



Queensland Irish Association

Newsletter

May 2024

Join us in June to celebrate Bloomsday in Brisbane

Our screening of Michael Collins in Elizabeth Picture Theatre was a big success with a large turnout.

A raffle was held, and after the film, attendees went to Gilhooley's Irish pub and restaurant, where we had tables reserved for lunch and drinks. Thank you to all who came along.

We also held our Bealtaine (Irish summer/May Day) event in another wonderful venue, The Causeway Bar at Finn McCool's Fortitude Valley, earlier this month.

We crowned the King and Queen of the May, congratulations to young Riley and Gabriella. They both did great Celtic colouring and had success in our hidden fairy hunt.

Australian Historical Dance treated us to a music session and dance demonstrations, as well as a talk on traditional dances, the festival of Bealtaine and the Maypole. Thanks to Dr Heather Blasdale-Clarke and all from Australian Historical Dance.

Thank you to the management team at Finn's for providing us with such a beautiful, Irish-themed side bar and outside seating, for the event. Thanks to staff members Mary and Megan for looking after us. Also, thanks to our Members who attended.

BLOOMSDAY

Our next event is our beloved annual Bloomsday celebration, which will be held at the GPO end of Queen Street Mall on Sunday, June 16th. We look forward to joining in this worldwide event, as the work of Irish author James Joyce is brought to life.

We will have readings from Ulysses,



Queensland Irish Association's celebration of Bloomsday in 2023. Picture: Thanks to Tony Robinson

and members of Queensland Irish Association Pipe Band will be there to entertain you. June 16th falls on a Sunday this year, a perfect day to head into the city and spend time enjoying some Irish culture on Queen Street Mall. Be there at 11.30am for a 12 midday start. After the event, pipers will lead you to Gilhooley's, where we will have a drinks and lunch gathering.

We ask all Members to attend and support this important event. RSVP to Claire Moore at enquiries@queenslandirish.com

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Your Annual Membership of QIA will expire on 30th June.

To renew, go to this [LINK](#) on our website or you can contact us on enquiries@queenslandirish.com, stating your membership number, so we can send you a renewal link.

We ask that senior members who do not pay a membership fee consider donating \$20 to Queensland Irish

Heritage Trust Fund. We really need you to help with this, and you making a donation to the fund means we are able to provide financial assistance to all aspects of Irish culture in the state. Details of how to donate below.

HERITAGE TRUST FUND

We have depleted much of the funds in our Queensland Irish Heritage Trust Fund in supporting QIA Dancers and the Queensland Irish Association Pipe Band. We also have paid for silver sponsorship of the 51st Annual Queensland Irish Dancing Championships. We are seeking large donations to the trust fund to continue supporting Irish culture in Queensland. The donations are tax deductible and with the EOFY approaching, now is the perfect time to donate to Queensland Irish Heritage Trust Fund BSB 084-009 ACCT 68-613-1442. Or you can make a donation at this [LINK](#).

*Jeff Spender, President,
Queensland Irish Association.*



Queensland Irish Association Pipe Band proudly taking part in the Anzac Day march in Brisbane. Well done all!



Congratulations to QIA Dancers, who had both solo and team debuts at the 2024 May Feis. Some of the younger dancers were taking part in team dancing for the very first time! Not only did the dancers do the legacy of Irish dancing in Queensland proud, but they took home two May Feis titles to boot!

Calendar

Sunday, 16th June, 11.30am for 12pm start.

Bloomsday in Brisbane, Queen Street Mall, Brisbane.

June

Annual Membership renewal due.

Friday, 2nd to Sunday, 4th August

Queensland Irish Dancing Championships to be held at SunPAC Sunnybank.

Contact us

We welcome content from members and friends in this newsletter.

If you have news or an article you would like to see included, email the editor, our public relations officer Mary Allen, at mary@queenslandirish.com.au

You can also reach us through our website, www.queenslandirish.com.au, and on our social media pages.

Another great way to interact with QIA is by joining our Facebook group, Queensland Irish Association Friends and Supporters.

