

WWW.PUCKFAIR.IE

Puck Fair

Céad Mile Fáilte go dtí
Aonach an Phoic



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

Kindly Sponsored by


GUINNESS

IRELAND'S OLDEST TRADITIONAL FAIR & FESTIVAL

2004

::: CHAIRMANS ADDRESS

Each year in the month of August, Killorglin is proud to host Ireland's oldest and most unique festival, Puck Fair.

Thousands of visitors come from all over the world to witness the crowning of a goat as Ireland's only king. Why do we do it? When did it start? What is the significance of the Goat? Is it Pagan, Norman, Celtic? Or is it just a clever tourist gimmick concocted by a cute Kerryman several centuries ago??

Nobody knows the answers to these questions, but we do know that we are privileged to be the people who are once again organising this historic event, thus ensuring the continuance of an age old tradition in the town of Killorglin.

To organise an event like this takes lots of careful planning, unselfish voluntary labour, a sense of humour and much much more. I am fortunate to be Chairman of this very dedicated group of people who are totally committed to the wonderful event that is Puck Fair and without whose dedication it would be impossible for the town of Killorglin to be the home of Ireland's only King. On behalf of the many many visitors assembled here and on behalf of our local community I wish to thank each one of them for the continued interest and unselfish service to Puck. I also would like to place on record the huge financial support we get from our sponsors. Without your help Puck would not be the success it is today.

Ar scath a cheile maraimid. Go raibh maith agaibh go leir.
Ta suil agam go mbeidh Poc thar barr ag gach einne. Failte romhaibh go leir.

Declan Mangan

::: Chairman

::: TUESDAY ::: AUGUST 10TH

Early Morning	Horse Fair	Evan's Field - Tralee Road
1.00pm	Music with Saoirse	Puck Fair Stand
1.30pm	Cork Community Circus	Upper Town
2.00pm	Face Painting	The Square
2.30pm	Bonny Baby Competition	Puck Fair Stand
3.15pm	Clerical Error	The Square
3.30pm	Cork Community Circus	Lower Town
3.45pm	The Zephyrs	Puck Fair Stand
5.00pm	Caint agus Ceoil le Sean O'Se	Puck Fair Stand
5.30pm	Coronation Parade Route: The Creamery - The Hill	The Square
5.45pm	Coronation Ceremony	Puck Fair Stand
9.30pm	Juliet Turner	Gig Rig - The Square

Watch out for cartoon characters who will be performing throughout the day! Horse Fair Includes: Prize for "Best Turned Out Horse". Sponsored by **RED FOX**. Check out the Guinness Pub Trail Posters for timing on 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

WEDNESDAY :: AUGUST 11TH

Early Morning	Traditional Cattle Fair	Langford Street
1.00pm	Concert with Tim O'Shea & Friends	Puck Fair Stand
1.30pm	Cork Community Circus	Upper Town
2.00pm	Face Painting	The Square
2.30pm	Pet Show	Puck Fair Stand
3.00pm	Clerical Error	The Square
3.00pm	Cork Community Circus	Upper Town
3.45pm	Music with Sean Tracey & Friends	Puck Fair Stand
5.00pm	Clerical Error	The Square
5.00pm	Duck Race In Aid of & organised by Killorglin Sports Complex	River Laune
6.00pm	Cork Community Circus	Upper Town
8.45pm	The Rhythm Method	Gig Rig - The Square
9.30pm	Jerry Fish & the Mudbug Club	Gig Rig - The Square

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 30th August and the Great October Fair takes place from 3rd to 10th October.

THURSDAY :: AUGUST 12TH

1.00pm	Lunchtime Gig with Hank Wedel & Ray Barron	Puck Fair Stand
1.30pm	Cork Community Circus	Upper Town
2.00pm	Face Painting	The Square
2.30 pm	Clerical Error	The Square
3.00pm	Children's Funtime with Fancy Dress & Puppet Show	CYMS Hall All Children to be accompanied by an Adult please
4.00pm	Tunes with Hank Wedel & Ray Barron	Puck Fair Stand
5.00pm	Scoil Mhuire Irish Dancers	Puck Fair Stand
5.30pm	Detronement Parade & Ceremony Parade Route:	Langford St. - The Square - Lower Town
9.15pm	Four Men & a Dog	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).

Whilst Puck Fair Ltd. Do not organise the Cattle Fair, the Dept. of Agriculture & Food advice is as follows: 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.

