Saint Patrick’s Festival
Armagh, Downpatrick & Newry

10-20 March 2016

www.armagh.co.uk
www.saintpatrickscountry.com

Armagh Visitor Information Centre
40 English Street
Armagh
BT61 7BA
+44 (0)28 3752 1800

Downpatrick Visitor Information Centre (Festival Office)
The Saint Patrick Centre
53a Market Street
Downpatrick
BT30 6LZ
+44 (0)28 4461 2233

Newry Visitor Information Centre
Bagenal’s Castle
Castle Street
Newry
BT34 2BY
+44 (0)28 3031 3170
WELCOME TO ARMAGH, DOWNPATRICK AND NEWRY THIS SAINT PATRICK’S FESTIVAL.

Armagh and Downpatrick are at the heart of celebrating the life of Saint Patrick so why not come and enjoy Saint Patrick’s Day with us? Come and join in a lively and varied festival showcasing the best of culture, music, song and dance.

Saint Patrick has strong links to both Armagh and Downpatrick. It was in Armagh that the patron saint began his mission in Ireland and established the City as the country’s spiritual capital. Patrick was born in Britain around 400AD. As a boy he was captured and brought to Slemish Mountain in County Antrim to work as a shepherd. After six years of captivity he escaped back to Britain and studied in a monastery.

Following a vision from an angel called Victoricus, Patrick returned to Ireland as a Bishop and taught the Christian faith using the shamrock to explain the Trinity. Patrick’s mission lasted for many years and it is believed he died in the 5th century on 17 March and was buried in a site adjacent to Down Cathedral.

Today, Armagh has two Cathedrals which are a celebration of Patrick’s life, legacy and mission. Saint Patrick’s Church of Ireland Cathedral stands on the site where Patrick built his Great Church in 445AD. Opposite stands Saint Patrick’s Roman Catholic Cathedral, where Patrick is reputed to have placed a rescued fawn.

Downpatrick is well known for its connection with our Patron Saint and its wider Christian and Built Heritage. Notably, The Saint Patrick Centre is the only permanent exhibition in the world dedicated to telling the story of Saint Patrick, close by his resting place at Down Cathedral. The recently extended Down County Museum also holds an important and impressive collection of artefacts from our historic past, including the original Downpatrick High Cross.

Saint Patrick established Ireland’s first Christian Church in 432AD at nearby Saul which is now overlooked by the towering figure of our patron saint from Slieve Patrick, erected in 1938 to commemorate the 1500th anniversary of Patrick’s return to Ireland.

a busy festival showcasing the best of culture, music, song and dance...
## AT A GLANCE

### Saint Patrick’s Festival

#### Armagh, Downpatrick & Newry

### Event Date Venue | Location Page

**EXHIBITIONS**

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**FREE RETURN SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE**

As part of the festival and to enable visitors to participate in key events, a **FREE** return shuttle bus service will be in operation for the following events.

**Fri 11 March**

**ST PATRICK’S FESTIVAL CONFERENCE**

Down County Museum: Departing Armagh

**Sat 12 March**

**CELEBRATE ST PATRICK: FESTIVAL CHORAL EVENT**

St Patrick’s Roman Catholic Cathedral: Departing Downpatrick

**Sun 13 March**

**ST PATRICK’S LANDING**

Inch Abbey, Downpatrick: Departing Armagh

**Sat 19 March**

**ULSTER ORCHESTRA**

St Patrick’s Church of Ireland Cathedral: Departing Downpatrick

Bookings for this service must be made via the relevant Visitor Information Centres (Armagh or Downpatrick) by 12.00 noon the day prior to the event. Pick up and departure times will be confirmed at time of booking, with a further pick up point at Bagenal’s Castle, Newry.

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**NEWRY EVENT**

**An Evening of Traditional Irish Music with Cathal Hayden, Donal Murphy and Seamie O’Dowd.**

Sat 19 Mar

The Saint Patrick Centre

**Moya Brennan**

Sat 19 Mar

The Market Place Theatre

**The Nuala’s Glitterbomb Tour**

Sat 19 Mar

The Market Place Theatre

**Festival Club - Prancing Pony**

Sat 19 Mar

The Market Place Theatre

**Archeology at Navan Centre**

Sun 20 Mar

Navan Centre & Fort

**Guided Tour - Struell Wells Memory Walk**

Sun 20 Mar

Downpatrick

**Ulster National Race Meeting**

Sun 20 Mar

Downpatrick Racecourse

**Connla**

Sun 20 Mar

Market Place Theatre

**Walk the Emania Way**

Sun 20 Mar

Market Place Theatre

**Tumble Circus - Star man**

Sun 20 Mar

Market Place Theatre

**The Arco String Quartet**

Sun 20 Mar

Chapel at the Palace, Armagh

**Organ Recital**

Sun 20 Mar

St Patrick’s Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh

**Flann’s Yer Only Man**

Sun 20 Mar

The Market Place Theatre

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**FREE BUS SERVICE AVAILABLE - pg 06**

