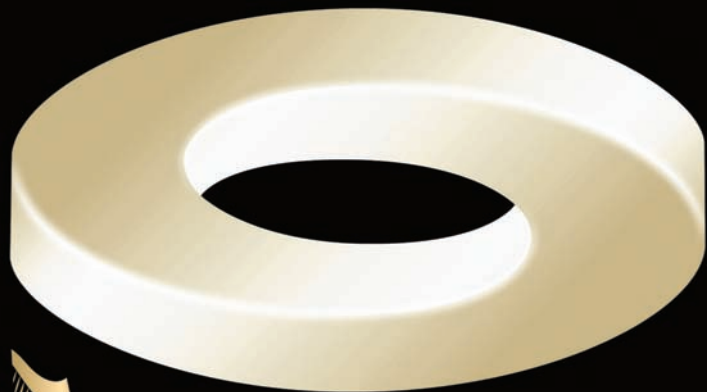


LOOK CLOSER



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PUCK FAIR 2007

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Céad Mile Fáilte go dtí Aonach an Phoic

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CORK KERRY
IRELAND'S SOUTHWEST

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

Ta na blianta ag sleamhnu comh tapaigh anois ta se do-chreidte go bhfuil Aonach an Phoic beagnach isteach an doras arís. Is cuis athais duinn go bhfuilimid bailithe arís an sean-aonach stairiúil seo a chomradh agus le cunamh De beidh an tAonach seo ar siúl fos i gCill Orglan ar feadhna mílte bliana.

The passing of a year is marked by special occasions, Easter, Christmas, Summer, Winter, but in Killorglin the year is marked by everything being either before or after Puck. This age old event has been the central theme in the lives of Killorglin people for hundreds of years. It is an event that is unique in our Celtic culture and its roots are probably a mixture of celebrations from Pagan Celtic, early Christian and medieval Norman times. Nobody knows for certain when the first King Puck was crowned in Killorglin, but we, the present Organising Committee, are proud of the fact that on Aug. 10th 2007 a goat will once again be crowned and thus continue with this tradition which is synonymous with our town.

We would like to thank the many many people who give so generously and so freely of their time every year to make Puck happen. Special thanks to our generous sponsors, our business community, the Gardai, HSE, Kerry County Council, Civil Defence and the townspeople of Killorglin, without their co-operation it would be impossible to organise these 3 magical days every year in our Town by the Laune.

Go n-eirí go geal le gach einne ag Aonach an Phoic 2007

Declan Mangan,

Chairman - Puck Fair Organising Committee



PUCK FAIR QUEEN 2007



Let Killarney have its Lily and Tralee have its Rose but nothing can compare to the Queen of Killorglin Puck Fair.

Hello my name is Caoimhe O'Sullivan. I am twelve years of age and I live in Sunhill, Killorglin. My Mom's name is Lorraine and my Dad's name is Patrick. I have two brothers, Eoghan and Tadgh.

I attend Scoil Mhuire National School. Next year I am going to the Carnegie Secondary School. I'm a little bit nervous but yet can't wait to go. I live on a lovely farm with many different types of animals. My favourite would be the horses. I was delighted to be involved in the pantomime this year.

My hobbies are camogie, basketball, swimming, playing the piano and a little bit of football. I also do KAMA (Killorglin Acting Music Academy) which involves acting, dancing and singing.

I'm delighted to be queen this year as when I was younger I always looked up at the Queen and wished it could be me.

Caoimhe O'Sullivan

BIRD'S AMUSEMENTS

For many people Puck Fair's main attraction is Bird's Fun Fair and Amusements. Wm. Bird & Sons Euroshow have been coming to Puck Fair for over fifty years. The original Fun Fair consisted of Rocking Boats, a Chair-o-Plane and the Raffle at the Ware Stall. This has long grown to be one of the finest Fun Fairs in Europe and no visit to Puck would be complete without a visit to Bird's.

