add a new area to this urban park, which will celebrate important New Ross landmarks, including the Dunbrody Famine Ship.



Tuesday 18th March

We departed on Tuesday. In summation, important connections and friendships were maintained, and new ones formed, on what was a very successful visit to Hartford, Connecticut, Sister City of New Ross, Wexford.

Cllr. Pat Barden

Cllr. John Fleming



Ms. Elizabeth Saunders, General Chairperson
Central CT Celtic Cultural Committee
P.O. Box 1273
Glastonbury, CT 06033
United States of America

October 18, 2024

Mr. Alan Fitzhenry, District Manager at Wexford County Council
The Tholsel, New Ross
Co. Wexford
Y34 CF65
Republic of Ireland

Dear District Manager Fitzhenry:

Recognizing the strong bond of the sister city relationship between Hartford and New Ross after our wonderful reunion last year and on behalf of the Central Connecticut Celtic Cultural Committee (CCCCC), I would like to once again extend a formal invitation to you and your colleagues on the Wexford County Council to attend the **53rd Annual Greater Hartford St. Patrick's Day Parade**. The parade will take place on Saturday, 15th March 2025 in Downtown Hartford, Connecticut.

Each year, the Greater Hartford St. Patrick's Day Parade brings over 60,000 spectators and marchers to Downtown Hartford to celebrate one of the largest Irish American Heritage events hosted in Connecticut. While a well-defined Irish and Irish American segment are represented in the parade, the spectators comprise a broad range of cultures and backgrounds that truly represent the inclusiveness of Irish culture that defines the member towns of the CCCCC.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and should you need additional information on the parade, please do not hesitate to reach out or visit our website: www.irishamericanparade.com.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Elizabeth Saunders
Board Chairperson, CCCCC



The Central Connecticut Celtic Cultural committee is a non-profit organization 501c3.

Cherbourg March 2025	
Delegates	
Angela Lawless, Senior Economic Development Officer	
Billy Byrne, Tourism Development Officer	
Cllr. Garry Laffan, Deputy Mayor Borough District of Wexford	
Cllr. Pat Kehoe, Ennisorthy Municipal District	
	Cost
Travel - Irish Ferries	€1,450.00
Hotel	€594.56
Meals & Transfers	€1,018.61



IRISH FERRIES



Dublin to Cherbourg



BOOKING REFERENCE
32460808



TOTAL COST
€743.00



OUTWARD DATE
Thu 20 Mar 2025 16:00

In the rare event of disruption, suitable re-routing may be proposed to/from alternative ports in our route network, as per our Terms and Conditions



Payment Details

Booking Ref	32460808
Booking Total	743.00 EUR
Balance Due	0.00 EUR



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Tina Callaghan

From: Irish Ferries <bookings@email.irishferries.com>
Sent: Friday 21 February 2025 15:45
To: Billy Byrne
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Irish Ferries Booking Confirmation - 32414226

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Irish Ferries



Cherbourg to Dublin



BOOKING REFERENCE
32414226



TOTAL COST
€707.00



OUTWARD DATE

Name: WILLIAM BYRNE

Contact Number: +353873917496

Contact Email: billy.byrne@wexfordcoco.ie

In the rare event of disruption, suitable re-routing may be proposed to/from alternative ports in our route network, as per our Terms and Conditions



Payment Details

Booking Ref	32414226
Booking Total	707.00 EUR
Balance Due	0.00 EUR

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LE COTENTIN DELEGATION MARCH 2025 REPORT

Wexford County Council Delegation Report Le Cotentin, France

March 2025

Wexford County Council delegation was led by Cllr. Garry Laffan, Deputy Mayor of Wexford Borough Council and included Cllr Pat Kehoe and executive of Wexford County Council.

Hosted by Le Cotentin Council and Office de Tourisme du Cotentin, the aim of the delegation was to explore economic, culture and tourism opportunities between Wexford and Le Cotentin and the possibilities of building on the strategic, civic, economic, education and cultural opportunities between the two regions.

Le Cotentin

Le Cotentin consists of 129 communes and 180,000 inhabitants. It is the 4th largest conurbation in the Normandy region and the 3rd largest community in France.

It is an area of strong innovation in sectors such as agri-food, energy (off-shore wind and nuclear), shipbuilding, engineering and aquaculture. With an oceanic climate and relatively abundant rainfall in each season, the area is highly favourable to grass growth and more than half of agricultural land is grassland. Dairy products account for over 50% of revenue from sale of agricultural products.

There are approximately 10,000 people employed in the food industry in Le Cotentin, with the vast majority in the dairy industry, followed by bakery products, fish and beverages.

