

**Alliance Française Limerick
presents the 2024**



Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 July

with the support of



and of our official sponsors:



About the festival

The Limerick Wild Geese Festival is a community-led non-profit annual event which commemorates the Flight of the Wild Geese and celebrates the long-standing friendship between Ireland and France. It is organised every year on a weekend close to Bastille Day (July 14th), the French National Day. It was founded in 2019 by the Honorary Consul of France in Limerick with the support of the Limerick City & County Council and is now organised by Alliance Française Limerick, one of the city's longest running non-profit organisation providing French language classes and holding cultural events since 1944. The festival promotes intercultural understanding, education on local and international history, and artistic creation. It is sponsored or supported by a wide range of businesses and organisations.

The Flight of the Wild Geese saw over 12,000 Irish soldiers and their families leave Ireland for France following the signing of the Treaty of Limerick in 1691. Many of these soldiers, who became known as the Wild Geese, ended up joining the French army and settling in France, thus creating long-lasting bonds between Ireland and France. For example, many of the Bordeaux region world-renowned vineyards were created by descendants of the Wild Geese (Château Kirwan, Château McCarthy, Château Lynch-Bages, etc.). One of France's presidents, Patrice de McMahon (1808-1893), was a descendant of the McMahons of Limerick and General Charles de Gaulle was himself related to the McCartans of County Down. These are just a few examples of the many links between Ireland and France (now Ireland's closest EU neighbour) which we celebrate during our annual festival and which you can explore by visiting the Wild Geese Museum, in the old Saint Munchin's Church of Ireland on King's Island (a museum jointly created by the Honorary Consulate of France in Limerick, the Limerick Civic Trust and the Limerick Museum).

On behalf of Alliance Française Limerick, we wish you all a wonderful weekend of fun and culture!

The organising committee of the 2024 edition of the festival:

Michelle Daly-Hayes

Dr Loïc Guyon (founder)

Lorna Hodgkinson

Randel Hodgkinson

Dr Paul O'Brien

Contact us at limerickwild@gmail.com

Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn @limerickwild / Limerick Wild Geese Festival

Ahead of our festival weekend...

Thursday 4 July



7.30pm, Mother Macs, 9 High Street (see below instructions for prices and booking)

The French Connection Bushmills Irish Whiskey Tasting

Price: €30 per person

Description: Join us on July 4th, 2024, for an exclusive whiskey tasting event as part of this year's Limerick Wild Geese Festival with a unique French flair. Delve into the exquisite Bushmills Causeway Collection, where each single malt has been masterfully aged in barrels that once held Pomerol, Cognac, and Sauternes, imbuing the whiskey with distinctive, rich flavours. This exclusive event is a rare opportunity to experience the harmonious blend of Irish craftsmanship and French sophistication, offering a sensory journey through the finest expressions of barrel-aged excellence.

This exclusive event is offered with thanks to Bushmills Ireland, Limerick Whiskey Experience and Mother Macs.

Click [HERE](#) to book on Eventbrite.



Ahead of our festival weekend...

Friday 5 July



6.30pm, No 1 Pery Square (see booking details below)

A special mid-summer Garden Party celebrating the Limerick Wild Geese Festival organised in partnership with the Limerick & Clare Wine Lovers Club. A fantastic range of French sparkling wines and canapés will be served. The tasting will take in a detailed look at French sparkling whites and rosés, led by Master Michelin-Star Sommelier, Nick O'Callaghan.

Click [HERE](#) to book on Eventbrite.



Our weekend of festival events!

Saturday 6 July



10.00am to 3pm, the Coach House, People's Museum, No 2 Pery Square (free entry)

As the old Saint Munchin's Church which normally hosts the Wild Geese Museum is currently undergoing important repair works, some of the museum panels have been transferred to the coach house of the People's Museum on Pery Square. Inaugurated in 2021, the Wild Geese Museum is the fruit of a partnership between the Limerick Civic Trust, the Honorary Consulate of France in Limerick and the Limerick Museum. It tells the story of the Wild Geese, these Irish soldiers who, since the 17th century, went abroad to serve in the armies of various countries. The Wild Geese Museum's panels which will exceptionally be exhibited in the coach house of the People's Museum will tell you everything you need to know about the history of the sieges of Limerick of 1690 and 1691, the Flight of the Wild Geese following the signing of the Treaty of Limerick, and the strong historical links between Ireland and France over the centuries.