**BIRDS AMUSEMENTS WILL OPEN ON AUGUST 8TH
AND CLOSE ON AUGUST 13TH**

GATHERING DAY > **FRIDAY** > AUGUST 10TH

Early Morning	Horse Fair	Evans' Field - Tralee Road
11.00a.m.	Pane Puppeteer	The Square
Middy	Mr Cro	The Square
1.00p.m.	Keltic Kudzu (In association with Westwood Homes)	Puck Fair Stand
1.30p.m.	The Biddy Bunratty Experience	Upper/Lower Town
2.00p.m.	Face Painting	The Square
2.00p.m.	Cork Community Circus	Upper/Lower Town
2.30p.m.	Bonny Baby Competition (register 2.15 at Puck Fair Stand)	Puck Fair Stand
3.30p.m.	Keltic Kudzu	Puck Fair Stand
3.30pm	Mr Cro	Lower Town
4.30p.m.	Pane Puppeteer	The Square
5.00p.m.	Caint agus Ceoil le Sean O Sé	Puck Fair Stand
5.00p.m.	The Biddy Bunratty Experience	Lower Town
5.00p.m.	Cork Community Circus	Lower Town
5.30p.m.	Coronation Parade Route: The Bridge-Main St – The Square (in association with Fexco)	
5.45p.m.	Coronation Ceremony	Puck Fair Stand
9.30p.m.	Elvis Spectacular (featuring Sweet Sensations and the TCB Band) (In association with Champs Eurospar)	The Stage Truck, The Square



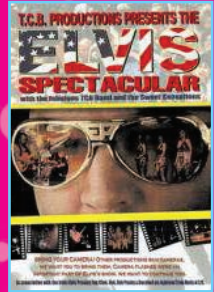
AUGUST 10TH - **ELVIS SPECTACULAR** FEATURING **SWEET SENSATIONS**

The night of August 10th we will have Elvis play to the thronged Killorglin crowds from the heights of the Stage Truck in the Square. As always this will be a free concert.

The King's memory is kept alive in this absolutely superb live show, performing the hits from all stages of Elvis's career from the 50's to the Las Vegas Years.

Backed by a band of brilliant musicians who will rock your socks off in their own right plus the outstanding vocal talent of the beautiful Sweet Sensations, add to this ensemble the uncanny portrayal of the King of rock and roll by one of the best Elvis impersonators ever and it will be the closest you will get to an actual Elvis concert.

This is a brilliant action show to mark the 30th anniversary of Elvis' death.



Watch out for **WALKABOUT CHARACTERS** **CLOWNS** and **MAGICIANS** who will be on the streets each day

Check out the **GUINNESS MUSIC TRAIL POSTERS** for timings on Pub Entertainment



FAIR DAY > **SATURDAY** > AUGUST 11TH

Early Morning	Traditional Cattle Fair	Langford Street
11.00a.m.	Cultural Trail	Commencing at Puck Fair Monument
11.00a.m.	Pane Puppeteer	Lower Town
11.00a.m.	Bagad Sonerien Bro Dreger of Perros Guirec Youth Band	The Square
Midday	Mr. Cro	The Square
1.00p.m.	Traditional Session with 'Leas Ainm' (in association with Westwood Homes)	Puck Fair Stand
1.30p.m.	The Biddy Bunratty experience	Upper/Lower Town
2.00p.m.	Pet Show	Puck Fair Stand
2.00p.m.	Face Painting	The Square
2.00p.m.	Cork Community Circus	Upper/Lower Town
3.00p.m.	Arklow Youth Marching Band	Mid Town
3.45p.m.	Mr. Cro	The Square
4.30p.m.	Traditional Session with 'Leas Ainm'	The Stage Truck, The Square
4.30p.m.	Cork Community Circus	Lower Town
5.30p.m.	Bagad Sonerien Bro Dreger of Perros Guirec Youth Band	The Stage Truck
6.30p.m.	Arklow Youth Marching Band	The Stage Truck
7.30p.m.	The Biddy Bunratty experience	Upper Town
7.30p.m.	Pane Puppeteer	The Square
9.30p.m.	The Glenn Miller Legacy Band (In association with Champs Eurospar)	The Stage Truck



AUGUST 11TH > **GLENN MILLER LEGACY BAND**

Take a step back in time with the Glenn Miller Legacy Band - one of the most sought after Big Bands in Ireland. A fourteen piece orchestra playing the best and most popular sounds from the Golden Era of music. They have played at some of the biggest and most prestigious events in the country, in Slane Castle, Adare Manor, Dromoland Castle. They are also regulars at Cork Jazz Festival. They will keep your toes tapping with a playlist which includes Summertime, Big Spender, Y.M.C.A.



BAR EXEMPTIONS - 10th to 12th August - Bars open until 3.00am > 9th & 13th August - Bars open until 1.30am (Only plastic glasses on the street during the festival).

THE THREE OLDEST FAIRS - The three oldest fairs in Ireland are Puck Fair, the Auld Lamas Fair, Ballycastle and the Great October Horse Fair Ballinasloe. Each year we welcome our colleagues from the respective Fairs to Killorglin for Puck Fair. The Auld Lamas Fair takes place on Monday August 27th and the Great October Fair takes place from September 29th to October 7th.

