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Puck Fair

Céad Mile Fáilte go dtí
Aonach an Phoic

IRELAND'S OLDEST TRADITIONAL FAIR & FESTIVAL



CORK KERRY TOURISM

2005

August 10th ::: 11th ::: 12th
Killorglin ::: Kerry ::: Ireland

Kindly Sponsored by



GUINNESS

::: CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

Deireann an seanfhocail "muna mbionn agat ach pocan gabhar, bi í lár an aonaigh leis". Ta an pocan gabhar againn anseo i gCill Orglan, agus ta se í gceart lar an aonaigh, thuas ar a ardan mar Rí na gCnoc agus Rí an Aonaigh. Ocaid stairiúil, tradisiunta ata ar siul againn anseo agus cuireann se athas orm failte a chur romhaibh go leir go dtí Aonach an Phoic 2005.

On behalf of the Puck Fair organising committee I welcome you all, old friends and new to Killorglin on August 10th, 11th and 12th for our Annual Fair Festival. It is our privilege to continue with a unique event which has been enacted here for many many centuries. Many historians and scholars have tried to put a date on the beginnings of Puck Fair. Nobody has come up with an answer but all agree that it is a festival not to be missed.

While you are enjoying yourselves in Killorglin, please be aware of the thousands of people who also want to enjoy themselves and make sure that your responsible behaviour will greatly enhance the quality of enjoyment for everyone.

Thank you for your co-operation and may your visit to Puck Fair 2005 be a memorable one.

Declan Mangan

::: Chairman

Historical Exhibition

This is a must visit for anyone interested in old historical accounts for Puck Fair and also the Circus tradition in Ireland. Patrick Houlihan's Historical Exhibition is full of old photographs and newspaper clippings and it is an ideal way to while away a few hours during your visit to Killorglin. Open from 11.00a.m. to 3.00pm daily.

::: GATHERING DAY

::: WEDNESDAY ::: AUGUST 10TH

- Early Morning **Horse Fair** Evan's Field - Tralee Rd
- 12.00 Mid-day **Qian Lan (pan pipes)** The Square
- 1.00pm **Music with Ray Barron & Hank Wendel** Puck Fair Stand
- 1.30pm **Blackthorn Arts** Upper Town
- 2.00pm **Face Painting** The Square
- 2.30pm **Bonny Baby Competition** Puck Fair Stand
- 3.30pm **Blackthorn Arts** Lower Town
- 3.30pm **Music with Ray Barron & Hank Wendel** Puck Fair Stand
- 4.00pm **Qian Lan (pan pipes)** The Square
- 5.00pm **Caint agus Ceoil le Sean O'Se** Puck Fair Stand
- 5.30pm **Coronation Parade**
Route: The Bridge - Main St - The Square
- 5.45pm **Coronation Ceremony** Puck Fair Stand
- 9.30pm **Dervish** Gig Rig - The Square

Watch out for cartoon characters who will be performing throughout the day! Check out the Guinness Pub Trail Posters for timing of Pub Entertainment.

The Guinness Inter Pub Competition

The Guinness Inter Pub 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



::: FAIR DAY

::: THURSDAY ::: AUGUST 11TH

Early Morning	Traditional Cattle Fair	Langford Street
1.00pm	Concert with Flutterby	Puck Fair Stand
1.30pm	Blackthorn Arts	Upper Town
2.00pm	Face Painting	The Square
2.30pm	Pet Show	Puck Fair Stand
3.00pm	Blackthorn Arts	Upper Town
3.00pm	Qian Lan (pan pipes)	The Square
3.45pm	Music with Sean Tracey & Friends	Puck Fair Stand
3.30pm	Irish Dancers	CYMS
5.00pm	Blue Ridge Thunder Cloggers USA	CYMS
5.00pm	Qian Lan (pan pipes)	The Square
5.00pm	Duck Race in aid of & organised by Killorglin Sports Complex	River Laune
8.30pm	Reggie McCrohan, Brid & Friends	Gig Rig The Square
9.30pm	The Drifters	Gig Rig The Square

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.

::: SCATTERING DAY

::: FRIDAY ::: AUGUST 12TH

12.00 mid-day	Qian Lan (pan pipes)	The Square
1.00pm	Lunchtime Gig with Saoirse	Puck Fair Stand
1.30pm	Blackthorn Arts	Upper Town
2.00pm	Face Painting	The Square
2.30pm	Children's Funtime with Fancy Dress	CYMS Hall Include All children to be accompanied by an adult please
3.00pm	Puppet Show with Sean O'Laoire	CYMS Hall All Children to be accompanied by an Adult please
3.00 pm	Qian Lan (pan pipes)	The Square
3.00pm	Blackthorn Arts	Upper Town
4.00pm	Music with Sean Treacy	Puck Fair Stand
5.30pm	Dethronement Parade & Ceremony	Parade Route: Langdord Street - The Square - Lower Town
9.15pm	Alanna	Gig Rig - The Square
Midnight	Fireworks Display	Lower Town

Bar Exemptions

9th - 12th August - Bars open until 3.00a.m.

