

## **Prospective Elements: and Irish Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)**

*(based on similar items featuring on current entries in the global register maintained by UNESCO)*

### **National**

The cultural space of the Gaeltacht as areas of the living tradition of ancient indigenous Gaelic-speaking communities.

Meitheal: the old Irish tradition of neighbours coming together to help a community member address a major task: building a house, fixing a roof, saving hay, or harvesting a crop. It helped forge relationships and community bonds of mutual solidarity.

Heraldry: the granting and/or confirmation by the Chief Herald of coats of arms, crests, badges, and banners, and their display by individuals, county councils, towns, associations, clubs, and companies.

The ancient traditions of inauguration ceremonies for clan chiefs and chieftains.

The documenting, elaboration, and registration of family trees and pedigrees.

The breeding and sporting use of specifically-Irish breeds of wolfhounds, greyhounds, deer, etc.

The craft and economy of traditional exercise of turbary rights, i.e. turf-cutting, stacking, creels, etc.

The ancient culinary arts of whiskey and poteen distilling, and preparation of foods such as barmbrack, boxty, champ, coddle, colcannon, drisheen, farls, gur cake, soda bread, and other indigenous cuisine, and preparation methods of other Irish items of EU protected geographical status (PDO, TGI, TSG).

The ancient Gaelic sports of Gaelic football and hurling<sup>1</sup>.

Traditional forms of musical expression: Feis Ceoil, Sean Nós singing, harp-making and playing, uilleann pipe making and playing, and related forms of dance; jigs, reels, etc.

The annual parades and festivities associated with the feast day of St. Patrick; the enactment of Nativity plays, the display of Christmas cribs and ornamental street lighting.

Traditional crafts such as: construction techniques: cottage thatching, whitewashing, etc.; boat-building: currachs, Galway hooker sailboats, etc.; manufacture of blackthorn sticks, shillelaghs, etc.; manufacture and wearing of attire: Aran sweaters, Kenmare lace, crios, leine, brat, brogues, and Irish dancing dresses.

### **Local**

The preservation of traditional expressions and behaviours associated with the ancient languages of Yola (County Wexford), and Fingalian (County Fingal).

The annual pilgrimages associated with St. Patrick, to Lough Derg (County Donegal) and Croagh Patrick (County Mayo)

The folkloric roles of the satirical King of Dalkey (Dublin) and folkloric King of Tory Island (Donegal)

The Puck Fair in Killorglin (County Kerry)

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<sup>1</sup> Following my correspondence to the Irish Government to have the Oireachtas (Parliament) ratify the UNESCO Convention on the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003), it was achieved on 22 December 2015, and Uilleann Pipes music (2017), the sport of Hurling (2018) and Irish Harping (2019) were subsequently registered by UNESCO. Ireland joined other countries to register Falconry in 2021.