> SEE US ON THE WEB WWW.PUCKFAIR.IE



SCATTERING DAY > **SUNDAY** > AUGUST 12TH

11.00a.m.	Pane Puppeteer	The Square
Midday	Arklow Youth Marching Band	The Square
Midday	Mr. Cro	The Square
1.00p.m.	Bagad Sonerien Bro Dreger of Perros Guirec, Youth Band (In association with Westwood Homes)	Puck Fair Stand
1.30p.m.	The Biddy Bunratty Experience	Upper/Lower Town
2.00p.m.	Fancy Dress Competition (with face painting)	Puck Fair Stand
2.00p.m.	Cork Community Circus	Lower Town
2.00p.m.	Pane Puppeteer	Lower Town
3.30p.m.	Mr. Cro	The Square
3.45p.m.	Arklow Youth Marching Band	Lower Town
4.15p.m.	Bagad Sonerien Bro Dreger of Perros Guirec, Youth Band	Puck Fair Stand
5.00p.m.	The Biddy Bunratty Experience	The Square & Upper Town
5.00p.m.	Cork Community Circus	The Square & Upper Town
5.30p.m.	Dethronement Parade & Ceremony (in association with Fexco)	Parade Route: Langford Street - The Square - Lower Town
9.15p.m.	Lúnasa with Karen Casey (In association with Champs Eurospar)	The Stage Truck
Midnight:	Fireworks Display (in association with Astellas)	Lower Town

AUGUST 12TH > **LÚNASA WITH KAREN CASEY**

Puck Fair are delighted to welcome 'Lúnasa' to this years festival.



Lúnasa is an internationally acclaimed traditional Irish music group. They are known for their exciting melodies and tunes, as well as their ability to combine the sounds of the fiddle, the flute, the uilleann pipes, the guitar, and the bass. Their albums are top sellers in their genre.

Two of the original members (Seán Smyth and Trevor Hutchinson) are still with the group. Their albums are released on Compass Records.

There are five members of Lúnasa:

- > **Seán Smyth** – fiddle, whistles
- > **Trevor Hutchinson** – bass
- > **Paul Meehan** - guitar
- > **Kevin Crawford** – flute, whistles
- > **Cillian Vallely** - Uilleann pipes, whistles

CATTLE FAIR - Traditionally on August 11th a Cattle Fair is held in Killorglin Town.

This fair is not organised by the Puck Fair Organising Committee but operates under a natural pre-ordained act under charter. All animals must come from herds which are not restricted and the herd and relevant animals must have had a clear test, within the T.B., & Brucellosis Test Limit laid down by the Department – i.e. Brucellosis 30 days. T.B. 12 months. All bovines must bear double plastic tags as issued under the Department's Identification System and must be accompanied by passports.

THE GUINNESS MUSIC TRAIL - The Guinness Music Trail Competition

takes place over the three days of Puck Fair. The local pubs compete for a beautiful Guinness Cuchulainn Statuette. Please check separate posters for details on the great music, craic and song

TRAFFIC & CAR PARK ARRANGEMENTS - Please follow traffic

signs and instructions and refrain from parking in no parking zones. These areas are there to ensure the free flow of traffic during the festival. There is ample car parking available in the Annadale Road Car Park (opposite Bianconi Inn), Killarney Road (near Puck Goat Statue) and the Tralee Road. Admission to all car parks is €5. Please ensure you lock all doors and windows when leaving your car and remove all valuables from view inside your car. Limited Disability Parking available on Iveragh Road. Check signs for details.



WALKABOUTS

Cork Circus have been performing street-theatre all over Ireland for seven years now. They are back at the Puck Fair this year with a mixture of walkabout acts and shows.

Keep your eyes peeled for some of the craziest characters ever seen on the streets of Killorglin including Mad Scientists who will be performing experiments on anyone they possibly can, unicycling pixies and other mythical creatures as well as their weird and wonderful Puck!

MR. CRO

The Mr Cro Show is a traditional circus street show full of top class antics with, amongst other things, hurleys, heads and high jinks juggling. Let Mr Cro carry you away to his world, and watch as he turns a hurley into a highly dangerous propeller. Witness a trick that is way a-"head" of its time, helped by his assistant Heather, who comes out of his case. Then stand back as he tries to mount a four-foot wobbly-thing-a-ma-jig (and all in the name of entertainment).

THE BIDDY BUNRATTY EXPERIENCE

Biddy is an old friend of Puck Fair: Look out for this quirky lady and her antics and her aim at becoming Queen of Puck Fair. Watch out, she could be behind you!

