

BLOOMSDAY IN DUBLIN

Wednesday 16th June 2010

BLOOMSDAY marks the day in 1904 on which all the action of James Joyce's novel *Ulysses* takes place. It is celebrated every year on 16th June by Joyceans all over the world. In Dublin, where the novel is set, Bloomsday celebrations go on for a week, with most of the attention on the day itself. It is traditional to dress up and go out for the day, visiting the locations of the book and taking part in readings, walks, reenactments and convivial activities of all sorts which in some way connect with *Ulysses*, its author and its world. The most active form of homage is to walk in the footsteps of Leopold Bloom and other characters through the streets of Dublin, and on Bloomsday a wide range of walks and engaging guides is available. As an occasion rather than a festival, Bloomsday has no 'official' programme or organising committee. Events on this list are arranged by a number of different bodies and occur at venues in and around the city. Many, but by no means all, of the events are run by the **James Joyce Centre** at 35 North Great George's Street, Dublin 1 and advance booking is advised for these at 01 878 8547 or the Centre's website www.jamesjoyce.ie. Events run by the Centre are marked below with an asterisk*. Details of the Centre programme, which includes tours and lectures, will be confirmed shortly.

Before BLOOMSDAY

Wednesday 9th June:

8.00 pm: MOLLY BLOOM, performed by Eilin O'Dea and accompanied by Eileen Sheridan, combines the famous monologue with songs from the era. Tickets for the show in the Brian Boru House in Phibsborough are €12.00 (concessions €10.00) or €22.00 including dinner (last orders 7 pm). Booking at www.thebrianboru.ie or phone 01 830 4527.

Friday 11th June:

9.30 am: THE 17TH ANNUAL BLOOMSDAY MESSENGER BIKE RALLY starts at the Wolfe Tone statue at the Merrion Row corner of St Stephen's Green. 50 cyclists in Edwardian garb will cross Dublin on old-style messenger bikes, to join 300 other enthusiasts at the Shelbourne Hotel for lunch, Joycean renditions and a charity auction. The rally (held in association with Cyclone Couriers) raises funds for the Irish Youth Foundation. Booking: contact the Irish Youth Foundation at 01 6719009 or www.iyf.ie.

Saturday 12th June:

11.00 am WALKING TOUR, A JOYCE CIRCULAR, from the James Joyce Centre. The 'Circular' takes in such features of the Hibernian metropolis as the Joyce statue in Earl Street, the birthplaces of Sean O'Casey and Oliver 'Buck Mulligan' Gogarty, the setting of the *Dubliners* story 'The Boarding House', Bloom's home at 7 Eccles Street, and Joyce's *alma mater* at

Belvedere College. Tickets €10 / €8 concessions. Contact James Joyce Centre *.

1.00 pm WALKING TOUR, *IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF LEOPOLD BLOOM*, from the James Joyce Centre. This tour explores the background to *Ulysses* and follows Bloom's thoughts, and footsteps, as he crosses the city in the 'Laestrygonians' episode of the novel in search of food. Ending at the National Museum in Kildare Street. Tickets €10 / €8 concessions. Contact James Joyce Centre*.

2.00 pm WALKING TOUR, *DUBLINERS*, from the James Joyce Centre, 35 North Great George's Street. The tour includes visits to Belvedere College, the Gresham Hotel, the site of Nelson's Pillar and sites of importance to each of the stories in Joyce's first major work, finishing in Duke Street. Tickets €10 / €8 concessions. Contact James Joyce Centre *.

7.00 pm DONAL O'KELLY'S *JIMMY JOYCED!* in the James Joyce Centre. O'Kelly's performance as a bric-à-brac seller in the Portobello Market, explaining the importance of Joyce memorabilia to his father, becomes a depiction of the life and world of the young James Joyce. Ticket prices to be confirmed, limited seating. For bookings and information, contact the James Joyce Centre.

Sunday 13th June:

WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS was born on this day in 1865. You can mark the occasion by visiting the ongoing exhibition on Yeats's life and work in the National Library of Ireland (scene of the 'Scylla and Charybdis' episode of *Ulysses*) in Kildare Street.

11.00 am WALKING TOUR, *A JOYCE CIRCULAR*, from the James Joyce Centre.*

2.00 pm: The annual pre-Bloomsday walk organised by the James Joyce Institute of Ireland starts at 2 pm at the North Star Hotel opposite Connolly railway station. This year's walk follows the 'Circe' and 'Eumeus' episodes of *Ulysses*, with ad hoc readings and dramatisations in the original settings. The event is open to the public and there is no charge. Bring a copy of *Ulysses* if you have one. The Institute (the Joyce Society in Dublin) meets on Tuesdays (up to 8th June) at 7.30 pm in the James Joyce Centre to read Joyce's works. All meetings are open to the public.

