

This year's St. Patrick's Festival is jam-packed with world class entertainment and events.

Parade

Dublin's streets will come alive as the annual parade kick starts the festival.

Onlookers will be dazzled by dancers, artists,

street theatre troupes and marching bands coming from all corners of the globe.

DublinSwell –Words and Voices for the City of Literature

In a new and exciting move for the festival, DublinSwell –Words and Voices from the City of Literature, offers the public an once in a lifetime cultural evening celebrating Dublin as UNESCO's new 'City of Literature'.

This unique ticketed event will bring together a star studded line up of Irish faces from literature, music, film and theatre. Sebastian Barry, Roddy Doyle, Paul Durcan, Glen Hansard, Paul Howard (Ross O'Carroll Kelly), Declan Hughes, Paula Meehan, Joseph O'Connor and many more will make the city come alive in an evening of imagination and inspiration.

In the stunning surrounds of the capital's new Convention Centre, this promises to be a fitting and inspiring tribute to literary Dublin.

Tickets on sale now for Friday 18th March. See www.tickets.ie

Sharon Shannon

Sharon Shannon, one of Ireland's most accomplished musicians will present a lively evening of traditional music at the National Concert Hall. Her unique style of accordion playing is celebrated worldwide, and her home-coming is sure to be a heartening musical experience.

Tickets on sale now for Saturday 19th March. See www.nch.ie

Events back by popular demand from last year include Céilí, Big Day Out and Treasure Hunt.

Céilí is an outdoor celebration of traditional Irish dancing on Friday 18th March. It offers you the chance to join in and fill the streets with dance as you immerse yourself in Irish culture and craic. Open to all, it promises to be an unforgettable afternoon filled with fun, as expert callers lead you through dances such as the Siege of Ennis, the Walls of Limerick and lots more.

The St. Patrick's Festival Treasure Hunt is a fun filled free event for all ages. It takes place on Saturday 19th March. Crack the clues and conundrums that lie concealed in the many cultural venues around the city. The Treasure Hunt is great opportunity for all to explore or rediscover Dublin.

Big Day Out will feature the best of street theatre, performance and music in the heart of Georgian Dublin. With acts from Ireland and around the world, Merrion Square is transformed into a family wonderland on Sunday 20th March, a giant oversized playground for both children and adults to enjoy. With quirky activities in the park and on the streets, a fun-filled day is guaranteed for all the family.

For more information on all these events and more, visit www.stpatricksfestival.ie

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