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For information on any of the events and to book, please refer to the following contact details:

**Armagh Visitor Information Centre**
40 English Street
Armagh BT61 7BA
+44 (0)28 3752 1800
www.armagh.co.uk
@visit_armagh

**Downpatrick and County Down Railway**
+44 (0)28 4461 2233 | www.downrail.co.uk

**Down County Museum, Downpatrick**
+44(0)28 4461 5218
www.downcountymuseum.com

**Navan Centre and Fort, Armagh**
+44(0)28 3752 9644 | www.navan.com

**The Saint Patrick Centre, Downpatrick**
+44(0)28 4461 9000
www.saintpatrickcentre.com

**Newry Visitor Information Centre**
Bagenal’s Castle
Castle Street
Newry BT34 2BY
+44 (0)28 3031 3170

**Downpatrick Visitor Information Centre**
The Saint Patrick Centre
53a Market Street
Downpatrick BT30 6LZ
+44 (0)28 4461 2233
www.saintpatrickscountry.com
@PatricksCountry twitter

**Saint Patrick’s Festival**
**EXTEND YOUR STAY IN ARMAGH, DOWNPATRICK AND NEWRY**

We look forward to welcoming you to the area for St Patrick’s Festival. When planning your visit why not think about extending your stay and enjoying a relaxing break with us?

A wide range of accommodation is available across the area ranging from luxurious hotels to B&B’s full of character and charm, self-catering as a home from home to camping, caravanning and even to a hostel! Something surely to suit all needs and pockets with many great offers available at this time.

Be sure to make time to relax and benefit from our warm welcome when you visit. Our eateries are outstanding, with local chefs and restaurateurs going that extra mile to give you a sense of our place on your plate. The focus is on local, but with clever twists. Stop off at our visitor attractions, watching history, science and arts come to life with the help of knowledgeable guides.

Whatever you choose, be assured of a warm and friendly welcome to this historic area.

Keep up to date with all offers and events on www.saintpatrickscountry.com | www.armagh.co.uk

**a warm and friendly welcome awaits you in this historic area...**
**EXHIBITIONS**

**D** Wednesday 3 February - Sunday 24 April
**IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST PATRICK**
Down County Museum | FREE admission

This exhibition explores the legacy of St Patrick, local landscape and culture.

**D** Wednesday 3 February - Sunday 31 December
**FROM BALLYHOSSET TO BENGAL**
Down County Museum | FREE admission

This exhibition features a selection of nineteenth century medical objects and examines the career of a local Victorian doctor in India.

**A** Friday 5 February - Saturday 16 April
**RECENT ACQUISITIONS**
Armagh County Museum | FREE admission

An exhibition highlighting some of the recent donations by members of the public to the museum’s collection.

**A** Friday 19 February - Saturday 19 March
**ICONS AN EXHIBITION BY PAUL DIGBY**
The Market Place Theatre, Foyer Walls | FREE admission

Including oil paintings of female faces and some of Ireland’s most loved writers, poets and lyricists.

**A** Friday 19 February - Saturday 19 March
**IN TRAVEL AN EXHIBITION BY KIERON BLACK**
Down Arts Centre | FREE admission

The moment - can it be captured, translated, shared with another? A watercolour exhibition inspired by travels in Ireland and Europe.
Thursday 10, Friday 11 & Saturday 12 March

**Friday 11 - Sunday 20 March**

**SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOURS OF DOWNPATRICK**

Call into Downpatrick Visitor Information Centre and pick up all the information you need to set you on your way to visit the historical attractions.

**Friday 11 March**

**LIGHTING UP FOR ST PATRICK**

Down Cathedral, St Patrick’s Church, The Saint Patrick Centre in Downpatrick & St Patrick’s Statue, Saul and the Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland Cathedrals in Armagh will be illuminated for the festival.

**Friday 11 March**

**ST PATRICK’S FESTIVAL CONFERENCE**

Down County Museum 9.15am - 4.00pm  £20 per person

The theme of this year’s conference is Treasures of St Patrick: Precious reliquaries and reminders of Ireland’s patron saint.

**Saturday 12 March**

**CELEBRATE ST PATRICK: FESTIVAL CHORAL EVENT**

St Patrick’s Roman Catholic Cathedral, Armagh 8.00pm | Free

Pre-booking essential through The Market Place Theatre

A reflective and celebratory event honouring St Patrick. This atmospheric and imaginative event will combine some of Ireland’s greatest choirs with actors, singers and special guest artists to name but a few. Event to be filmed for future broadcast.

**Saturday 12 March**

**CELTIC SOUL**

Down Arts Centre 8.00pm (bar from 7.00pm)  £14/£12 concession

Celtic Soul return to celebrate one of the truly great singer/songwriters of all time; our own Van Morrison.