2.00 pm: *THE MUSIC OF ULYSSES*, a talk by Barry McGovern in the Dublin Writers Museum, 18 Parnell Square North. Dublin actor Barry McGovern explores the famous and the little-known music in Joyce's masterpiece. Admission free; booking recommended. Contact the James Joyce Centre.* Also currently running in the Dublin Writers Museum is an exhibition on Oliver St John Gogarty, Joyce's associate and fellow-writer on whom the character 'Buck Mulligan' in *Ulysses* is based. There is an admission charge to visit the museum's exhibition rooms. The Dublin Writers Museum is open daily 10.00 am – 5.00 pm (Sunday 11.00 am – 5.00 pm) with last admissions at 4.15 pm.

2.00 pm WALKING TOUR, *IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF LEOPOLD BLOOM*, from the James Joyce Centre.*

7.00 pm DONAL O'KELLY'S *JIMMY JOYCED!* in the James Joyce Centre.*

Monday 14th June:

11.00 am WALKING TOUR, *IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF LEOPOLD BLOOM*, from the James Joyce Centre.*

1.10 pm: *SONGS OF JOYCE* at Bewley's Café Theatre, Grafton Street (low price preview).

Bookings on 086 878 4001; or contact Sinead Murphy on 086 381 5544 for more details.

2.00 pm WALKING TOUR, *DUBLINERS*, from the James Joyce Centre.*

Tuesday 15th June:

10.00 am – 3.00 pm: A JOYCEAN BUS TOUR from the James Joyce Centre takes in a succession of Joycean locations on the outskirts of the city: Chapelizod, Portobello, Rathmines, Rathgar and Blackrock, with a visit to the Joyce Tower in Sandycove and lunch nearby in Glashule. Details from the James Joyce Centre.*

11.00 am WALKING TOUR, *A JOYCE CIRCULAR*, from the James Joyce Centre.*

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Bookings on 086 878 4001; or contact Sinead Murphy on 086 381 5544 for more details.

2.00 pm WALKING TOUR, *IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF LEOPOLD BLOOM*, from the James Joyce Centre.*

7.00 pm: *THE BEGINNING AND THE END OF FINNEGANS WAKE*, a talk by Danis Rose at the James Joyce Centre. Dubliner, Joyce scholar and editor of the recent new edition of *Finnegans Wake*, Danis Rose investigates the notoriously mysterious question of the end (and the beginning) of Joyce's final work. The event is free of charge and booking is recommended. Contact the James Joyce Centre.*

BLOOMSDAY: WEDNESDAY 16TH JUNE

IN SANDYCOVE, DALKEY AND DUN LAOGHAIRE

Bloomsday Breakfast returns to its birthplace, Bistro Martello (formerly the South Bank) on the Sandycove seafront, where a Joycean breakfast with offal and entertainments will be served from 8.30 am to 4.00 pm. For reservations and enquiries phone 01 280 9871 or e-mail. In Sandycove and Glashule, Bloomsday is customarily celebrated with a street festival and unofficial and impromptu readings and performances throughout the day. Breakfast in Caviston's and Juggy's Well rolls on into brunch at Odell's Restaurant and Fitzgerald's pub. More information from Caviston's at 01 2809120 or Fitzgerald's at 01 2804469.

The Forty Foot bathing place beside the Tower, where Buck Mulligan swims in *Ulysses*, is traditionally the place for a Bloomsday plunge to start the day. A small voluntary contribution towards its upkeep may be made at the entrance.

The James Joyce Museum at the Tower in Sandycove, where *Ulysses* opens, will be open all day from 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. for readings and commemorations. Barry McGovern will this year read the 'Ithaca' episode of *Ulysses* at intervals from 9.30 am to 11.30 am and from 2.30 pm to 4 pm. There will also be readings by Brenda McSweeney during the day. The event is supported by Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Heritage Office. Visitors are invited to contribute to the celebrations and to take inspiration from the museum's wonderful collection of original Joycean material. The museum is open from April to August (normal hours: Tuesday to Saturday

10.00 am to 1.00 pm, 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm; Sunday 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm). For information tel/fax 01 2809265 or e-mail joycetower@dublintourism.ie.

