

MANCHESTER

íRísh
festíval



EVENTS GUIDE

10th - 19th MARCH



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

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Stena Line

**Stena Line are proud to sponsor
the Manchester Irish Festival**

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Welcome to the fifth Manchester Irish Festival – we may be slightly slimmed down this year, but we still boast a cast of thousands. People right across Manchester and beyond have come together to create this celebration and I know we're all going to have a great time. I'd like to thank everyone who has contributed to the party – the Festival Steering Group, our fantastic sponsors and supporters, all those involved in staging events – and you the audience. Get out there – learn something new, meet some new people and have some great craic.

Cllr Pat Karney
Chair Irish Festival Steering Committee

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Festival news, interviews and updates will be in a variety of media through February and March, but watch out for the following in particular. There'll be a special Irish Festival supplement in the **Irish Post** on March 1 and a feature in the **Manchester Evening News** on Tuesday March 7. Listen out too for Festival coverage on Manchester's favourite Irish programme, **BBC GMR's** The Parlour, 95.1 and 104.6FM, Saturdays 11 and 18 March, 6.00pm.

TARA Television is proud to sponsor the Manchester Irish Festival. For more information on TARA Television, visit the website at www.tara-tv.co.uk

SPONSORS

The Irish Festival would like to thank all its sponsors for their generous support



Special thanks to the Irish World Heritage Centre, the Irish Post and St Kentigern's Social Club.



The Popes

THE POPES

Palace Nightclub
Sunday 12 March

9pm - 1am, band on stage 10.15
£5 adv

A band hand-picked by the brilliant Shane McGowan, the Popes are now on their own with original members Paul Mad Dog McGuinness, Tom MacAnimal, Kieran Kiely, Bob Dowling and Andy Ireland. Not for the faint-hearted!

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MANCHESTER - THE MIDLAND

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THE MIDLAND HOTEL IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE IRISH FESTIVAL



Paul Brady

AN EVENING WITH PAUL BRADY, HOTHOUSE FLOWERS, SHARON SHANNON AND JACK L

**Bridgewater Hall
Monday 13 March**

**7.30
£13.50 - £18.50**



Paul Brady has to be the pre-eminent singer-songwriter of his generation. From his early days with the legendary Planxty he has gone on to build up a devoted world wide following. This show sees his return to the Festival after selling out the Royal Exchange back in 1996.



Hothouse Flowers

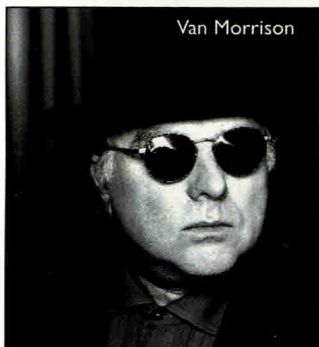
The brilliant Hothouse Flowers finally make their long-awaited return to our city and Sharon Shannon, one of the most gifted, lively and popular traditional musicians, will have audiences dancing in the aisles.



Sharon Shannon

Described as "a mixture of all the great male singing voices of the 20th century", Jack Lukeman's shows sell out weeks in advance in Ireland. He was recently voted Dublin's sexiest man under-25 - for the second year running! See live music from Club Cheoil and visit the Irish Fair in the foyer

A line-up of distinction for lovers of top quality Irish song writing and musicianship.



Van Morrison

VAN MORRISON & SPECIAL GUEST AMERICA'S LEGENDARY SINGER BOBBY BLAND & HIS BAND

**M.E.N. Arena
Friday 17 March**

**7.30
£21 - £24**

Blues man, soul shouter, Celtic poet and visionary, Van Morrison is an internationally renowned artist of singular genius. Belfast-born, with a career spanning forty years, he's been an inspiration to countless musicians and songwriters and was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1993.

Famously unpredictable, his shows have always been events rather than mere concerts.



Bobby Bland

Bobby Bland has to be the most achingly soulful blues man around, with a sound that mixes gospel with blues and R&B straight from the heart. Like Van, he's been an inspiration to all who followed. He picked up a Lifetime Achievement Grammy Award in 1997.

As if proof were needed, this gig easily demonstrates that chart success is no measure of true greatness.