**Saturday 12 March**

**THE YEAR OF THE HIKER**

BY JOHN B KEANE

Presented by Ballymacnab Youth Drama Group.

The Market Place Theatre 8.00pm | £10/£8 concession

This classic play tells the story of the “Hiker” who disappears and leaves his wife to fend for herself and bring up their three children in difficult times.

**Saturday 12 March**

**ST PATRICK’S FESTIVAL CONFERENCE**

Down County Museum 9.15am - 4.00pm | £20 per person

The theme of this year’s conference is Treasures of St Patrick: Precious reliquaries and reminders of Ireland’s patron saint.

**Saturday 12 March**

**GUIDED TOUR ALONG THE QUOILE**

Downpatrick | 11.00am | £6

Booking through www.lecalepeninsula.com

A guided tour along the Quoile, the river that runs through the town of Downpatrick, with a local expert guide.

**Saturday 12 March**

**GUIDED TOUR ALONG THE QUOILE**

Downpatrick | 11.00am | £6

Booking through www.lecalepeninsula.com

A guided tour along the Quoile, the river that runs through the town of Downpatrick, with a local expert guide.

**Saturday 12 March**

**CELEBRATE ST PATRICK: FESTIVAL CHORAL EVENT**

St Patrick’s Roman Catholic Cathedral, Armagh 8.00pm | Free

Pre-booking essential through The Market Place Theatre

A reflective and celebratory event honouring St Patrick. This atmospheric and imaginative event will combine some of Ireland’s greatest choirs with actors, singers and special guest artists to name but a few. Event to be filmed for future broadcast.

**Saturday 12 March**

**CELTIC SOUL**

Down Arts Centre 8.00pm (bar from 7.00pm)  £14/£12 concession

Celtic Soul return to celebrate one of the truly great singer/songwriters of all time; our own Van Morrison.

**Saturday 12 March**

**THE YEAR OF THE HIKER**

BY JOHN B KEANE

Presented by Ballymacnab Youth Drama Group.

The Market Place Theatre 8.00pm | £10/£8 concession

This classic play tells the story of the “Hiker” who disappears and leaves his wife to fend for herself and bring up their three children in difficult times.
Sunday 13, Monday 14 & Tuesday 15 March

**D Sunday 13 March**
**JIMMY’S TEN AND FAMILY FUN DAY**
Ballydugan Road Industrial Estate & St Patrick Square, Downpatrick
11.00am Run | £13/£15 for fun run
10.30am - 1.00pm | Family fun day | Free
Contact Joe Quinn +44 (0)79 3321 4894

**D Sunday 13 March**
**ST PATRICK’S LANDING & FOOD BANQUET**
Inch Abbey, Downpatrick
2.00pm - 5.00pm | FREE admission

The Re-enactment of St Patrick’s landing will take place at Inch Abbey, using the river Quoile where you will have the opportunity to purchase food from the medieval banquet.
FREE Park & Ride available from Down Business Park from 1.00pm.

**A Sunday 13 March**
**ARMAGH PIPERS CLUB ANNUAL CONCERT**
The Market Place Theatre | 3.00pm
Bookings via caitlin@armaghpipers.org/ +44 (0)28 3752 8188 or on the door

The Pipers Club present their annual concert, celebrating their work. Three hundred performers aged from 4 - 74 will fill the stage with music and song, solo singers, groups and instrumentalists.

**D Monday 14 March**
**ST PATRICK AROUND THE WORLD - FESTIVAL LECTURE**
The Saint Patrick Centre
7.30pm | FREE admission

The lecturer will be Dr Tim Campbell, Director of The Saint Patrick Centre and well known expert on the life of St Patrick.

**A Monday 14 & Tuesday 15 March**
**FEIS ARD MHACHA**
The Market Place Theatre
Events ongoing throughout the day
A two day festival of Irish language competition organised by Gael Linn.

**D Tuesday 15 March**
**MONDAY’S CHILD BY BRENDAN MURRAY**
Dow Arts Centre
10.00am & 11.30am | £5 per child
Recommended for 4-7 year olds and families

Monday’s Child tells the simple poetic story of the unique bond between a little girl and an old woman suffering memory loss.

**A Tuesday 15 March**
**AN EVENING WITH PATRICK**
The Market Place Theatre | 8.00pm
FREE admission | **Pre-booking is essential**

Armagh Cathedrals Partnership invite you to an Evening with Patrick at The Market Place Theatre, Armagh. In addition to some music, story, poetry and prayer, a guest speaker will invite those present to reflect on “Patrick and Ireland today”. It promises to be a very special evening as we celebrate the St Patrick’s Festival in Armagh. Admission on the evening is free and light refreshments will be served.