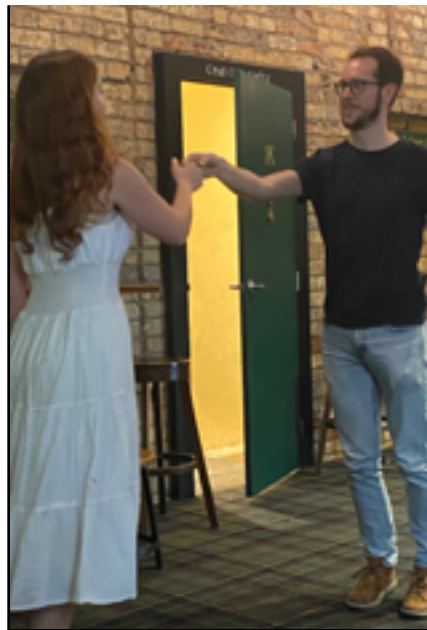
Editor and designer: Mary Allen.

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Bealtaine celebration at Finn McCool's Fortitude Valley



Australian Historical Dance provided music, and dancing demonstrations, at our Bealtaine celebration. Pictures: Mary Allen



Joyce's Dublin recalled in Bloomsday Festival

Ireland's annual celebration of James Joyce's seminal work, *Ulysses*, returns to Dublin in June with the five-day Bloomsday festival.

Art, music, theatre, lectures, readings, walking tours and food events make up the packed programme that invites Joyce fans to see his famous novel *Ulysses* through a multitude of lenses.

Bloomsday (11–16 June) recalls 16 June 1904, the day immortalised in the novel, which follows the footsteps of Leopold Bloom around Dublin.

Highlights of this year's events include performances of Joyce's story *Grace* in Bewley's Café and a musical celebration of *Ulysses* in the National Concert Hall. The bellringers of Christ Church Taney will ring the actual bells referenced in the novel and at Dalkey Castle actors will perform enlightening and entertaining extracts from *Ulysses*, *Dubliners* and *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*.

A number of walking tours will visit the places mentioned in *Ulysses* or explore the aspects of Dublin that influenced Joyce's work. Exhibitions include a celebration of the art and creativity of Lucia Joyce, James Joyce's daughter, who was a dancer and artist in 1920s Paris.

Several of the programmed events focus on the food and drink enjoyed by Leopold Bloom and his friends in the novel. The annual Bloomsday Breakfast will be hosted in Belvedere College, where Joyce studied, and will include readings and songs as well as hearty plates of food. At the Delahunt restaurant there will be a menu of food and light bites inspired by *Ulysses*, while many cafes and restaurants will offer the gorgonzola sandwich and glass of burgundy that Bloom enjoyed so much.

Sweny's Pharmacy, made famous in



Bloomsday at The James Joyce Centre, Dublin. Top right: Sweny's Pharmacy, Dublin and, top left, a portrait of James Joyce. Pictures: Ireland.com

the novel and dating from 1847, will welcome people to enjoy a cup of tea, buy a bar of lemony soap, as Bloom did, and get involved in a reading.

As well as the ticketed events, there will be impromptu readings in pubs, cafes and even on the streets of the city, and locals and visitors will get into the Bloomsday spirit by donning Edwardian garb to recreate the style of Joyce's Dublin.

At the heart of the festivities is the

James Joyce Centre, the organiser of the festival and home to exhibitions and interactive guides to Joyce's life and work. More memorabilia from the author's life can be viewed at the James Joyce Tower and Museum in Sandycove, the Martello tower that featured in chapter one of *Ulysses*. And you can see portraits of the man himself at the National Gallery.

www.ireland.com

QUEENSLAND IRISH ASSOCIATION

Bloomsday

"THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DAY IN THE IRISH LITERARY CALENDAR"

SUNDAY 16TH JUNE

A CELEBRATION OF MODERN IRISH LITERATURE

At the Queen Street Mall 12 Midday



FOR ENQUIRIES

Call 0419673126 or email
enquiries@queenslandirish.com

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Queensland Irish Association Friendly Society Ltd
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ENTERTAINMENT

Ireland's scenery is shining star of new Netflix hit series **Bodkin**

Filmed entirely on location in Ireland, *Bodkin* is a dark comedic thriller about a motley crew of podcasters who set out to investigate the mysterious disappearance of three strangers in a quaint, coastal Irish town. The darkly comedic thriller premiered on Netflix on 9th May.