After a hard day's
work you deserve a
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Tue, Wed & Fri 9am-6pm,
Closed Sat & Sun

FAILSWORTH (Formerly Star Supplies)
615 Oldham Rd, Failsworth.
Tel: 0161 682 1919
Open: Mon & Thu 9am-8pm,
Fri & Sat 9am-6pm,
Sun 10.30am-4.30pm, Closed Tue

WARRINGTON
9 Padgate Lane, Warrington.
Tel: 01925 574 943
Open: Mon & Thu 9am-8pm,
Tue, Fri & Sat 9am-6pm,
Closed Wed & Sun

The Great

RANGE

Warehouses

Established 1968

CLUB CHEOIL



CLUB CHEOIL in Manchester Libraries. Exponents of the finest traditional music in town, Club Cheoil are off on their annual Festival tour to lift the roof off a few of the city's libraries. It's bodhrans not books for a spell and all performances are an hour long, absolutely free and open to all

Monday 13th March

Moston Library 10.30
New Moston Library 1.00

Tuesday 14th March

Hulme Library 1.00

Wednesday 15th March

Levenshulme Library 11.00
Fallowfield Library 2.30

Thursday 16th March

Longsight Library 11.00
Chorlton Library 2.30

Friday 17th March

Wythenshawe Library 12.00

MUSICAL WORKSHOPS

MANCHESTER TOWN HALL

Saturday 11 March

£3 no advance booking necessary - all welcome
12.00 - 2.00

Guitar, with tuning for Irish music.

Accordion - Edel Donnellan

2.00 - 4.00

Flute - Ged Stenson

Fiddle - Colin Farrell

Bodhran - Vin Short

SESSIONS

JOLLY ANGLER

Saturday 18 March

9.00

DILLON'S WHISTLING JIG

Sunday 12 March 8.30

Friday 17 March 9.00

BRIDGEWATER HALL

CLUB CHEOIL ON TOUR

Free lunchtime performances
1.00 - 2.00

Saturday 11 March

Saturday 18 March

Monday 13 March

7.00 - 7.45

Free traditional music to put you in the mood for Paul Brady, Sharon Shannon et al.

ROYAL EXCHANGE

Free pre-theatre performances
6.30 - 7.00

Thursday 16 March

Friday 17 March

...And a couple of student specials for St Pat's

THE LONG NOTE

Friday 17 March

DIDSBURY MMSU BAR

7.30 - 8.30

Free entry to students

HARVEY'S BAR MMSU

9.30 - 10.45pm

Manchester's thriving traditional Irish music scene, arguably the best outside Ireland, has taken many years to develop. Generations of musicians have lived and played in Manchester, and this cultural pedigree is being lovingly documented by Club Cheoil. The Manchester Traditional Music Archive will be housed in the city's Central Library and contain recordings, photographs, testimonials and artefacts chronicling this unique history. If you're interested in the archive, or have something to contribute, contact: lpccival@csv.org.uk



MANCHESTER IRISH FESTIVAL MARKET CAFÉ

**Banqueting & Conference Rooms, 1st Floor Manchester Town Hall
Friday 10, Saturday 11, Sunday 12 March**

10am - 5pm

The Town Hall chefs have been working hard to come up with something tasty for Manchester Fayre's popular Festival Café. Come along and take the weight off with delicious Irish food and a warming cup of tea (or something stronger!). There'll be some live music from Club Cheoil over the weekend, so make your way upstairs and pay us a visit.



MANCHESTER IRISH FESTIVAL CRAFT & GIFT MARKET

**Albert Square
Friday 10, Saturday 11, Sunday 12 March**

**10am - 4pm
FREE**



One of the busiest and most popular features of the Festival, the Market is back - bigger and better than ever before, bringing a lively Dublin atmosphere to the streets of Manchester.

Small traders and craftspeople will be crossing the water to offer a wide range of hand-made objects, delicious food and all manner of treats. Look out for silver jewellery, soda bread and traditional cakes, farmhouse preserves, cheeses, pottery, knitwear, giftware, candles, books, music, pictures and lots lots more. If you need shamrock for the parade, a wooden egg or an Ireland-shaped clock, then this must be the place!