City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, will host a drop-in Family History Fair, bringing together expert advice and guidance along with practical help, for those seeking to discover their local roots. With an array of stalls offering help and information and a range of expert talks on how and where to take your research further, this will be an occasion not to be missed, whether you are just starting out or wishing to take your family history to the next stage.

**A Tuesday 15 March**
**DIGGING UP YOUR ROOTS - FAMILY HISTORY FAIR**
Armagh City Library
1.30pm - 7.30 pm | FREE admission

Family history is one of the world’s most popular pastimes, with interest in this subject growing all the time. Recent years have seen a wide range of new resources becoming available for those who wish to dig more deeply into their own past. The City Chapter, in partnership with Armagh>>

FREE BUS SERVICE AVAILABLE - pg 06

Image: ST PATRICK’S LANDING & FOOD BANQUET
**Wednesday 16 March**

**ST PATRICK’S LECTURE**
The Market Place Theatre
1.00pm | FREE admission
Pre-booking is essential

On the eve of St Patrick’s Day the Primates of the two principal Churches in Ireland, Archbishop Richard Clarke and Archbishop Eamon Martin, will speak about what St Patrick means to them. In conversation with BBC journalist Tara Mills the two will discuss how St Patrick’s words still resonate and have relevance for many of the challenges we face today.

**BEOGA IN CONCERT**
The Great Hall, Downpatrick
7.30pm | £8 per adult, Under 12’s FREE
Contact Festival Office

Beoga (gaelic for ‘lively’) have become one of the most exciting, popular and influential groups in modern traditional Irish music. Their unique sound features the twin duelling accordions of Damian McKee and multi-instrumentalist Seán Óg Graham, pianist Liam Bradley, four times All-Ireland bodhrán champion Eamon Murray and Niamh Dunne, on vocals and fiddle. They will be joined by renowned Irish Dancers Zoe Talbot, Nawal Elbadri, Callum Kelly, Colin Fleck including our home grown Co. Down based Celtic Storm who have toured the world in various shows.

**NIALL DE BURCA**
The Market Place Theatre
11.00am - schools performance
6.30pm - family performance
FREE admission | Pre-booking is essential

Tales of ancient Ireland from Niall who has performed across the world and is renowned for his shows full of energy, wit and superb timing.

**REPTILE DISPLAY**
The Saint Patrick Centre
1.00pm - 4.00pm | FREE admission

Featuring traditional music, family friendly sessions and other live music, there is entertainment across the area to suit everyone.

Please see [www.saintpatrickscountry.com](http://www.saintpatrickscountry.com) & [www.armagh.co.uk](http://www.armagh.co.uk) for full details of the performance times and venues.

**Wednesday 16 March**

**DOWN TO DINE FOOD TOUR**
Denvirs, Downpatrick
6.00pm | £49.50 per person
+44 (0)28 4461 2012 www.denvirs.com

This unique Food Tour starts the evening at Denvirs before moving to The Cuan, Strangford & Curran’s Bar, Chapeltown for a three course meal. The cost includes tour guide, four courses and accompanying beverages and transportation to and from Denvirs.

**BRIAN FINNEGAN AND FRIENDS**
The Market Place Theatre
9.00pm | £15

Brian Finnegan, flute and whistle player from Armagh was frontman with the group “Flook” for more than 13 years, touring the world and recording three highly acclaimed studio albums with the band.

**ST PATRICK’S FESTIVAL**
Armagh, Downpatrick & Newry
Thursday 17 March

ST PATRICK’S DAY
ARMAGH

CHURCH SERVICES

Wed 16 March
ST MALACHY’S CHURCH
7.30pm Vigil Mass

Thurs 17 March
ST MALACHY’S CHURCH
8.00am Mass
10.00am Mass

ST PATRICK’S CATHEDRAL SERVICES
9.00am (Mass in Irish)
11.00am Mass

ST PATRICK’S CHURCH OF IRELAND CATHEDRAL
10.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Sung Eucharist

ST PATRICK’S DAY CONCERT
Armagh City Centre
12.30pm - 4.00pm | FREE admission

Crowds gathering in Armagh city centre will be entertained by a full programme of music including the extremely popular “The Nooks”. The music will stop while the procession passes and will then continue on into the afternoon as the city celebrates. Your MC for the afternoon will be broadcaster Lynette Fay.

ST PATRICK’S CARNIVAL PROCESSION
Departs from the Palace Demesne
1.30pm | FREE admission

Celebrate St Patrick in Armagh with a spectacular display of colour, music, dance and entertainment for all to enjoy. The theme for this year’s procession is Feasts and Wild Beasts so expect the fun, the furry and the fantastical as the procession makes its way through the city centre. The procession route is from the Palace Demesne, to Monaghan Road, Irish Street, Ogle Street, Thomas Street, Market Street, and English Street, onto Cathedral Road and past the Shambles Market before finishing at the grounds of Cathedral Road Recreation Centre.