Starring Will Forte (*Saturday Night Live*, *MacGruber*), Siobhán Cullen (*Obituary*, *The Dry*), Robyn Cara (*We Die Young*, *Trying*), Chris Walley (*The Young Offenders*, *Bloodlands*) and David Wilmot (*Anna Karenina*, *Intermission*), *Bodkin* is produced by Michelle and Barack Obama's Higher Ground Productions. Jez Scharf created, wrote, and was co-showrunner on the series, with Alex Metcalf as the other showrunner who also worked as co-writer.

Spanning across various counties in Ireland including Cork, Wicklow and Dublin, *Bodkin* exterior locations include Union Hall Village, Drumadoon Pier, Poulgorm Bridge and Glandore in West Cork; Belmont Demesne, Enniskerry's Carnegie Library, Sally Gap and Travelahawk Beach in Wicklow; Fenian Street, Howth Village, Howth Castle and Leopardstown Racecourse in Dublin; and Dave's Diner in Julianstown, Co Meath.

Will Forte, who plays American podcaster Gilbert, said: "One of the most exciting things about working in Ireland is getting to shoot on location. Most of the time we're out in these beautiful rolling pastures or on these cliff sides. Every scene seems like it's taking place in this delicious morsel of Irish landscape."

Doubling for the fictional town of *Bodkin* was Union Hall, a charming fishing village 75km west of Cork City. "It [*Bodkin*] had to be West Cork," said creator Jez Scharf. "You drive around West Cork and around every corner you have to step out of the car and have a look as it's so beautiful." Siobhan Cullen who plays Dove agreed: "Union Hall makes the perfect *Bodkin*. It's so stunning and it encapsulates all of what people imagine about the beauty of Ireland. It's all here, it's such a stunning place."

Whilst filming the team fell in love with West Cork: "It just seems like a vacation down here," said Will Forte, with creator



and showrunner Jez Scharf adding: "I could not recommend visiting West Cork enough."

A small village with welcoming colourful shops and a working harbour, the area around Union Hall is also known for its rolling green hills, woodlands, beaches, rivers, and islands, the beauty of which provided a great foil for the story, according to Robyn Cara. "Having such a stunning backdrop for the series is such a great contrast to the darkness and grit of the show."

The nearby village of Glandore also features in the series, which is connected to Union Hall by the single track Poulgorm Bridge offering stunning views over Glandore Harbour. The bridge was seen before on screen as the location for David Puttnam's film *War of the Buttons*. Pretty coastal villages steeped in history, Union Hall and Glandore experience a mild climate all year round and offer people the opportunity to explore both the seaside and countryside. With activities like sailing, swimming, fishing, walking and snorkelling, you might even be lucky

enough to catch a glimpse of the odd dolphin or seal on your visit.

Whilst West Cork is the main location for the series, various other locations can be spotted throughout. Locations manager Rossa O'Neill said: from the stunning scenery in West Cork to the amazing buildings like Howth Castle, we're a really good selection to show the best of what Ireland has to offer."

The series, which consists of seven one-hour-long episodes, is a dark comedic thriller about a motley crew of podcasters who set out to investigate the mysterious disappearance of three strangers in a quaint, coastal Irish town. But once they start pulling at threads, they discover a story much bigger and weirder than they could have ever imagined. As our heroes try to discern fact from fiction — about the case, about their colleagues, and, most painfully, themselves — the series challenges our perception of truth and exposes the stories we tell ourselves to justify our beliefs or validate our fears.

Ireland.com



Bodkin shooting locations, above, Union Hall in Cork, below left and right, Howth Castle in Dublin, bottom left, Dave's Diner in Julianstown, County Meath, and bottom right, Glandore, County Cork. Pictures: Ireland.com



Irish Community Lunch at Willawong in May



Seamus Sullivan's Presidential Distinguished Service Award on display on the clubhouse bar.

Packed house at the Gaelic Games clubhouse in Willawong for the Irish community lunch in May. The next lunch will be Christmas in July. Pictures: Mary Allen



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