::: TRIBUTE TO MAXI

Every organisation has unsung heroes. There is always one person who seems to know everything that is being done, usually does everything anyway, knows where everything is, does what has to be done before being asked to do it, and has a solution to everyone's problem. This is a person who is totally invaluable to the successful running of any event and whose contribution is hardly noticed until suddenly that person is gone. Such a person was **Frank Maxi McMahon, Vice-Chairman of Puck Fair**, who sadly lost his battle against illness last January. Frank was as much a part of Puck Fair as the goat himself.

He started his connection as a very small boy proudly marching alongside his father Stevie, the flag bearer for The Laune Pipe Band. Frank grew up to be a pillar for Puck. He was totally involved in every aspect of the organisation of Puck. He was Parade Co-Ordinator, Stand Co-Ordinator, Safety Officer, Chief Steward at all concerts and firework displays, liased with the ESB, Civil Defence, Gardai, Southern Health Board in fact anything that had to be done, Maxi did it.

He will always be remembered everytime the Goat is raised on to his lofty throne because Frank was the man standing on the second platform and expertly controlling the delicate operation from start to finish. He gave unselfishly of his time, his energy and invaluable expertise. The smooth running of Puck Fair for over the last 30 years has been due in no small way to our dearly beloved and sadly departed Frank.

Maxi we thank you for your dedication, we honour your memory and we dedicate Puck Fair 2004 to you.

Ar dheis De go raibh do anam uasal..

::: PUCK FAIR QUEEN 2004

My name is Clodagh O'Shea. I am twelve years old. I was born on St. Patrick's day, the 17th March, 1992. I come from a family of five. There is my mom and dad and I am eldest of three children. I have a brother John aged nine and a little sister Megan aged three. To complete the family we have a dog named Faldo and a kitten named Nemo.



I have just finished the local primary school in Killorglin. During this time I took part in a lot of activities. I have taken part in the school choir and I have been doing ballet and modern dance with the Kerry School of Music since I was five years old. I also love to swim, play the piano and I have a great interest in golf. I also loved taking part in the Killorglin Pantomime as a Kutest Kiddie for the past seven years.

To-date I have to say that being chosen as the Queen of Puck Fair has to be the greatest thing that has ever happened – a dream come true.

Historical Exhibition

This is a must visit for anyone interested in old historical accounts of 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 hile away a few hours during your visit to Killorglin. Open from 11.00a.m. onwards.



::: JULIET TURNER

Juliet Turner has recorded two albums – her 1996 debut “Let’s Hear it for Pizza” with Sticky Music and “Burn the Black Suit” on her own label “Hear This!” She built up her audiences in Ireland through support slots with artists such as Natalie Merchant, Tracy Chapman, Brian Kennedy, Gabrielle, Sting and Bryan Adams and shared a billing with Bob Dylan in Kilkenny. She also spent two summers touring in the UK with ex-Bryds singer Roger McGuinn.

In January of this year, Juliet’s single “Take the Money and Run” was playlisted on Radio 2 and remained there for six weeks, becoming a favourite with both Terry Wogan and Janice Long. Work has now begun on Juliet’s third album and all gigs will be listed on the gig guide.

::: 10th



::: JERRY FISH & THE MUDBUG CLUB

::: 11th



What do you get when you cross Tom Waits with a Circus Showband, when you mix Jacques Brel with Mink DeVille, when you lock Dr John, Dean Martin and The Fun Lovin’ Criminals in the same room?

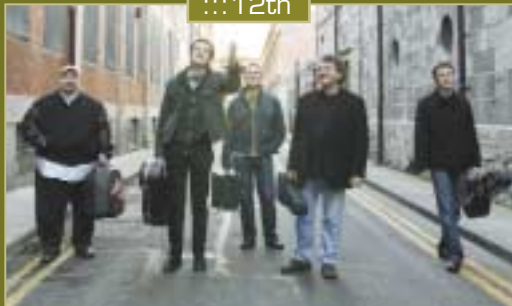
The answer, my friends, is Jerry Fish & The Mudbug Club, the most eclectic bunch of musical chameleons ever to share a stage, all guided by the beatific gaze of chief Mudbug, Mr. Jerry Fish himself. Jerry Fish and the Mudbug Club were nominated for two

Meteor Music Awards, Ireland’s biggest annual musical awards ceremony, in 2003, where they were up for Best Album and, bizarrely, Best Roots & Country Artist. Somewhat ironically, they won the latter award, much to the bemusement of Jerry Fish himself: “At the time, I thought it was a bit hokey to win the Roots and Country Award, but now, in hindsight, I can see where they were coming from, and since there was no award in a category called ‘Swampadelic’ ‘Best Swamp Crooner’ or ‘Circus Band’ ‘Best Roots & Country Artist’ was surely the next best thing”.