ST PATRICK’S FAMILY FUN DAY
The Shambles Yard
2.30pm - 5.00pm | FREE admission

St Patrick’s Day Celebrations continue with a family fun afternoon in the Shambles Yard. Let your creativity flow in the wild beasts craft corner and learn the art of puppeteering. Be entertained by the talent on the community stage or take part in family activities pitting your wits against the last man standing.

celebrate...a spectacular display of colour, music, dance and entertainment for all to enjoy!
Thursday 17 March
ST PATRICK’S DAY
ARMAGH

**ST PATRICK’S TEA PARTY**
Synod Hall, St Patrick’s Roman Catholic Cathedral, Armagh
3.00pm - 7.00pm | FREE admission

A special tea party to celebrate St Patrick in the lovely surroundings of this unique hall. Enjoy a special afternoon tea as well as a feast of Irish traditional music and song.

**‘FROM PAGAN TO ST PATRICK’**
Navan Centre & Fort
6.00pm | Adults £12 Children £5 (suitable for 8 years +)
Pre-booking is essential

Armagh Theatre Group, a community drama group based in Abbey Lane Theatre, Armagh, will perform a family friendly show, which takes a fun and light hearted approach to the tales of St Patrick. Audience participation is encouraged, but not compulsory, so come along and find out about the ‘not really true’ stories surrounding Ireland’s patron saint. The evening starts with music and traditional stew and finishes with a procession to light beacons near the Navan Fort, chasing ‘the snakes’ out of Ireland.

...light beacons near the Navan Fort and chase ‘the snakes’ out of Ireland!!!
Thursday 17 March
ST PATRICK’S DAY
DOWNPATRICK

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION, WITH GEORGE NEWELL
St Patrick’s Church Of Ireland, Saul
8.00am - 8.45am
Buses to Saul Church will depart from The Mall approaching Down Cathedral.
9.00am service starts

MASS IN IRISH
Followed by Blessing of the Shamrock
St Patrick’s Church, Downpatrick | 9.00am

ST PATRICK’S DAY WALK
Castle Ward, Strangford
Registration starts at 9.30am, closes at 10.30am, Walk starts at 10.45am
FREE admission | Contact Festival Office

PILGRIMAGE PRAYER WALK FROM SAUL TO DOWN CATHEDRAL
St Patrick’s Church of Ireland, Saul | 10.00am

MASS IN ENGLISH
St Patrick’s Church, Downpatrick | 10.30am
A 45 minute pilgrimage walk from St Patrick’s Church of Ireland, Saul to Down Cathedral, Downpatrick.

ST PATRICK’S FAMILY DAY
Down Arts Centre | 10.00am - 5.00pm
FREE admission
Come and enjoy circus performers, artists and storytellers, arts and crafts, clay pot throwing demonstrations, hand and drum carding and spinning.

ST PATRICK’S DAY CELEBRATIONS
Down County Museum
10.00am - 6.00pm | FREE admission

ARTISAN FOOD MARKET
St Patrick Square
10.00am - 6.00pm
The market will offer excellent food produce of local provenance in a traditional style market place so why not ensure you visit and enjoy a tasty treat.

ST PATRICK’S DAY FREE PARK AND RIDE SERVICE
Operates from Downpatrick Racecourse from 11.00am - 8.00pm.

SHAMROCK STEAM TRAINS
Downpatrick and County Down Railway
12.00noon - 5.00pm | Costs applicable.
Park & Ride from Inch Abbey to Downpatrick town centre. Visit the 12th Century ruins linked to St Patrick.

CROSS COMMUNITY SERVICE
Down Cathedral | 11.45am
The preacher at this service will be Bishop Harold Miller. The theme will be walking in the steps of St Patrick.

FESTIVAL FUN
St Patrick Square | Starting at 12.00noon
FREE admission
Full of activities for the whole family. Enjoy face painting, stilt walkers and balloon modelling.
ST PATRICK’S DAY
DOWNPATRICK

Brian Finnegan, frontman with the group “Flook” for more than 13 years will be joined by John McSherry on pipes, Donal O’Connor & Niall Murphy on fiddles, John Jo Kelly on bodhran & Paul Meehan on guitar.

ST PATRICK’S DAY CROSS COMMUNITY CARNIVAL PARADE

This cross-community event, the centre-piece of the celebration, will be a spectacular cavalcade of floats, bands, fancy dress and lots of attractions!

This year’s theme will be ‘Feasts & Wild Beasts’. The parade will assemble on the Ardglass Road at 1.00pm and depart at 2.30pm for the town centre where it will arrive at approximately 2.50pm.

The parade route follows Ardglass Road, Edward Street, John Street, Irish Street and Market Street.