The port of Cherbourg is a key gateway to France and Europe, with regular ferry connections. Cherbourg town has a population of 85,000.

Itinerary March 2025

Day 1

We arrived in Cherbourg by ferry in the early afternoon and went directly into meetings. Our first meeting took place at the Cotentin Council where we were welcomed by Christèle Castelein, President of Cotentin Council and remarks were given by the head of the delegation Cllr Laffan, Deputy Mayor Wexford Borough District, followed by presentations.



The remainder of the afternoon was spent at a number of meetings with the following stakeholders, Cotentin Council, Ports of Normandy, the Office de Tourisme du Cotentin, Brittany Ferries & Stena Line. Those in attendance included the following

- Mme Nicole BELLLOT-DELACOUR, Vice-President in charge of Higher Education (Cotentin Council),
- Mme Odile THOMINET, Vice-President in charge of tourism (Cotentin Council),
- M. Emmanuel VASSAL, Councillor in charge of International Relations (Cotentin Council),
- M. Laurent RONIS LE MOAL, Director general of the Cotentin,
- Mme Delphine FUSTEC, Stena Line Port Operations Manager,
- Mme Karine INGOUF, Brittany Ferries Port Operations Manager,
- Julien BOUGOND, Deputy director Office de Tourisme du Cotentin,
- Anne-Cécile RENOARD - LE PEUTREC Development Consulting and International Relations Officer the Cotentin

Potential areas identified for initial collaboration included :

- Promotion of County Wexford on large screen in Cherbourg Port terminal to encourage tourists to spend time in County Wexford. Reciprocal?
- Joint approach by both councils to featuring and promotion of food and beverage products from both regions on ferry routes.
- Le Cotentin in process of bringing 160 farm producers together under one label with the aim of promoting local produce. Potential to link in with Wexford Food Network for cross collaboration and promotion.

The meetings were followed by a visit to the Port Authority in Cherbourg.

In the evening a civic reception took place in Cherbourg Town Hall, which included the official delegation, Visit Wexford representatives, Ladies Football teams, Wexford hurling teams and the New Ross pipe band representatives. The evening concluded with remarks from Deputy Mayor of Cherbourg-en-Cotentin and the Councillor in charge of International Relations (Cotentin Council) where the possibility of establishing a 'twinning' relationship between County Wexford and Le Cotentin was introduced. Cllr Laffen responded on behalf of the delegation.



Following the official remarks a presentation of gifts took place



Later that evening, the delegation had an informal meeting with Michael Dodds, Managing Director of the Normandy Tourist Board and Candice Rousseau, Project Officer for Co-operation with the UK, Ireland and the Channel Islands for the Year of the Normans project to discuss plans for Year of the Normans 2027.

Day 2

Early the next morning the delegation joined reps from Visit Wexford who had a stand promoting Co Wexford as a tourism destination at the Cherbourg Market in Place de Gaulle. This promotional visit was undertaken as part of their strategic aim of attracting greater international visitor numbers to Co Wexford and increasing

dwell time in the county. The New Ross Pipe Band arrived in parade to the square and their lively performance attracted a large crowd to the Visit Wexford stand.



Straight from the Cherbourg Market, the official delegation, Visit Wexford representatives and members of the Cherbourg Community paraded, with the New Ross Pipe Band to Stade Maurice Postaire for an afternoon showcasing GAA as part of the Irish Festival of Le Cotentin.



The afternoon saw Kilmacud Crokes ladies Gaelic football team, play the French National Gaelic football team in a challenge game. This game preceded the Hurling Super 11s final between Naomh Eanna and Faythe Harriers from County Wexford.

Following the Hurling Super 11s hurling final, medals were presented to both teams



In the evening le Cotentin Council hosted a dinner for the official delegation and Visit Wexford representatives at La Maison Rouge a French Restaurant approximately a 15-minute drive from Cherbourg in the coastal area of Anse du Brick. Eimear Ryan Charleton (Second Secretary at Embassy of Ireland France) represented the Embassy of Ireland France at this dinner. Various representatives from le Cotentin were also in attendance.

Day 3

The Official Delegation started their day by attending the start point of the Cherbourg Urban Cultural Trail where over 1,000 participants set off to walk or run through the City of Cherbourg.

Following the start of the Cherbourg Urban Cultural Trail Emmanuel VASSAL, Councillor in Charge of International Relations (Cotentin Council) & Julien BOUGOND, Deputy director Office de Tourisme du Cotentin gave the Official Delegation a guided walk through the city of Cherbourg, highlighting its main historical sites and landmarks.

We departed Cherbourg City at 2.30 pm to catch our ferry from Cherbourg Port.