::: FOUR MEN & A DOG

Four Men & a Dog made a name for themselves with their eclectic and vivacious blend of traditional Irish music with a wide spectrum of other genres, including rap, Southern rock, jazz, blues, bluegrass, polka, country swing, and even salsa.

::: 12th



Two years ago Four Men & A Dog played Puck Fair with a high energy performance that enthralled the crowd. Four Men and a Dog made their debut performance as a band in ‘Murphy’s Bar’, Dungiven, County Derry, before going on to steal the show at the Belfast Folk Festival, with a high-energy approach that combines furious traditional dance tunes with irreverent new music and inimitable covers.

::: 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 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!

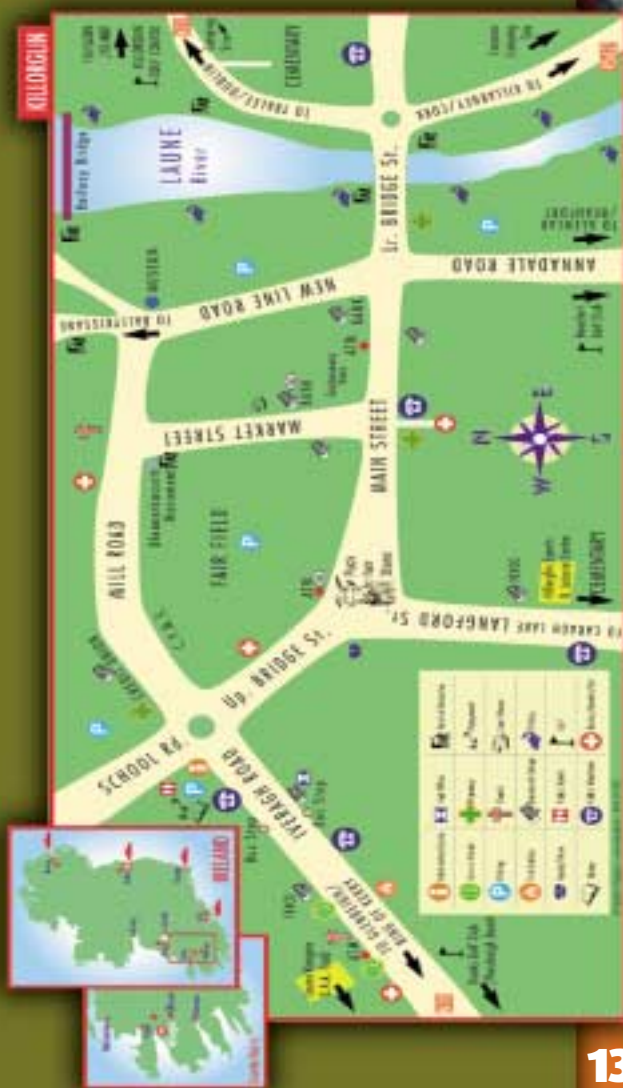
Animals were often moved into town at midnight to avail of the best locations around the town. Buyers may buy animals as early as six in the morning but usually deals are completed by mid-morning. Then, both parties visit a local hostelry to toast each others health and no doubt the health of the animals 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 revelers back to their homes in various parts of the world, tired but happy and looking forward to the next Puck Fair.

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



DAY TIME CONCERTS

csdcsdcsd



Puck Fair Shop

The Puck Fair Shop is located in The Square located across from the Puck Fair Stand. The office is open daily and has a full range of 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 packs is €5. Please ensure to lock all doors and windows when leaving your car and to remove all valuables from view inside your car.

SPONSORS



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 Sióchána :: Southern Health Board
Civil Defence :: O'Carroll Engineering :: ESB
Kerry County Council :: Killorglin Community Council
The Residents of Killorglin

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

Puck Fair Ltd. :: Sean Scoil :: School Road Killorglin :: Co. Kerry :: Ireland
Telephone/Fax: 00 353 66 97 62366
Website: www.puckfair.ie :: E-Mail: info@puckfair.ie

Designed by **Splash Designs** 064 34505 :: www.printing.ie
© Photography By **Riona MacMonagle** 087 242 1558