DUKE SPECIAL - PIANO & PAGES TOUR

Duke Special presents a magical show exploring forgotten old dusty manuscripts along with songs from his most recent and well-received album, Look Out Machines!, along with many of his usual live favourites.
Friday 11 to Saturday 19 March

ST PATRICK’S FESTIVAL EVENTS
NEWRY CITY

Friday 11 - Saturday 19 March
**CULLEN’S FUN FAIR**
St Christopher Park, Newry

Saturday 12 March
**RITH 2016 RELAY RUN**
2.00pm
A relay run to promote the Irish language in an athletic, lively and different manner. If you are interested in taking part or buying a kilometre please contact: eolas@rith.ie or visit: www.rith.ie

Wednesday 16 March
**AN EVENING OF MUSIC WITH VIOLEEN TRIO**
Newry & Mourne Museum
7.30pm | £3
Pre-booking is essential +44 (0)28 3031 3178

Thursday 17 March
**ARTS AND CRAFTS WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN**
Newry & Mourne Museum
10.00am - 11.30am | £1.50 per child, must be accompanied by a parent/guardian
Pre-booking is essential +44 (0)28 3031 3178

SEAN HOLLYWOOD ARTS CENTRE
Entertainment includes traditional music by ‘Sonas Harp Ensemble’ and Henry McDonald and Friends. Free Children’s arts & crafts workshops, entertainment. Food being served all day in Courtney’s Restaurant.

Friday 18 March
**GUIDED DOWNPATRICK WALKING TOUR**
Downpatrick | 2.00pm | £6
Booking through www.lecalepeninsula.com

**FAMILY DRIVE IN MOVIE - MINIONS**
Downpatrick Racecourse | 7.30pm
(please arrive 1 hr prior to movie start time)
FREE admission | Pre-booking is essential

**CELTIC SPIRIT**
The Market Place Theatre
8.00pm | £20.00
Join Karl McGuckin (baritone), Liam Lawton, Andrea Begley (winner of BBC’s The Voice 2014) and a musical ensemble including the choir of St Catherine’s College, Armagh under the musical direction of Mark Cahill for a night of traditional and spiritual music in celebration of St Patrick. Come and hear the haunting melodies of St Patrick’s heartland resonate in this truly unique performance. Liam Lawton is a platinum selling liturgical composer and singer of international renown. His music is now implicit in all Catholic services and has been played all over the world. Karl McGuckin is now heralded as one of Ireland’s leading male classical crossover artists. With a background in opera and musical theatre, Karl recently sold out the Cathedral in Armagh with his Candelight Christmas Concert and can be found on tour with Celtic Tenors. Andrea Begley rose to international prominence following her meteoric success on BBC’s The Voice. Having now sung in some of the biggest stages the British Isles has to offer, Andrea will fit in beautifully to our concert.

ST PATRICK’S DAY - VARIETY MARKET
John Mitchell Place | 9.00am - 5.00pm
Entertainment from 11.00am: Warrenpoint Comhaltas / Traditional Street Céili with Raymond Carroll Fear a ‘Ti and Long Note Céili Band / Face Painting, Cartoon Characters, Food Stalls & much more.

CROSS COMMUNITY CARNIVAL PARADE
**THEME - FEASTS AND WILD BEASTS**
12.00noon
Departing from the Quays Shopping and Leisure Centre, Albert Basin, Newry

MUSICAL AFTERNOON
Newry & Mourne Museum
1.00pm - 3.00pm | £3
An afternoon with traditional and not so traditional music and a bowl of stew.
Pre-booking is essential +44 (0)28 3031 3178

OPEN AIR CONCERT
Events Space, Hill Street, Newry
1.30pm - 5.00pm
With compere Gene Fitzpatrick, enjoy Declan Nerney and his band and The Housem8’s.

FESTIVAL FUN
Hill Street | 1.30pm - 5.00 pm
Enjoy free children’s on-street entertainment, street trading and charity stalls during St Patrick’s day.

The St Patrick’s Festival 2016 receives funding from OFMDFM.
**Friday 18 March & Saturday 19 March**

**D Friday 18 March**

**THE VIRGIN FATHER**

BY JIMMY MCALEAVEY

Down Arts Centre
8.00pm (bar from 7.00pm)
£12/£10 concession | Guidance for 14+ years

Mary has disappeared; Joe is being hunted down. He urgently needs to understand what has happened to his family if he is to save himself....

**A Friday 18 March**

**SONGS FROM THE HEART: A CELEBRATION OF FEMALE SINGER-SONGWRITERS**

The Market Place Theatre | 8.00pm | £10

An evening of wonderful original songs, acoustic instruments and exquisite vocals, with three of Northern Ireland’s foremost female songwriters - Mandy Bingham, Janet Henry and Edelle McMahon.

