

with the support of



Cornhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council



presents

2025 LIMERICK WILD GEESE FESTIVAL

3 TO 6 JULY



Moët Hennessy



FRENCH SPARKLING WINE SUMMER PARTY



THURSDAY 3 JULY

No 1 Pery Square Hotel & Spa



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

The organising committee of the 2025 edition of the festival:

Michelle Daly-Hayes, Dr Loïc Guyon (founder), Lorna Hodkinson, Randel Hodkinson, Dr Paul O'Brien.

Contact us at limerickwild@gmail.com

Follow us on:

BlueSky, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn @limerickwild / Limerick Wild Geese Festival

Ahead of our festival weekend...

Thursday 26 June

The Hennessy Wild Geese Cypher Hip Hop Trail

7.30pm, from Mother Macs (9 High Street) to The Commercial (46 Catherine Street) via Mickey Martin's (1 Augustinian Lane) (see below instructions for prices and booking)

Price: Only €15 per person (+ a little Eventbrite booking fee)

Description: Join us on 26 June for a cypher hip hop trail across Limerick. A cypher is a freestyle rap gathering. Our very first event of this kind is sponsored by Hennessy Cognac and will take you to three different Limerick pubs (Mother Macs, Mickey Martin's and The Commercial) where you will be able to enjoy special Hennessy cognac cocktails while seeing some of the best rappers of the Limerick scene perform together with traditional Irish musicians. Your €15 ticket will give you a discount on your cocktails and exclusive access to the final gig in the Records Room of The Commercial which will be the culmination of your pub trail. The performers will include Hazy Haze, Marly, Maeve Hayes, Strange Boy and others.

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



Moët Hennessy



THE HENNESSY
WILD GEESE
CYPHER
HIP HOP TRAIL

Ahead of our festival weekend...



Thursday 3 July

A French Sparkling Wine Summer Party

6.00pm, No 1 Pery Square Hotel & Spa (see booking details below)

A special mid-summer Garden Party in the elegant surrounding of the No.1 Pery Square Hotel & Spa 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..



Ahead of our festival weekend...

Friday 4 July

A Very Jacobite Evening in Limerick

5.30pm, LPYMA, 97 O'Connell Street (free but booking required)

Come and join us at the LPYMA hall to witness history with the hand-over ceremony of a very rare illuminated manuscript roll by Limerick-man and Jacobite James Terry (1660-1725). The precious manuscript was purchased in London by Irish company Heavey Technology to be put on permanent display at the Limerick Museum.

The hand-over ceremony will be immediately followed by a public talk by Dr Harman Murtagh who will present the fascinating fruit of his and his late father's years of research on the Irish Jacobite armies during the Williamite War in Ireland including the sieges of Limerick (1689-1691). This event is free but pre-booking via Eventbrite is compulsory due to the limited capacity of the room.



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

Our weekend of festival events!

Saturday 5 July

Official Unveiling Ceremony

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

An explanatory panel about Patrick Sarsfield will be unveiled during an official ceremony organized by the Sarsfield Statue Committee, a group of Limerick residents who take regular initiatives to maintain the monument with the support of local stakeholders. The panel project was initiated by committee members Garry Jackson (The Gathering) and Tom O'Brien. The panel was designed by Jason Cooke (Jason Cooke Creative Design) with text in English and French by committee member Dr Loïc Guyon (Honorary Consul of France and Associate Professor at Mary Immaculate College) and translation into Irish by Breandán Ó Hannaidh (Conradh na Gaeilge). In addition to the works which were commissioned by the voluntary committee over the past two years (including flower beds, with flowers kindly provided by Matt Kennedy, and the restoration of a gate, with metal work made by Derek Hannon), this year's works include the restoration of the pedestal lettering to its original colour (thanks to committee member Randel Hodgkinson) and the repairing of the spotlights illuminating the statue at night (thanks to Mayor Moran and the Limerick City & County Council). Permission for the works was granted to the committee by the diocese (landowner) thanks to the intercession of committee member Canon Gerard Garrett. Guidance on the works was provided by committee member and former Conservation Officer Tom Cassidy. The Sarsfield Statue Committee wishes to thank Conservation Officer Shóna O'Keeffe and Assistant Conservation Officer Nancy O'Neill for their great assistance in obtaining the administrative approval for the works.

Join us for a ceremony to mark the occasion! The event will be supported by the Patrick Sarsfield branch of the ONE, Conradh



na Gaeilge and the Curraghgower Singers. Refreshments, kindly offered by The Moose Pub, will be served after the ceremony.

To avoid blocking the pavement and any risk linked to traffic, please gather on the lawn behind the statue of Patrick Sarsfield rather than on the street side.

Our weekend of festival events!

Saturday 5 July

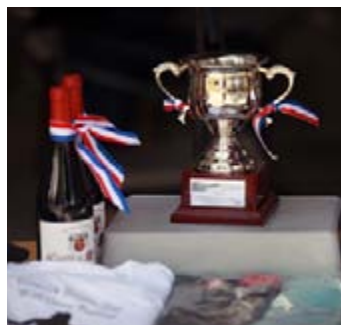
The Annual Hunt Museum Pétanque Tournament

11.00am to 4.00pm, Hunt Museum Garden (free, but pre-booking compulsory, see below)



Get a team of 3 players and
send a registration mail to
info@huntmuseum.com

4 teams maximum



Great prizes to win (including the Tournament's Perpetual Trophy)!