10.30am, Sarsfield statue, Cathedral Place (free for all)

At the end of the 19th century, when the Sarsfield statue was erected near Saint John's Cathedral, the statue was accessible through a gate in the railing protecting it (see picture). This gate was removed some time in the course of the 20th century which made it difficult to clean and maintain the area surrounding the pedestal. Thanks to a group of volunteers including Garry Jackson, Tom O'Brien and Derek Hannon, supported by the Garryowen Residents Association, Dr Loïc Guyon (Honorary Consul of France) and Tom Cassidy (LCCC Architectural Conservationist Officer), the gate has now been restored. Join us for a short ceremony to mark the occasion! The ceremony will be supported by the Patrick Sarsfield branch of the ONE. Music by Terence Andrews (City of Limerick Pipe Band). The organisers wish to thank Canon Gerard Garrett (Saint John's Cathedral) for his assistance.

Our weekend of festival events!

Saturday 6 July

11.00am to 5.00pm, Hunt Museum Garden (free, but pre-booking compulsory, see below)



THE 2024 ANNUAL HUNT MUSEUM PÉTANQUE TOURNAMENT

Get a team of 3 players and register
by e-mailing info@huntmuseum.com

4 teams maximum

Great prizes to win



Saturday 6 July



11am to 5pm

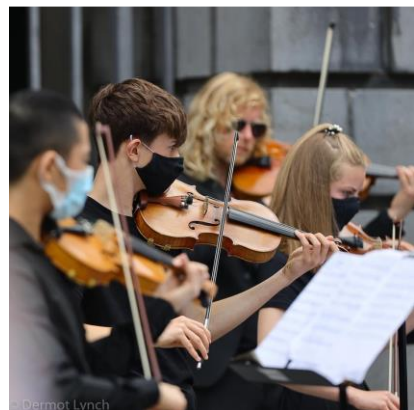
Our weekend of festival events!

Saturday 6 July

1.00pm to 4.00pm, Hunt Museum Garden (free for all)



An afternoon of animations including historical reenactments from En Garde (the Society for Franco-Irish History), a dance performance by Scoil Uí Ruairc, a traditional stick fighting demo by Brian Moloney and live music from the Saint Mary's Prize Band, the Limerick School of Music, the Saint Mary's Men's Shed and from traditional musicians (courtesy of Conradh na Gaeilge, Craobh Chathair Luimnigh and Fóras na Gaeilge). New this year, there will even be a barbecue in partnership with the Hunt Museum Café!



Our weekend of festival events!

Saturday 6 July



7.30pm to 10.30pm, LPYMA, 97 O'Connell Street (€88 per person, booking compulsory)

Join us for an evening of fantastic food and music in a unique historical venue in the heart of Limerick! After the tremendous success of last year's banquet at the Milk Market and as our festival is an annual celebration of Limerick's heritage, we have worked to bring back the magnificent Georgian building at no 97 O'Connell Street to its past glory. Enjoy a six-course banquet in style and in music, including a special performance by soprano Eve Stafford, all this for only €88 per person including a welcome drink offered by Mickey Martin's, French wine offered by O'Briens Wine and a shot of Thomond Gate Limerick Whiskey!!!

Book your tickets [HERE](#) now on Eventbrite before it's too late! Dress code: please note that this is a **black tie** event.

Banquet Menu

(prepared by chef George Casey)

Amuse bouche and welcome drink (glass of bubbly and/or alcoholic or non-alcoholic cocktail from Mickey Martin's)

Crispy Hen's Egg With Warm Asparagus, Truffle And Pickled Mushrooms (glass of white wine from O'Briens Wine)

Citrus Cured Salmon With Avocado, Soya Mirin Dressing And Asian Dressed Crab

*Charred Black Angus Beef With Beef Cheek, Caramelized Celeriac And Bordelaise sauce
(glass of red wine from O'Briens Wine)**

Chocolate Mousse with Chantilly Cream and Lemon Meringue Tartlet (from La Patisserie, Limerick)

Tea/coffee and shot of Thomond Gate Limerick Whiskey

**Vegetarian, vegan or gluten free alternatives can be requested when booking your ticket*

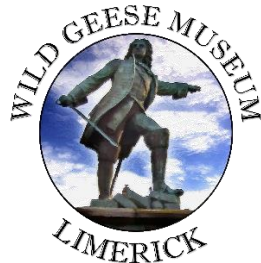
Mineral water kindly provided by Ballygowan, Ireland's No.1 bottled water brand.

Musical entertainment: Bríd Finn (harp), traditional Irish music (courtesy of Conradh na Gaeilge, Craobh Chathair Luimnigh and Fóras na Gaeilge), Eve Stafford (soprano).

Our weekend of festival events!