(Only plastic glasses on the street during the festival).

The Three Oldest Fairs

The three oldest fairs in Ireland are Puck Fair, the Auld Lamass 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 Lamass Fair takes place on Monday 29th August and the Great October Fair takes place from 2nd to 10th October.

::: PUCK FAIR QUEEN 2005



My name is Niamh O'Connor, I am twelve years old and I live in Ardmoniel, Killorglin.

I have just finished school in Scoil Mhuire Killorglin and I will be attending the Intermediate School, Killorglin in September.

There are seven people in my family, including my parents. I have three older sisters and one brother. I am the youngest in the family. I have three pets - two dogs and one cat, and now have five kittens.

My hobbies are Irish dancing and Set dancing, swimming and singing. I also like watching television and going to the cinema. My favourite hobby is Irish dancing. I have won lots of medals and I took part in the World Dancing Championships in Belfast, two years ago.

I am really looking forward to my time as Queen of Puck this year.

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.

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

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

::: DERVISH

From the Great Wall of China to a packed stadium in the Holy Land and more recently being the first Irish band to perform at the greatest music festival in the world, Rock in Rio, Dervish have come a long way in ten years.



::: 10th

Formed in 1989 by a group of five musicians, Liam Kelly, Shane Mitchell, Martin McGinley, Brian McDonagh and Michael Holmes who came together to record an album of local music which was released as *The Boys of Sligo*. Inspired by the project they decided to develop this informal gathering into a working band under the name Dervish which was chosen as it related to any group of poor but spiritual people who become enraptured by music.

Now, ten years since first coming together and with four of the original members still at the helm, Dervish are more in demand than ever. Their colourful career has taken them to every corner of the globe and has seen them share centre stage with such names as James Brown, The Buena Vista Social Club, Oasis, Sting, REM, Beck and many more. Decade is not just a compilation of their finest works to date; it's a celebration of Irish music and a band that have been instrumental in bringing it to a worldwide audience.

DERVISH are: Brian McDonagh, Mandola • Liam Kelly, Flute and whistles • Tom Morrow, Fiddle • Shane Mitchell, Accordion • Cathy Jordan, Vocals, bodhrán and bones • Seamus O'Dowd, Guitar, fiddle, harmonica • Michael Holmes, Bouzouki

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::: DRIFTERS

The Drifters are back again after an absence of two years from Puck Fair.

When they played Puck Fair previously they got a rapturous reception from a 5,000 strong audience.

They will undoubtedly prove a huge draw again this year. The Drifters, formed in 1953 in New York, have survived various line-up changes throughout the years and enjoyed huge success in both the US and the UK.

After a number of hits in the 50's and 60's The Drifters gained chart success in Britain through the 70's and early 80's. Today some 50 years on many radio stations still play list popular Drifter Hits.

With the rebirth of the 70's Disco classics The Drifters are one of the few truly live bands still playing to capacity audiences and they are sounding as good as they ever did. Whenever The Drifters appear you can be sure of a truly entertaining trip down memory lane as the guys blast out hit after hit in a non-stop nostalgic evening of Drifter hits. Direct from the USA the group are famous for 70's bee bop love songs with such hits as "Kissing in the Back Row" "You're More Than A Number In My Little Red Book" "Can I Take You Home Little Girl" "Save the Last Dance For Me" to name but a few.

So whatever your favourite Drifters tune why not come on over to my place and hear the Drifters Live, it's definitely a must for Drifters fans of all ages. The Drifters, a group often imitated but never equalled.

::: 11th



::: SEE US ON THE WEB WWW.PUCKFAIR.IE

::: ALANNA

After fine tuning their skills for people such as Premier of the People's Republic of China, Mr Zhu Rongji and having extensively toured the USA and Europe Alanna are now all set to play Puck Fair!



Alanna are Killorglin's, and our neighbours Beaufort, major musical act. We are delighted to have them play on the last night of Puck Fair (12th of August) to bring the fair to a thunderous conclusion with their fantastic talent.

Alanna was formed as a five piece in the winter of 2002. The group consists of four brothers, Anthony, Sean, Brendan and Patrick O'Connor with vocalist Catherine Teahan from Killorglin. Alanna are based in Co. Kerry. The name 'Alanna' comes from the Irish language which translates to 'my love'.

Alanna has a very distinctive sound, bridging the gap between traditional and contemporary Irish music. The music is exciting and could be classed as their own Celtic style. The truly nice aspect is the bands appeal to such a widely aged audience. They have toured extensively around Ireland and have also toured Europe and the USA promoting their debut album, 'Under the Open Sky'. From Jan - July 2004 Alanna recorded their second album, titled 'Blurring the line', which was released in the INEC Killarney on 11th December 2004.