Nearby in Dalkey, **Dalkey Castle and Heritage Centre** will mark the day with exhibitions on local Joyce and literary connections and, at **3.30 pm**, a recreation of the schoolroom scene in the second episode of *Ulysses*, which is set in the neighbourhood. This is followed by a guided Joycean walk of the area, finishing with a session in the Queens. At **8.00 pm** Dalkey Castle and Heritage Centre presents a Joycean Evening of extracts from his works and music and songs either known to have been sung by Joyce or featured in his books. Tickets for the schoolroom scene and walk are €10, and those for the Joycean Evening are €15. Early booking is advisable as numbers are limited. The events are supported by Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Heritage Office. For information tel. 2858366, e-mail diht@indigo.ie or website www.dalkeycastle.com.

IN DUBLIN CITY CENTRE

Here, there and everywhere the **Balloonatics** theatre company will be putting Joyce on the streets for the twenty-third year in succession, with re-enactments from *Ulysses* on the original locations, formal and informal readings on street corners, in pubs and in hotels, and walks on the trail of Leopold Bloom. No money or booking is required for the outdoor events – just come and join in. Payment is by contribution at the end of each event. Their first rendezvous is at **8.00 am** outside Aurora on the corner of Eccles Street and Dorset Street to follow **Bloom's morning walk**. For further information contact balloonaticstc@yahoo.com or tel 087-9305496.

8.00 am BLOOM'S MORNING WALK with the Balloonatics. Meet at Aurora, the site of Larry O'Rourke's, the pub on the Eccles Street/ Upper Dorset Street corner.

The odyssey begins. Start your Bloomsday on location with Leopold Bloom as he buys a kidney and prepares breakfast for his wife, himself and the cat.

8.00 am, 9.30 am and 11.00 am: BLOOMSDAY BREAKFAST at the James Joyce Centre. On Bloomsday the Centre becomes 'the heart of the Hibernian metropolis' and will have activities all day, starting with its customary **Bloomsday Breakfast**, readings and song. Feel free to attend in your 1904ish costume. Each seating €18.00. Booking at the Joyce Centre: 878 8547 or www.jamesjoyce.ie. *

9.30 – 12 noon: BLOOMSDAY BREAKFAST at the Brian Boru House in Phibsborough, passed by Paddy Dignam's mourners in *Ulysses*. Breakfast €9.95. For information contact www.thebrianboru.ie or phone 01 830 4527.

10.00 am THE LAND OF THE LOTUS. Meet the **Balloonatics** at Westland Row, under the railway bridge, opposite Pearse Station. Bloom collects a secret letter, looks on at a church service and picks up some lotions. The 'Lotus-Eaters' episode cannot be fully appreciated until you've visited the sites where it is set.

SWENY'S CHEMIST SHOP in Lincoln Place, where Bloom bought lemon soap in the 'Lotus-Eaters' episode, still provides lemon soap to his followers. Visitors on Bloomsday will find Sweny the druggist in his shop and Bloom and Bantam Lyons in the street nearby. Watch out also for the five **HELY'S men** in their sandwichboards, walking up and down across the city centre.

10.00 am – 5.00 pm: The Chapterhouse of St Mary's Abbey, in Meetinghouse Lane off Mary's Abbey, is the scene of the reverend Hugh C. Love's visit in 'Wandering Rocks'. The Chapterhouse, one of Dublin's few surviving mediaeval buildings, will be specially open to the public on Bloomsday from 10 am to 5pm. For further information tel: 01 8331618 or e mail: pauline.kennedy@opw.ie

10.00 am, 11.00 am, 12.00 noon: BLOOMSDAY WALK, a guided walking tour from the James Joyce Centre, lasting 60 minutes and taking in some of the most important Northside locations in *Ulysses*, from Bloom's home in Eccles Street to the Liffey at O'Connell Bridge. Tickets are €8 and booking from the James Joyce Centre is required. Contact James Joyce Centre 01 8788547 or www.jamesjoyce.ie.*

11.00 am – 4.00 pm: BLOOMSDAY READINGS in Meeting House Square, Temple Bar. Held in former years in the James Joyce Centre's own building, the Centre's traditional readings from *Ulysses* now take place in the heart of Temple Bar. Joyceans of all ages and backgrounds are welcome to join in a star-studded afternoon of readings and songs. Soprano Deirdre Masterson and tenor John Scott perform a variety of songs drawn from *Ulysses*, and Elaine McGloughlin presents a ballet performance to 'Marble Halls'. Admission is free, no booking is required, seats are available (but limited), and you can stay and listen as long as you like.

A BLOOMSDAY TOUR OF GLASNEVIN CEMETERY will take place during the day, with a visit to the newly-opened Glasnevin Cemetery museum and to the graves of many of the 'faithful departed' who feature in the pages of *Ulysses*. Details from the James Joyce Centre.*

11.30 am: WALKING WITH MR BLOOM: A guided walking tour following the eighth chapter of *Ulysses* with guide David Harrington will take place twice during the day, once in the morning starting at 11.30 am and again in the afternoon at 2.30 pm. This classic Bloomsday walking tour has been an established part of the day's programme for the past eighteen years. It begins at the main entrance to the General Post Office (GPO) in O'Connell Street. There is a charge of €12.00 per person. Places are limited and advance booking is advisable. For information and booking contact Beatrice Healy at 01-454 5943 or beatrice@iol.ie.