PANE PUPPETEER

This puppeteer is joining us from Maldivia and we welcome him to Puck Fair for the first time.



INTERNATIONAL BANDS

THE BAGAD SONERIEN BRO DREGER OF PERROS GUIREC

Puck Fair are delighted to welcome two international bands to this year's festival. The Bagad Sonerien Bro Dreger of Perros Guirec (Brittany – Côtes d'Armor – France) plays a repertoire based on multi-cultural inspirations through original and innovative compositions.

The band entertains people during Festou Noz ("Night Fest" where people gather to dance and play traditional music) and creates an atmosphere during parades that the public really appreciates. Created in 1983, the Bagad Sonerien Bro Dreger has not stopped evolving. Every year at the National bagadou championships, the Bagad displays a high musical standard and is now upgraded third in grade 2. The band is composed of thirty five musicians, (Average age is about 25) separated in 4 instruments: Bombardes, Bagpipes, Percussions, and Drums.



KELTIC KUDZU - CELTIC FUSION FROM ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Keltic Kudzu offers traditional and contemporary Celtic music with a 'Southern accent', as well as a healthy dose of Southern music with a 'Celtic accent'. Their music features strong vocal harmonies accompanied by a wide variety of instruments, including guitars, fiddle, keyboard, mandolin, highland bagpipes, smallpipes, bodhran and the famous 'Gypsy 'zils'.



› PUCK OF THE AGES

My earliest memory of Puck Fair goes back to the 1920's when as a boy I helped my father Mikey, a carpenter who was contracted by the Puck Fair Committee to erect the stand in the town square on which King Puck perched during his all too brief reign as Ireland's only King. The look of bewilderment by the goat looking down from his lofty throne was reflected on the faces of the visitors to Ireland's oldest fair. A King wearing a shiny crown and a fine beard they could expect from royalty but with a pair of horns and four legs instead of two, well that took a bit of getting used to. Surely this could only happen in Kerry and more precisely in Killorglin. Along with the erection of the stand my father was charged with putting up the multi-coloured bunting and banners which created a festive mood through the town. The banners would carry slogans like "Cead Mille Fáilte" (one hundred thousand welcomes), "Rí na gCnoc go dea" (King of the hills forever), "Kings may come and kings may go but King Puck goes on forever".

The goat himself would usually have been caught some weeks previously in the highlands of Glencar where they roamed freely in the foothills of the McGillicuddy Reeks. A diet of oats and cabbage quickened the bonding process between man and beast. By Gathering Day the goat was groomed and ready for his three days of fame. Sean O'Shea of Coomplehane was for many years our official goat catcher. This was a job he did with great pride and precision and on the Scattering evening of Puck he would collect the goat from our home in Lower Bridge St., tie a rope around his horns and walk him out of town, back to his home again, delighted that one of his herd had enjoyed such privilege during his all too brief reign.

Many tinkers plied their trade making and repairing utensils. There was also a fortune teller named Rosie reading future events from her crystal ball. Dan Sheridan known as "King of the Travelling Clans" was one of the most respected judges of horse flesh of his time and in an era when a horse was owned by every

farmer in the country. His expertise was always sought at the horse fair on Gathering Day.

With the arrival of electrification in town, came the bigger dance halls. The Oisín Ballroom in Iveragh Road opened for Puck 1938. Due to the magic of electric light and amplification large numbers of people tripped the light fantastic on Gathering night. Most arrived on bikes which lined the entire street. The CYMS Hall, which opened in 1954, was also guaranteed a full house throughout the three nights of Puck. Nothing stronger than a Nash's lemonade was sold at these dances despite the fact that the pubs at the time had a seventy two hour exemption for three days and nights of the fair.

Another major plus for Puck in the old days was the train station. Killorglin was part of Farranfore to Renard Railway line which allowed people from all parts of the country to journey to the fair on day trips. It also brought back many homesick emigrants for their annual session in the old sod. This was a time when most families had somebody and in some cases everybody working outside the country. Servant girls and boys working for the big farmers in North Kerry also had it agreed that they would have the days of Puck off to join in the festivities with family and friends. Puck was always a special date in their calendar. Sadly this important rail link with the wider world celebrated in Sigerson Clifford's wonderful poem "Ghost Train To Croke Park" closed in January 1960.

In 1974 the royal family came to Puck with the introduction of "The Queen". This important job was undertaken by a twelve year old girl whose task it was to make a speech of welcome to all visitors to the coronation. She then placed the crown on the goat's head declaring him King. With a rolling drum he was hoisted to his lofty throne high above his gathering subjects.