Stena Line

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INN**

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MOBILE**





THE SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Leaving the Irish World Heritage Centre at 12
Sunday 12 March

**12 noon onwards
FREE**

Route: Cheetham Hill Road, Corporation Street, Cross Street, around Albert Square (c. 1.00pm) and then returning to the Centre along the same route

Manchester's now legendary St Patrick's Day Parade just keeps on getting bigger, with more participants, bigger crowds and more of a party atmosphere as each year goes by. Brass bands, samba drums, pipes, flutes and fiddles will ring in the air as every county association and cultural group in Manchester shows its stuff for St Patrick. The Parade is led this year by the Warrington Junior Pipe Band and there are six guest bands coming over from Ireland, including the St Mary's Brass and Reed Band (Mynooth), Donamoyne Youth Band (Monaghan) and the Charlestown Fife and Drum Band (Mayo). The Parade is reviewed from the Town Hall by the Lord Mayor of Manchester. And if you still want more, there's Irish Wolfhounds, mounted police and the biggest ever party and funfair back at the Irish World Heritage Centre.



IRISH FERRIES

A trip to Ireland is the prize for the first ever St Patrick's Day Parade Best Float competition, courtesy of Irish Ferries.



Photography © Paul Herrmann

SPECIAL EVENTS

POEM FOR PEACE

February/March

Deadline 4pm, Wednesday 1 March

To support the Northern Ireland Peace Process, Manchester Education is running a poetry competition with £300 in prizes. Entry is only through Manchester schools - interested children should speak to their headteachers, who, in turn can speak to Joe Flynn on 0161 274 3425.

NATIONAL IRISH STUDIES CONFERENCE

Manchester Town Hall

Saturday 11 March

9.30am - 4.30pm, £10 (£8)

A choice of seminars and talks on Irish history, language, St Bridget, Michael Collins, 1916, Michael Davitt and more. This year's keynote speaker is Mervyn Busted, on 'The Plantations of Ulster'. A hugely popular and enjoyable conference for anyone with an interest in Irish matters. More information / bookings from Walter Cassin on 0161 445 9327.

Presented and sponsored by the Manchester Irish Education Group.

A FESTIVAL OF CYCLING

Saturday 11 March

Bowlee Country Park

11.00am onwards

Free for spectators, race entry fees vary

A day out with a difference at this special Irish Festival cycling meet with races for all ages. There's also a closed circuit criterium for road bikes and a family fun charity race. For further details call 0161 795 6322.

GAELIC FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Old Bedians' Sportsground

Saturday 11 March, 10.00am

An East West initiative linking Blarney High School, Cork with their GAA counterparts in Lancashire. Everyone welcome.

Supported by Oisins GAA and the Barlow High School

EMERALD GAELS LADIES' GFC

The Peter Merrigan Memorial 9-a-side

Tournament Venue tbc

Saturday 11 March 11.00am

Ladies Gaelic Football, with teams from Dublin, Armagh, London and Warwickshire. Call Sinead on 0161 881 5169 or Sheenagh 0161 442 8344.

GAELIC MASS

Sunday 12 March

Irish World Heritage Centre, 10.00am

An annual tradition celebrated by Father John Ahern PP.

Supported by Conradh na Gaeilge and the Irish World Heritage Centre

ATHCHUIMHNE (REMEMBER)

St Mary's Hall

Monday 13 March 1-3pm, Free

Workshops exploring Irish craft, culture and memories. An exhibition will feature work compiled by the Reminiscence Group over the past few years.

OVER FIFTIES IRISH GET-TOGETHER

Irish World Heritage Centre

Wednesday 15 March 1.00 - 3.30pm

Free

Stories, chat, dancing and singing, in an atmosphere of Irish spirit and friendship. Information from 0161 205 9105.

CHILDREN FOR PEACE ROADSHOW

City Centre, venue to be confirmed

Thursday 16 March

Presented as part of the Warrington Fleadh, Children for Peace is an initiative which aims to promote the resolution of conflict through dialogue, developing centres and programmes for young people. Alongside the visitors centre, the roadshow will also promote the NSPCC's Full Stop album, which features a host of top Irish artists campaigning for an end to child cruelty. *Look out for our posters confirming the venue or call 01925 442068 for details and information on the Warrington Fleadh.*

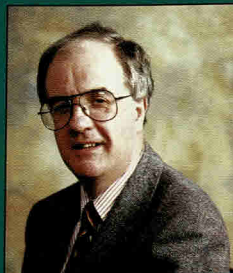
ANGEL MEADOW AND IRISH TOWN

Sunday 19 March

Meet 11.00am, WH Smith stand,

Victoria Station, FREE

Local historian Mervyn Busted leads a special walk around Manchester's largest and most enduring nineteenth century Irish quarter. Exploring the district's development, housing conditions, street life and song, the walk lasts around 90 minutes - be prepared for all weather!



