

Useless Irish Facts

An odd Irish birthday tradition is to lift the birthday child upside down and give his head a few gentle bumps on the floor for good luck. The number of bumps should allegedly correspond with the child's age plus one.

A traditional Irish hangover cure was to be buried up to the neck in wet river sand.

A golf course made by hand. County Mayo's Carne Golf Links which was built between 1987 and 1993 was constructed by farmers using spades and rakes.

Catherine Kelly, who died in 1785 was allegedly the smallest Irish woman ever. With a total height of just 34 inches and weighing only 8 pounds, she was known as the "Irish Fairy".

The national symbol of Ireland is the Celtic Harp, not the shamrock.

Aran Island sweaters have a variety of "family weaves". These were developed because when a fisherman drowned his sweater was often the only thing washed up

on shore. And the distinctive weave was often the only way a family would know their loved one was lost.

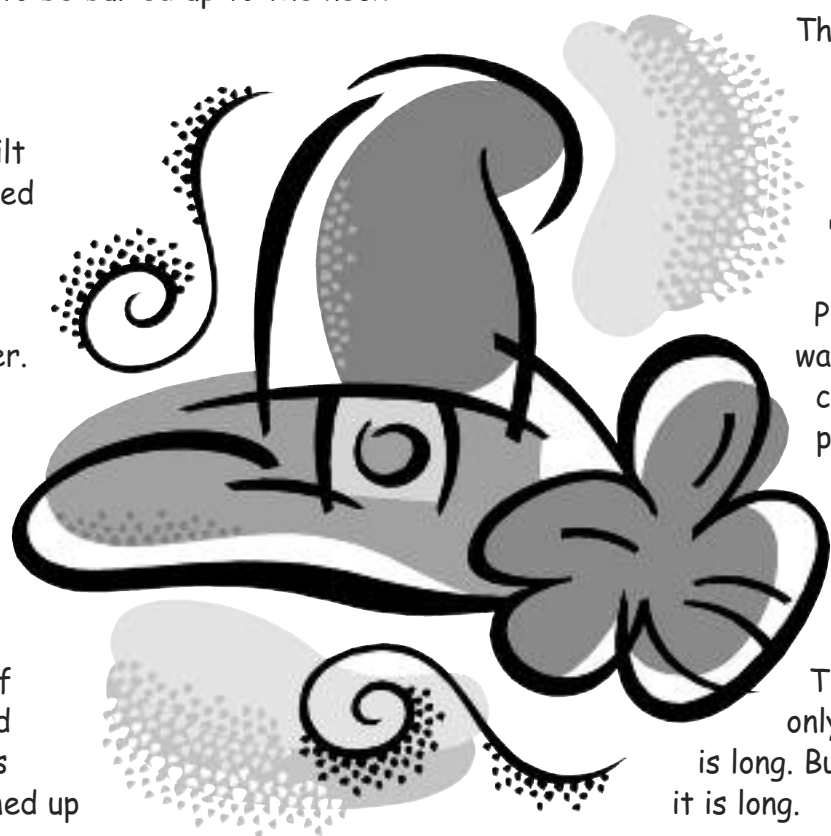
It is not the custom in Ireland to wear green ties, hats or clothes on St. Patrick's Day. A shamrock sprig on the lapel is traditional.

The Soldier's Song, written by Peadar Kearney in 1907 (the music was in collaboration with Patrick Heeney) was formally adopted as the national anthem in 1926, replacing the earlier "God Save Ireland".

Punt is the Irish name for Pound; Pingin was Irish for an old penny; Florin was a coin worth two old shillings (24 old pence).

The original Guinness Brewery in Dublin, Ireland has a six thousand year lease.

The O'Connell Bridge in Dublin is the only traffic bridge in Europe as wide as it is long. But O'Connell street is not as wide as it is long.



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