Alanna have performed at such festivals as The Cork Jazz Festival, The Bantry Mussel Festival and the Rose of Tralee. They have also performed in such venues as Whelan's of Wexford St, Matt Molloy's, Westport, The Granary, Killarney and also performed at many other corporate events throughout the country, such as the Chinese Premieres visit to Ireland.



::: ORIGINS AND LEGENDS OF THE FAIR

There are many legends which suggest an origin for the Fair, many of which are wildly inventive, but there is no written record stating when the Fair started. It has been suggested that it is linked to pre-Christian celebrations of a fruitful harvest and that the male goat or "Puck" was a pagan symbol of fertility, like the pagan god Pan.

The origins of the fair have thus been lost in the midst of antiquity, and various commissions set up over the past two hundred years have tried in vain to date them. Evidence suggests that the fair existed long before written record of everyday occurrences were kept as there is one written reference from the 17th Century in existence which grants Jenkins Conway, the local landlord at the time, the right to collect a sum for every animal brought to the August Fair. This would suggest that the Fair was something already well established in the local community.

The most widely mentioned story relating to the origin of King Puck, associates him with the English Ironside Leader Oliver Cromwell. It is related that while the "Roundheads" were pillaging the countryside around Shanara and Kilgobnet at the foot of the McGillycuddy Reeks, they routed a herd of goats grazing on the upland. The animals took flight before the raiders, and the he-goat or "Puck" broke away on his own and lost contact with the herd. While the others headed for the mountains he went towards Cill Orglain (Killorglin) on the banks of the Laune. His arrival there in a state of semi exhaustion alerted the inhabitants of the approaching danger and they immediately set about protecting themselves and their stock.

It is said that in recognition of the service rendered by the goat, the people decided to institute a special festival in his honour and this festival has been held ever since.

Another legend regarding the origin of "King Puck" relates to the time of Daniel O'Connell, who in 1808 was an unknown barrister. It seems that before that year, the August fair held in Killorglin had been a toll fair, but an Act of the British Parliament empowered the Viceroy or Lord Lieutenant in Dublin to make an order, at his own discretion, making it unlawful to levy tolls at cattle, horse or sheep fairs. Tolls in Killorglin at this

time were collected by the local landlord - Mr Harman Blennerhassett - who had fallen into bad graces with the authorities in Dublin Castle and as a result the Viceroy robbed him of his right to levy tolls. Blennerhassett enlisted the services of the young Daniel O'Connell, who in an effort to reverse the decision decided that goats were not covered by the document and that the landlord would be legally entitled to hold a goat fair, and levy his tolls as usual. Thus the fair was promptly advertised as taking place on August 10th, 1808, and on that day a goat was hoisted on a stage to show to all attending that the fair was indeed a goat fair - thus Blennerhassett collected his toll money and Killorglin gained a King.

Whatever its origins, the fair has long been and continues to be the main social, economic and cultural event in the Killorglin Calendar. It is a time when old friends meet, when new friendships are forged and the cares of everyday living are put on hold.

::: PREPARATIONS

A ceremony which takes place before Puck is the selection of the Queen of Puck. In an age old tradition, the Queen must be twelve years of age and is chosen from the local school girls who are asked to write a short essay on why they would like to be Queen of Puck. Her primary duty is to deliver the Puck Fair Proclamation which welcomes both the emigrants and the visitors to the Fair. The Proclamation is delivered in Irish, English, French and German and serves to grant the Freedom of the Town, under the patronage of His Majesty King Puck to all present.

::: GATHERING DAY

On the first day of the proceedings called the "Gathering Day" a wild male mountain goat is paraded through the gaily decorated town to the applause of thousands. The streets throb to the pulse of pipers, drummers, traditional Irish music sessions, balladeers and street entertainers of all types. The parade features traditional floats bearing the Puck Goat - soon to be King - the Queen of the Fair, and modern type floats from local business and cultural groups. The goat is placed on the lowest tier of a three tiered Puck Fair Stand which is erected in



the Square each year for the ceremony. Here the Queen of the Fair delivers the Puck Proclamation to the assembled crowd and everyone salutes the new King.

::: THE HORSE AND CATTLE FAIRS

It is possible that the Horse and Cattle Fairs which take place on August 10th and 11th respectively pre-date that festive element which today is much more evident.

The Horse Fair takes place on the morning of August 10th and in bygone days when the horse was the main mode of transport the Puck Horse Fair was attended by buyers from all over Ireland and beyond. Indeed it was not uncommon to find some of the armies of Europe sending buyers to Puck to purchase remounts. Popular legend has it that a horse bought at Puck Fair was ridden by Marshall Ney of France in the Battle of Waterloo!