BARLOW HIGH SCHOOL & BLARNEY HIGH SCHOOL CORK

English Martyrs' Social Centre
Saturday 11 March

8.30pm £3

A joint performance in song, dance and music as part of an ongoing linked curriculum project of shared culture. An initiative arising from the Good Friday Agreement. All welcome.

Supported by Léargas, The Central Bureau, GAA and Irish World Heritage Centre

YOUNG, GIFTED & GREEN PRESENT CEAD MILE FAILTE - CHARITY MUSIC & DANCE SHOW

Manchester Town Hall
Sunday 12 March

Chartrange Ltd
Civil Engineers 0161 339 4949



Doors: 6pm, show at 7pm
£7 adults, £5 children/OAPs

St Bede's College's 100-strong troupe of Irish musicians, dancers and singers perform their highly acclaimed show celebrating the last thousand years of Irish culture. This is a guaranteed sell-out and tickets must be purchased in advance. Tel 0161 257 2484

THE AISLING PLAYERS Irish World Heritage Centre Thursday 16 March

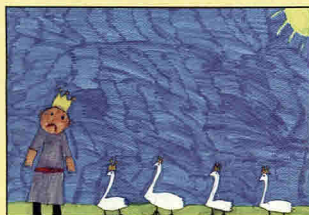
8.30pm £2.50 (£1.50)

An evening of short plays, excerpts, sketches and performance poetry from Irish literature, plus musical interludes.

Sponsored by the Irish World Heritage Centre

THE LEGEND OF THE CHILDREN OF LIR

Sculpture Hall,
Mcr Town Hall
Friday 10 to
Friday 17 March



The children of Lir are turned into swans by their jealous stepmother Aoife in this beautiful legend. Stockport Grammar School's Year 4 children have retold the tale in their own beautifully illustrated artwork, in association with artist Geoff Teasdale. Picture by Camilla Worthington

ST WILFRID'S CCE MUSICIANS PRESENT AROUND THE FIRE

Irish World Heritage Centre
Saturday 11 March

8.30pm

Free

Ireland's oldest form of entertainment. Storytelling, music, song and dance from the All-Ireland Champions at St Wilfrid's. Supported by the Irish World Heritage Centre



AROUND IRELAND IN WORDS AND MUSIC Irish World Heritage Centre Saturday 18 March 8.00pm £2 (£1)

The Manchester Irish Writers present readings and music, taking you on a journey around Ireland.

EXHIBITIONS

FLO BRADY Irish World Heritage Centre 10 - 26 March 9am - 9pm daily

Manchester artist Flo Brady has been greatly influenced by her travels around Irish towns, chronicling her findings in watercolours, oils and acrylics.

COMEDY

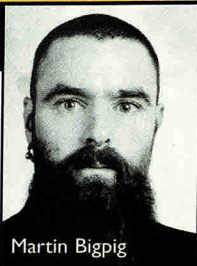
MAD FOR THE CRAIC FESTIVAL COMEDY SPECIAL

Palace Nightclub
Wednesday 15 March

Doors 8pm, £4

If you know anything at all about Martin Bigpig, you know there's no point whatsoever in guessing what

he'll be up to on stage. Whatever it is, though, it's sure to be brilliant. Hovis Presley takes time out from the literati jetset to deliver a few low-key, razor sharp verses. Current City Life NW King of Comedy Jason Manford, and Frankie Doodle (son of Jimmy Cricket - honest) complete the line-up.



Martin Bigpig



Frankie Doodle



CRAIC

Friday 10

Council of Irish Associations
6th Annual Dinner Dance
Irish World Heritage Centre
8pm £20

The get-together of the year, with guest speakers Gerald Kaufman MP and Manchester United legend, Mr Paddy Crerand. Music from the Sean Wilson Showband.

Tara CCE presents

Ceili with the Tara Ceili Band
Irish Association Social Club
8.30 £3

Tuned Up

Palace Nightclub
10-2 £4 door
Festival opening party with guest DJs.

Saturday 11

Silk

Palace Nightclub
10pm - 2am £4 door
Upbeat, upfront 70s, garage and dance with Tom Dee, plus Stu Lee's indie and Celtic Rock.