12. 30 pm DIRTY EATERS. Meet the Balloonatics at the Joyce Statue on North Earl Street. The tour runs via Davy Byrne's, Duke Street, to the National Museum, Kildare Street. Join Bloom as he negotiates a number of lunchtime distractions on his way to the National Library. Walking tour based on the 'Lestrygonians' episode of *Ulysses*.

12.30 and 1.30 pm HEARTS AND HANDS in the Brian Boru House in Phibsborough explores the ‘Hades’ episode of *Ulysses*, in which the pub is mentioned. The show is performed by John Judd and Emma Bolger and tickets are €6, or €15 including a Bloomsday lunch of a Gorgonzola sandwich and a glass of claret. Bookings and information at www.thebrianboru.ie or phone 01 830 4527.

THE DIDDLEM CLUB is ready to ambush the public with more inventive Bloomsday madness this year. Watch out for them outside Davy Byrne’s pub in Duke Street at 1.00 pm

1.00 pm, 1.30 pm, 2.00 pm, 2.30 pm: BLOOMSDAY WALK from the James Joyce Centre.*

1.10 pm: SONGS OF JOYCE at Bewley’s Café Theatre in Grafton Street. Acapella female trio [THE SHANNON COLLEENS](#) bring their own particular earthy brand of harmonies to a 50-minute lunchtime musical extravaganza encompassing some of Joyce's best loved popular songs - from bawdy street ballads and sea shanties to music hall hits and folksongs (both Irish and American). Admission at €15 / 13 includes a light lunch. **Low price previews 14th and 15th. Bookings on 086 878 4001; or contact Sinead Murphy on 086 381 5544 for more details.**

2.30 pm: WALKING WITH MR BLOOM: A guided walking tour from the GPO, O’Connell Street.

3.00 pm, 3.30 pm, 4.00 pm: BLOOMSDAY WALK from the James Joyce Centre.*

FILM SCREENING (date, title and time to be confirmed) at the Irish Film Institute, 6 Eustace Street, Temple Bar. Discounted tickets available. For further details contact IFI at www.ifibooking.ie or telephone 01 679 3477.

7.00 and 8.30 pm: A PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST’S MOTHER, written and performed by Marion McEvoy at the Brian Boru House in Phibsborough, tells the story of James Joyce’s mother, Mary Jane Murray Joyce, in words and music. Tickets €10.00, or €25.00 to include a main course and a glass of wine, can be booked at www.thebrianboru.ie or phone 01 830 4527.

8.00 pm HUMID NIGHTBLUE FRUIT: Wynn’s Hotel, Lower Abbey Street. The Balloonatics’ long established evening get-together for Bloomites includes a performance of the *Dubliners* story ‘Clay’, in a musical theatre piece featuring composer and pianist Michael Holohan and Paul O’Hanrahan. It will be followed by Joycean theatre and winds up with contributions from the floor. Tickets €10.00.

Imaginative members of the public will also be taking matters into their own hands – reading at the Joyce Tower, swimming at the Forty Foot, lunching on Burgundy and Gorgonzola cheese in Davy Byrne’s, behaving unspeakably on Sandymount Strand and finding new and exciting ways to celebrate *Ulysses*.

After BLOOMSDAY

When the dust subsides, the **James Joyce Centre** will still be open (Tuesday – Saturday, 10.00 am – 5.00 pm; Sunday 12.00 noon – 5.00 pm), and so will the **James Joyce Museum** (Tuesday – Saturday, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm. 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm; Sunday 2.00 pm – 6.00 pm). The Yeats exhibition continues at the National Library, and the Gogarty exhibition continues at the Dublin Writers Museum.

FURTHER INFORMATION

This list will be updated with further information as events are confirmed nearer to Bloomsday. For advice and up-to-date information on BLOOMSDAY celebrations, please contact:

The James Joyce Museum, Joyce Tower, Sandycove, Co Dublin (tel/fax 01- 2809265, e-mail joycetower@dublintourism.ie).

***The James Joyce Centre**, 35 North Great George's Street, Dublin 1 (tel 01- 8788547, fax 01-8788488, e-mail info@jamesjoyce.ie). Full details of the Centre's programme are on its website at www.jamesjoyce.ie.

Dublin Tourism on the web at www.visitdublin.com.

24 May 2010