**A Friday 18 March**

**FESTIVAL CLUB WITH MUSIC FROM CONNLA**

The Market Place Bar & Bistro
10.30pm until late | FREE admission

**A D Saturday 19 March**

**FOLLOWING IN THE SPIRITUAL FOOTSTEPS OF SAINT PATRICK**

The bus departs Downpatrick at 9.15am for the arrival at the Navan Centre at 10.45am to join Armagh patrons to commence the pilgrimage walk. Following visits of the Armagh sites, all patrons will depart for Downpatrick at 12.30pm to complete the trail. Armagh patrons will depart Downpatrick at 8.00pm.

**Saturday 19 March**

**BUSKING COMPETITIONS IN ARMAGH AND DOWNPATRICK**

**Armagh City Centre**

11.00am - 4.00pm | FREE admission
(Under 16s 11.00am - 1.00pm
16+ 2.00pm - 4.00pm)
Musicians will gather to compete in Armagh City for St Patrick’s busking competition with a prize fund of £2500 up for grabs. Contact Armagh Visitor Information Centre for information & registration forms.

**Downpatrick Town Centre**

2.00pm - 4.00pm | FREE admission
Open to any genre, under 16 and over 16 categories. Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd for each category with a prize fund of £2500. Contact Downpatrick Visitor Information Centre for information & registration forms.

**A Saturday 19 March**

**THE MERMAN’S TALE**

The Market Place Theatre
11.00am & 2.00pm | £6

Banyan Theatre Company’s production of a traditional tale by W.B. Yeats, about Jack a fisherman who goes on a quest to find a merman. Admission includes free post-show activities.

**Saturday 19 March**

**FOLLOWING IN THE SPIRITUAL FOOTSTEPS OF SAINT PATRICK**

Departs Downpatrick at 9.15am, arriving at the Navan Centre to begin the tour at 10.45am. £12.50 per person, including refreshments, under 12’s free with an accompanying adult
Please wear suitable clothing and footwear
Pre-booking is essential through either Visitor Information Centre

An opportunity to follow in the spiritual footsteps of St Patrick commencing at Navan Centre & Fort, through Armagh City to Slieve Patrick, Saul and Downpatrick. This journey will also include a screening of the film “Footsteps of Patrick,” and a night of traditional music with Cathal Hayden, Donal Murphy and Seamie O’Dowd.
Saturday 19 March

Make it Local Artisan Market
Scotch Street, Downpatrick
11.00am - 4.00pm | FREE admission

Local producers, supporting the Newry, Mourne and Down ‘Make it Local’ campaign, are holding an Artisan Market offering a variety of locally produced products and crafts.

Gospel Music Celebration
Armagh City Hotel
7.00pm | £15 per person available from www.harmonyrecords.co.uk Lorraine 07968276448 or Faith Mission Bookshops in Armagh, Portadown or Lurgan.

The 10th Annual Gospel Music Celebration features the USA’s Freedom Quartet and includes groups Revelation, Pathway and Justified and many others.

Patrick’s Shamrock Supper
Navan Centre & Fort
7.30pm | Adults £20/Children £10 (suitable for 12 years+)
Pre-booking is essential

When Patrick arrived in Ireland as a slave his life and diet were transformed. Gone were the comforts of life as a Roman Briton, replaced instead by the life of a humble shepherd. The lands became his larder and he ate a simple diet, foraging food and developing into the man we know and revere today.

This evening you will get to dine like Patrick and enjoy a recreation of how Patrick persuaded Darragh to provide the land in Armagh to build his first church.

Irish Dance Workshops
The Saint Patrick Centre
2.30pm - 3.30pm | FREE admission
Suitable for all abilities

Launched of St Patrick Film
The Saint Patrick Centre
6.00pm | FREE admission

A 30 minute film portraying the story of St Patrick and his links to the Christian heritage hubs of Armagh & Downpatrick.
Saturday 19 March

A  Saturday 19 March
THE ULSTER ORCHESTRA
St Patrick’s Church of Ireland Cathedral
7.30pm | £15.00
Tickets through The Market Place Theatre

St Patrick was regarded as both a visionary and a man of the earth; working as a shepherd on the lower slopes of Slemish but he also experienced a vision on the mountain’s summit. In this special concert, The Ulster Orchestra makes a very welcome return to Armagh, under the baton of Robert Houlihan and with two special guest soloists with music specially chosen to celebrate the relationship between the high and low of the spiritual and the earthly as reflected in our human experience. The programme includes Handel - Overture: Il pastor fido, Haydn - Symphony No.83 La Poule, Bach - Sheep may safely graze, Handel - Organ Concerto in F, HWV295 The Cuckoo and the nightingale, Hovhaness - Alleluia and fugue Mozart - Exsultate jubilate, Haydn -Symphony No.30 Alleluia

A  Saturday 19 March
MOYA BRENNA
The Market Place Theatre
8.00pm | £22.50

Moya Brennan rose to prominence with Clannad, with a pioneering approach to traditional music and their sound has become the benchmark for the Celtic music genre. Clannad, with their pioneering approach to traditional music garnered them 15 million record sales worldwide and a string of awards, including a Grammy in 1998. Her live solo shows are with all the musicality and power of Clannad but with added, heart-warming intimacy and will be a rich and moving experience.