Sean Wilson Showband

Irish World Heritage Centre
8.30pm

Sunday 12

Whiskey In The Jar
Irish World Heritage Centre
Lunchtime: Free

Post Parade Party

St Kentigern's Social Club
1pm Free
Live traditional music from the Clare Association. Now booking for bacon and cabbage lunch.

Na Ridiri Concert & Ceili

Irish World Heritage Centre
8.30
Energetic performance with musicians and dancers from South West Ireland.

Quare Craic

Mulligans
8.30-10.30 free
Two of Manchester's finest - Dezi Donnelly and Kieran Cunningham. See later listings for additional dates.

SHAMROCKS AND SHENANIGANS

Frog and Bucket Comedy Club
Thursday 16 March

8.30pm, £6

A cabaret evening of comedy and music from Manchester - the capital of Irish culture! Here the second generation bring it all back home with the original Wild Colonial Boy Sean O'Shaughnessy, a cast of thousands from Galaxy 102's breakfast wind-up merchant Mike Maguire and folking good music from Keep the Faith.



Mike Maguire



Shaun O'Shaughnessy



Galaxy 102

Monday 13 March

I Don't Like Mondays

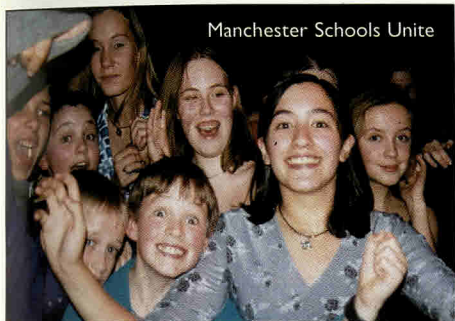
Palace Nightclub
10-2, £2
DJ Mark K playing good-time Irish anthems - Saw Doctors, U2, Boyzone, Westlife and more.

Quare Craic

Hennigan's Bar
9-11 Free



Dezi Donnelly & Kieran Cunningham



Manchester Schools Unite



Toss the Feathers

Tuesday 14 March Manchester Schools Unite

Palace Nightclub
7-10pm

A big night out for pupils aged 11-17, with live PAs, Key 103 DJs, celebrity Coronation Street guests. No smoking or alcohol and children must be dropped off and collected by an adult. Ticket only - advance booking essential.

Sponsored by VIP Limousines

Quare Craic

Mulligans
8.30-11.00 free

Wednesday 15 March Danjo no Banjo

Albert Inn
9.00 Free

Music and song with Joe Naughton and Danny Claffey

Thursday 16 March

YGG Bands Final

Palace Nightclub

Thursday 16 March, £4

Manchester's biggest unsigned band showcase reaches its climax. Five bands with Irish roots will be battling it out for a share of £2,000 worth of fantastic prizes and a place in the BBC Music Live showcase.



Murphy's Craicing Quiz

Horseshoe
8pm free

A celtic challenge with Andy 'Mustang' Murphy.

Friday 17 March

Freestyle

Irish Student DJs

Harvey's Bar, MMSU

12.00 noon - 9.30pm

Free entry to students

An eclectic mix of break and beats with a whole host of young Irish DJ talent. Drinks promotions all day. Followed by The Long Note (see page 5)

St Patrick's Day Party

Irish World Heritage Centre
from noon

All day and all night music entertainment and fun.

Celtic Revival

K-Two, MMSU

9-2 £3.50

The best Irish pop videos and dance music of all time at the biggest and busiest student party in Manchester.

Quare Craic

Mulligans

Any time between 5.00 and 11.00.

Settle yourselves in!

St Patrick's Night Celebration with Joe Casserley

St Kentigern's Social Club

Friday 17 March 8.30pm £3

A grand night out with our good friends at St Kent's. Irish, ceili and C&W sounds.

Toss the Feathers St Patrick's Night Celebration

Palace Nightclub

9-2 £5

Levenshulme's party of the year with the loudest Celtic Rockers in the North West. This date is a sell-out every time, so book or get there early! *Slainte!*

St Patrick's Day Party

Albert Inn

Free all day

True Irish hospitality, including free food!

Saturday 18 March

Tom Healey and his Band

Irish World Heritage Centre
8.30pm

Silk

Palace Nightclub

See 11 March

Sunday 19 March

Flight of the Earls

Irish World Heritage Centre
Lunchtime: Free

End of Festival Party

Palace Nightclub

9 -1 £4 door

Massive club mix with guest DJs.