Animals were often moved into town at midnight to avail of the best locations around the town. Buyers may buy animals as early as six in the morning but usually deals are completed by mid-morning. Then, both parties visit a local hostelry to toast each others health and no doubt the health of the animals just sold.

::: SCATTERING DAY

On the evening of the third day called "Scattering Day" the dethronement of King Puck takes place. Again The Square is teeming with people as international accents contrast with the musical Kerry lilt of the locals. Once the "King" relinquishes his crown, he is once again a mere goat. Still mindful of his dignity he is paraded once more through the streets of Killorglin before being released once more to his home in the wilds of the mountains of Kerry.

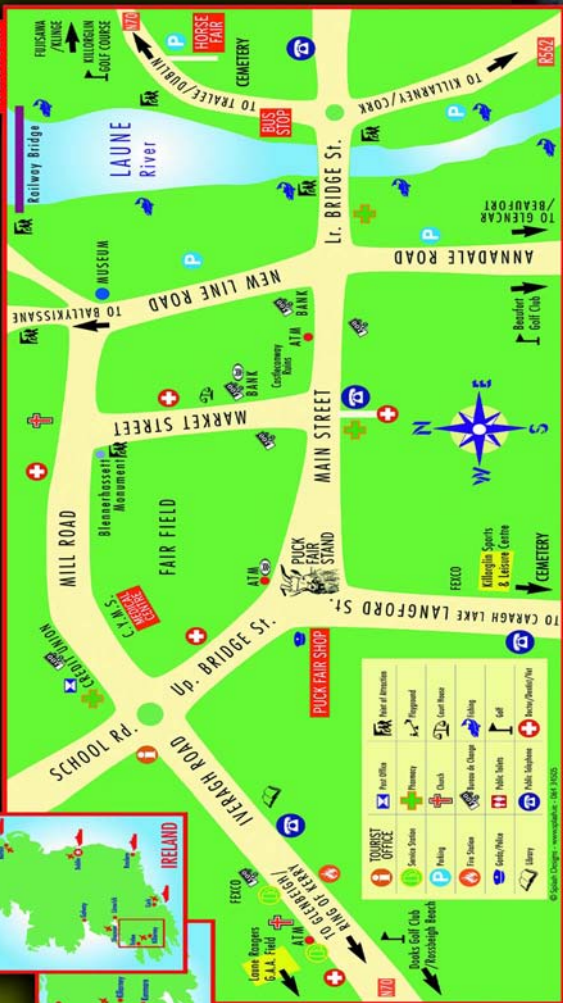
However the singing and dancing continues and the sound of merry music meets the dawn to send revellers back to their homes in various parts of the world, tired but happy and looking forward to the next Puck Fair.

::: EVENTS PRIOR TO PUCK FAIR

Kerry County Championship Regatta

Mon August 8th 6pm to 9.30pm - Tue August 9th 6pm to 9.30pm -
Venue: Laune River - Organised by Killorglin Rowing Club -
contact 066 9761328 for further info.

KILLORGLIN



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::: DAY TIME CONCERTS

Saoirse ::: From the townland of Beaufort come this great traditional Irish group. Saoirse are guaranteed to keep your toes tapping for their entire performance with traditional Irish ballads and music.

Ray Barron & Hank Wendel ::: Entertaining duo from the rebel County of Cork. Ray and Hank have travelled extensively, performing both in Ireland and abroad. They keep their audiences entertained by playing a wide variety of music and song.

Flutterby ::: Celine and Richie join us at Puck Fair for the first time. Enjoy an hour of ballads and guitar playing from this dynamic duo.

Sean Tracey & Friends ::: Sean is a very talented musician and entertainer. Sean hails from Caragh Lake and should not be missed.

Qian Lan & Xiao Zhenwei ::: Qian Lan and Xiao Zhenwei are travelling from Shanghai to be with us at Puck Fair 2005. Qian Lan has joined us at twice before and delights audiences with his pan pipe playing. His wife Xiao Zhenwei is on her first visit to Puck Fair, stop and enjoy her Chinese harp playing and Chinese dancing.

Puck Fair Shop

The Puck Fair Shop is in The Square located across from the Puck Fair Stand. The Shop is open daily and has a full range of official Puck Fair merchandise.

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.





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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.

Gardai Siochána :: Health Service Executive Southern Area :: Civil Defence :: O'Carroll Engineering :: ESB

Kerry County Council :: Klinge Pharma

The Residents of Killorglin :: Dept. of Agriculture & Food

The Medical Centre

The Medical Centre is located in the C.Y.M.S. on Mill Road Telephone 066 97 90961. The opening hours are:

Tuesday August 10th - 9.00a.m. to 4.00a.m.

Wednesday August 11th - 9.00p.m. to 4.00a.m.

Thursday August 12th - 9.00p.m. to 4.00a.m.

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