The piper bands were synonymous with Puck. Apart from leading the parades they would

march around the town stirring the hearts of all. Killorglin itself had a band "The Laune Pipers Band" in the 1950's which proudly led the parade for many years. The music on the stand itself was supplied by the Noel Tubhy Ceilí Band who had a long association with the fair. Local accordion player Willie Mangan also entertained the crowd on many an occasion. The middle day of the fair was the cattle fair when all the streets and indeed laneways were full of cattle with many sporting treacherous looking horns. This in its time was considered one of the great cattle fairs for trade. The emergence of the marts has reduced the sales of cattle to a trickle now on the second day. The tradition of the buying and selling of cattle with of course the aid of the middle man is an art in itself, as enjoyable for the spectator as it is for the participants.

The fair in the old days was also the greatest gathering of the tinker clans. The Coffeys and O'Briens of Kerry would be joined by the O'Driscolls of West Cork. The Furys and Wards from Galway, the Maughans from Mayo, Sheridans from Limerick, The Shoeys and O'Donoghues from Clare, Hanifans and Purcells from the midlands as well as the Gamells, Cashs, Gores and many other travelling families. They would mainly arrive in gaudy coloured barrel top caravans pulled by horse. They always camped at the end of the county bridge along the Killarney Road. This site was adjacent to the Laune river allowing for washing and of course drinking water for the animals. By night the campfires illuminated the darkness and the smell of cooking and sounds of laughter filled the night air much to the delight and curiosity of the locals.

Puck like every festival had its share of characters over the years, Con "The Laces" with his card tricks, John Wilson Balladeer singing the "Valley of Knockanure". Frank Mulcahy the crubeen seller from Tralee, a regular trader, Patrick "Whacker" Daly at the

wheel of fortune, Butty Sugrue and Jack Doyle wrestling at Puck 1953 and singing the night away afterwards in Jack Denny Cons Pub in the Square. Christy Hanley at the roulette wheel, Mrs Collohy of Limerick, a vendor of sea grass and disk, Katie Reilly with the wooden rings which needed to encircle the coins to win, the three card operator with one eye on your money and the other on the

guards and John Joe Collohy with his monkey on his shoulder playing his six a pick game. Sarah McCormack was a stall holder from Cork City; her brothers Frank and Eddie were fondly remembered buskers at Puck - their parents before them were coming to the fair for sixty years. Another family with a long association with the fair are the Bird family whose amusements have been part of the fun and entertainment for children of all ages since William and Stella first came here with their show in 1943.

Before finishing I would like to mention the people of the town and parish itself who have come and gone in the ebb and flow of the years. Most families have had some association through being on the committees, participating in the parades, sponsorships and in all the other activities that have helped to keep the fair and festival going from "year to year", for all of us Puck is the most special part of what we are. The Scattering night is always tinged with sadness as we remember faces from the past, the long days of summer are reluctantly giving way to the longer nights of autumn, we realise that there's a nip in the air but then we remember and rejoice at the old Killorglin salutation:

"I never died a winter yet, and never missed a Puck"

By Pa Houlihan



King Puck being hoisted to this lofty perch on Gathering evening 1926. My father Mickey Houlihan top centre.

PUCK FAIR INFORMATION CENTRE: LOCATED IN THE SQUARE OPPOSITE THE STAND

KILLORGLIN



The Puck Fair Organising Committee would also like to sincerely thank the following:
The business people of Killorglin for their continued financial support and never ending co-operation.

- › Garda Siochána
- › Health Service Executive Southern Area
- › Civil Defence
- › FEXCO
- › O'Carroll Engineering
- › ESB
- › Kerry County Council
- › Astellas
- › The Residents of Killorglin
- › Dept. of Agriculture & Food

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THE MEDICAL CENTRE - The Medical Centre is located on Mill Road, Telephone 066 97 90961. The opening hours are: **Fri. Aug. 10th - 9.00a.m. to 4.00a.m.**
Sat. Aug. 11th - 9.00p.m. to 4.00a.m. & Sun. Aug. 12th - 9.00p.m. to 4.00a.m.

Puck Fair Ltd. - c/o Laura Ahern, Dooks, Glenbeigh, Co. Kerry.
Telephone/Fax: 00 353 66 97 62366 › www.puckfairie › info@puckfairie

PUCK FAIR SHOP - Look out for our new mobile shop which is located in the Square. Open daily it has a full range of Puck Fair merchandise for sale.

Designed by **SPLASH DESIGNS** 064 34505 :: www.printing.ie
Photography by **People of Killorglin & Riona MacMonagle** 087 242 1558

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