Castlemor Ceili Band

Saturday 4 March

St Edmund's Parish Hall

Saturday 11 March

Our Lady's Parish Centre

Sunday 12 March

St Osmund's Parish Centre

Friday 17 March

Bolton Town Hall

Saturday 18 March

Whitworth Civic Hall

Please contact venues direct for times, prices and tickets

VENUE GUIDE

Albert Inn

454 Wilmslow Road M20
0161 445 5747

Bolton Town Hall

Festival Hall, Bolton
Ceili tickets: 01204 794036
and information on the Bolton
Irish Festival in June

Bowlee Country Park

Heywood Old Road (near
Birch Services M62)
Middleton

Bridgewater Hall

Great Bridgewater Street M2
0161 907 9000
Also Piccadilly Box Office (see
below)

Chorlton Library

Manchester Road M21
0161 881 3179

Didsbury MMSU Bar

799 Wilmslow Road M20
(opp. the Didsbury pub)
Info: 0161 273 1162

Dillon's Whistling Jig

19 Wellington Road North,
Stockport
0161 476 1580

English Martyrs Social Centre

Alexandra Road South M16

Fallowfield Library

Platt Lane, M14
0161 224 4153

Frog & Bucket Comedy Club

102 Oldham Street
0161 236 9805

Harvey's Bar

See MMSU below

Hennigan's Cafe Bar

908 Stockport Road, M19
0161 257 2702

Horseshoe

Chapel Street M19
0161 225 6976

Hulme Library

Hulme Walk M15
0161 226 1005

Irish Association Social Club

17 High Lane, Chorlton
Ceili tickets: 0161 866 9604 or
652 5582

Irish World Heritage Centre

10 Queens Road, M8
0161 205 4007

Jolly Angler

Ducie Street M1

K-Two

See MMSU below

Levenshulme Library

Cromwell Grove M19
0161 224 2775

Longsight Library

519 Stockport Road
0161 224 1411

Manchester Evening News Arena

Hunts Bank, M3
0161 930 8000 (no booking fee
for personal callers paying
by cash/cheque)
Also Piccadilly Box Office (see
below)

MMSU- Manchester Metropolitan Students Union

99 Oxford Road (next to BBC)
Info: 0161 273 1162

Advance tickets from

MMSU and Taylor's Newsagents
Fallowfield

Manchester Town Hall

Albert Square M2

Moston Library

Moston Lane M40
0161 205 1064

Mulligans

12 Southgate (off Deansgate)
0161 288 0006

New Moston Library

Nuthurst Road M40
0161 688 6291

Old Bedians' Sportsground

Millgate Lane, M20

Our Lady's Parish Centre

Wood Street, Langley
Ceili tickets: 0161 287 2862

Palace Nightclub

Farmside Place M19
0161 257 2484
Tickets also available from
Hennigan's (as above)

Piccadilly Box Office

Virgin Megastore
52-56 Market Street M1
0161 832 1111
(booking fee payable)

Royal Exchange

St Ann's Square M2

St Edmund's

St Edmund Street, Bolton
01204 491093

St Kentigern's Social Club

Hart Road, M14
0161 224 2033

St Mary's Hall

Elbow Street M19

St Osmund's

Brightmet, Bolton
Ceili tickets: 01204 522770

Whitworth Civic Hall

Whitworth, Rochdale
Ceili tickets: 01706 853562

Wythenshawe Library

The Forum M22
0161 935 4001

The information given in this brochure was correct at time of going to press. Whilst every care has been taken to ensure that the information is accurate, we cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions which may have occurred, or any liability for any services or facilities featured.

UK & Ireland

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that has helped us with
events at the Palace during

manchester irish festival 2000



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TRADE

MARK

manchester irish festival 2000



MANCHESTER

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE & GIFT SHOP

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MANCHESTER
VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

**Town Hall Extension, Lloyd Street
(off St Peter's Square)**

Tel: 0161-234 3157

24 Hour Phone Guide: 0906-8715533*

*(Calls cost 60p per minute)

Facsimile: 0161-236 9900

Email: manchester_visitor_centre@notes.manchester.gov.uk

Website <http://www.manchester.gov.uk/visitorcentre>