Alliance Française

Limerick

Visit the Alliance Française Limerick website to find out more about our cultural events and French language classes offering for all levels and all ages: <https://aflimerick.org/>



SARSFIELD
HOMECOMING PROJECT

Help us bring national hero Patrick Sarsfield back to Ireland, find out more about and support the Sarsfield Homecoming Project [here](#):

Our weekend of festival events!

Saturday 5 July

The Living History Camp

12pm to 3.30pm, 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 Ruaire, a traditional stick fighting demo and singing by Brian Moloney and the Saint Mary's Mens Shed, live music by the Saint Mary's Prize Band, the Limerick School of Music and from traditional musicians (courtesy of Conradh na Gaeilge, Craobh Chathair Luimnigh and Fóras na Gaeilge). New this year, there will even be crêpes by Bon Appétit Crêperie and a barbecue in partnership with the Hunt Museum Café!





Our weekend of festival events!

Saturday 5 July

The Annual Wild Geese Banquet

**7.30pm to 10.30pm, St. John's Church, John's Square, Limerick
(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 the 2023 banquet at the Milk Market and of the 2024 banquet at the LPYMA, and as we have conceived our festival as an annual celebration of Limerick's heritage, this year's banquet will take place in the magnificent St. John's Church, on John's Square. Enjoy a five-course banquet in style and in music, including a special performance of arias from Georges Bizet's Carmen (brought to you in partnership with the Limerick Opera Festival) and also including a welcome drink offered by Mickey Martin's, French wine offered by O'Brien's Wine and a shot of whiskey offered by Thomond Gate Limerick Whiskey!

Dress code: black tie / smart business attire.



See ticket price and booking options and the exquisite menu prepared by chef George Casey [HERE](#) on Eventbrite.

Banquet Menu

(prepared by chef George Casey)*

Canapés and welcome drink

(glass of bubbly and/or alcoholic or non-alcoholic cocktail
prepared by Mickey Martin's)

Prawn Bisque with Lemon Grass Foam

Prawn and Heirloom Tomato Crouton
(glass of white wine from O'Briens Wine)

Charred Black Angus Beef

with Beef Cheek Croquette and Broccoli Purée
(glass of red wine from O'Briens Wine)

Strawberry and Lemon Curd Mille-Feuille with Crème Fraîche

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: Geraldine
Dennehy (cello), Arias from Bizet's Carmen (Lucas Nogueira,
Bass Baritone & Deborah Bulgarelli, Soprano).



Our weekend of festival events!

Sunday 6 July

The Annual Wild Geese Parade and Flag Raising Ceremony

2pm, from Arthur's Quay Park to Saint Mary's Cathedral via Sarsfield Bridge and Thomond Bridge (free for all)

Witness a joyful and colourful procession, led by Band 1 of the Defence Forces and departing from Arthur's Quay park at 2pm sharp. The parade will march to Saint Mary's Cathedral via the city center and will conclude in front of the United Nations Peace Garden, with our annual flag raising ceremony (starting at 2.30pm).

The following organisations and community groups will take part in the parade: members of the 12th Infantry Battalion of the Defence Forces, O.N.E. veterans, I.U.N.V.A. veterans, Irish Naval Association, Royal British Legion of Ireland, French Foreign Legion Association of Ireland, Saint Mary's Men's Shed, Conradh na Gaeilge, Craobh Chathair Luimnigh and Fóras na Gaeilge. The parade will also feature reenactors from En Garde – The Society for Franco-Irish History dressed as soldiers from Napoléon's Légion irlandaise (a symbolic reminder of Ireland's role in France's military history).



Our weekend of festival events!

Sunday 6 July

A Musical Journey into the Past

3pm, Saint Mary's Cathedral (free but booking required)

Join us inside Saint Mary's Cathedral for a unique performance bringing together renowned artists!

From Brian Boru to the Siege of Limerick, Ireland was culturally coherent but politically divided. Her music and poetry were Gaelic. From the mid-17th century the influences of European politics, literature, and music began to take greater prominence in Irish life. Perhaps the greatest record of this in our cultural anthology is bound up in the events and politics at which the Siege of Limerick and the flight of the Wild Geese were central.

In this concert, we present a musical journey that weaves in and out of multiple routes and explores the numerous Atlantic regions that came into contact with Irish music and poetry. With a historical and stylistic reach across more than five centuries, Lorcán Mac Mathúna, Martin Tourish, Daire Bracken, Yonit Kosovske, and Wolodymyr Smishkewych sing and play songs and instrumental music from chamber and vernacular traditions which would have been part of the unique sound-worlds that linked the times of Brian Boru with those of Patrick Sarsfield.

Book your free ticket for the concert
[HERE.](#)

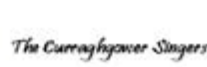




We wish to express our utmost gratitude to our institutional sponsors, the Limerick City & County Council and the Embassy of France in Ireland, as well as our official sponsors Bus Éireann, Conradh na Gaeilge, Heavey Technology, Mary Immaculate College, Moët-Hennessy, TFI and the University of Limerick,



and all the great Friends of our Festival whose logos appear below:



France, your closest EU neighbour

An Fhrainc, an chomharsa is gaire daoibh san AE