A  Saturday 19 March
THE NUALAS - GLITTERBOMB TOUR
The Market Place Theatre
8.30pm | £17.50

Ireland’s favourite all lady musical comedy sensations The Nualas are jetting in for one night only, with brilliant new songs, red hot new chat, blistering new shoes - they will leave you helpless with laughter and delirious with pleasure!

D  Saturday 19 March
AN EVENING OF TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC WITH CATHAL HAYDEN, DONAL MURPHY AND SEAMIE O’DOWD.
The Saint Patrick Centre
7.30pm | £5 per adult

Three of the biggest names in Traditional Irish Music circles. A night not to be missed!!

Image: THE ULSTER ORCHESTRA
Saturday 19 & Sunday 20 March

A  Saturday 19 March
FESTIVAL CLUB – PRANCING PONY
The Market Place Bar & Bistro
10.30pm until late | FREE admission
3 former members of local group Cool Street provide a mix of rock pop and folk standards alongside a few original songs.

A  Sunday 20 March
ARCHAEOLOGY AT THE NAVAN CENTRE & FORT
11.00am - 3.00pm (FREE drop in)
Make your own Viking, dress an Egyptian figure, try your hand at making a T.Rex, rub some coins, dig up bones in the sand pit and finally, meet our very own Indiana Jones!

D  Sunday 20 March
GUIDED TOUR - STRUELL WELLS MEMORY WALK
11.00am | £15 (includes lunch)
Booking via: www.lecalepeninsula.com

D  Sunday 20 March
ULSTER NATIONAL RACE MEETING
Downpatrick Racecourse
Gates open 12.00noon with first race at 2.10pm
Adults £10  Children Under 14 free
Hospitality options available

Feature race meeting of the year, attracts large crowds, come and witness the best of National hunt racing on your doorstep.
Sponsored by Toals Bookmakers.

For further information please visit www.downpatrickracecourse.co.uk

A  Sunday 20 March
WALK THE EMANIA WAY
Starting at The Market Place Theatre
12.30pm | FREE admission
Pre-booking is essential through Armagh Visitor Information Centre by 12.00noon on 19 March
Please wear suitable clothing and footwear

Experience walking part of the ancient road to Emania. View the ancient St Patrick’s well and walk in the steps of Cuchulain and the Red Branch Knights. Visit the old Callan Bridge and step into the pedestrian refuges. Listen to the historic tales which took place on the Callan river, learn about the different saints associated with Armagh and much more. As part of this event the St Patrick’s film will be shown at the centre. Lunch will be available at the Navan Centre at an additional cost.
Dogs must be on leads.

...walk in the steps of Cuchulain and the Red Branch Knights...
Northern Ireland’s Year of Food and Drink 2016 is a celebration of everything that makes the produce from this place so good. The epic landscapes, time honoured traditions, people and producers that make our food heritage wonderfully unique. Pay a visit during the 366 days of celebration and discover all of the deliciousness for yourself. With goings-on galore, there’s no better time to enjoy a true taste of Northern Ireland.

Sunday 20 March

**TUMBLE CIRCUS STAR MAN**
The Market Place Theatre | 2.00pm | £5

Star man follows the journey of one man and his life as a circus artist, dad and clown - an energetic mix of stand-up, slapstick, sequins and... cardboard!

**THE ARCO STRING QUARTET**
The Market Place Theatre | 2.15pm | £5

Pre-booking is essential through The Market Place Theatre

One of Ireland’s leading professional string quartets, this recital will feature classical music as well as adaptation of some of Ireland’s wonderful traditional and folk canon.

**ORGAN RECITAL**
St Patrick’s Church of Ireland Cathedral | 4.15pm | FREE admission no booking necessary

A recital of organ music at St Patrick’s Church of Ireland Cathedral

**FLANN’S YER ONLY MAN**
The Market Place Theatre | 8.00pm | £10

An engaging and fascinating entertainment based on the life and work of Flann O’Brien, aka Myles na Gopaleen aka Brian O’Nolan (1911-1966) widely regarded as Ireland’s finest satirist since Jonathan Swift.

Ready for 366 days of delicious celebration?

Northern Ireland’s Year of Food and Drink 2016 is a celebration of everything that makes the produce from this place so good. The epic landscapes, time honoured traditions, people and producers that make our food heritage wonderfully unique. Pay a visit during the 366 days of celebration and discover all of the deliciousness for yourself. With goings-on galore, there’s no better time to enjoy a true taste of Northern Ireland.