Sunday 7 July

12.00pm to 3pm, the Coach House, People's Museum, No 2 Pery Square (free entry)



As the old Saint Munchin's Church which normally hosts the Wild Geese Museum is currently undergoing important repair works, some of the museum panels have been transferred to the coach house of the People's Museum on Pery Square. Inaugurated in 2021, the Wild Geese Museum is the fruit of a partnership between the Limerick Civic Trust, the Honorary Consulate of France in Limerick and the Limerick Museum. It tells the story of the Wild Geese, these Irish soldiers who, since the 17th century, went abroad to serve in the armies of various countries. The Wild Geese Museum's panels which will exceptionally be exhibited in the coach house of the People's Museum will tell you everything you need to know about the history of the sieges of Limerick of 1690 and 1691, the Flight of the Wild Geese following the signing of the Treaty of Limerick, and the strong historical links between Ireland and France over the centuries.

2.00pm, from King John's Castle to Saint Mary's Cathedral (free for all)



Join a joyful and colourful procession, led by the reenactors from En Garde – The Society for Franco-Irish History, departing from the area in front of King John's Castle and going to the United Nations Peace Garden in front of Saint Mary's Cathedral, via Nicholas Street, just on time for the ceremony which will be held there. Parade music courtesy of the City of Limerick Pipe Band, Saint Mary's Men's Shed, Conradh na Gaeilge, Craobh Chathair Luimnigh and Fóras na Gaeilge.

Our weekend of festival events!

Sunday 7 July

2.30pm, United Nations Peace Garden, in front of Saint Mary's Cathedral (free for all)



For the fifth consecutive year, a ceremony supported by the Defence Forces will be held as part of our festival to commemorate the Flight of the Wild Geese and the long-standing friendship between Ireland and France. It will feature the following veteran associations: the French Foreign Legion Association of Ireland, the Limerick branches of the O.N.E., the Irish Naval Association, the Royal British Legion of Ireland and the I.U.N.V.A. Reenactors from En Garde – The Society for Franco-Irish History will also feature dressed as soldiers from Napoléon's *Légion irlandaise* (a symbolic reminder of Ireland's role in France's military history). The Irish, French and European anthems will be performed during the flag raising ceremony by the Curraghgower Singers whom we are truly delighted to associate to this event for the first time this year.



The Curraghgower Singers

Choir Master & Artistic Director: Timothy Schinnick

Accompanist: Mr. Paul Chawke.

Our weekend of festival events!

Sunday 7 July

3.00pm, Saint Mary's Cathedral (only €2, see below for booking)



Book your free ticket [HERE](#) for this amazing concert, in the magnificent surroundings of Saint Mary's Cathedral.

First part: The Lorcán Mac Mathúna Trio – Brightness of Brightness. The music and life of Aogán Ó Rathaille (kindly sponsored by Conradh na Gaeilge, Luimneach)



A celebration of the life and writings of Irish poet Aogán Ó Rathaille by the Lorcán Mac Mathúna Trio.

Ó Rathaille (1670 – 1728) witnessed the traumatic changes following the wars between James II and William of Orange (one scholar, Sean O Tuama, thinks he followed his landlord Nicolas Browne to fight for James), and he was the most significant Irish poet of his time. He was significant in the change from the Middle Irish to modern Irish forms in Gaelic literature.

Lorcán Mac Mathúna is a composer/singer and will be presenting a concert based on Ó Rathaille's poetry. It is a work commissioned by Féile na Brídeoige and it will be performed by himself, Martin Tourish on Piano Accordion, and Éamonn Galldubh on pipes and flute.

Our weekend of festival events!

Sunday 7 July

Second part: Zoé Basha



Zoé Basha is a Leitrim-based musician, composer and carpenter, of French-American origins. Drawing from her background as a traditional singer influenced and inspired by the multiple cultures embedded in her sound, Zoé Basha blends traditional Appalachian, Occitan and Irish singing with jazz blues.

After growing up between the U.S. and France, then studying as a vocalist at Berklee College of Music where she focused primarily on blues and jazz, Zoé moved to Ireland and fell into traditional singing in Dublin. From 2020 to 2023, Zoé was a member of vocal trio Rufous Nightjar. In 2023, Zoé was a Music Network RESONATE Residency recipient.

Her performances are an ensemble of traditional songs and original compositions: instruments toying with each other and voices booming with intimate and unexpected harmonies, wilderness and dynamic fervour.

Our weekend of festival events!

Sunday 7 July

5.00pm, Curraghgour Boat Club, Merchant's Quay (free for all)



Join the reenactors from En Garde, the Society for Franco-Irish History, to bid farewell to Patrick Sarsfield and the Wild Geese on Merchant's Quay to conclude the festival.





SARSFIELD
HOMECOMING PROJECT



An Fhrainc, an chomharsa
is gaire daoibh san AE

