

# 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.

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."

Ballygally Castle in County Antrim, currently a hotel owned by a major chain, is allegedly one of the most haunted places in the country.

Aran Island sweaters have a variety of "family weaves". These were developed so that when a fisherman drowned his sweater

was often the only thing washed up on shore. The distinctive weave allowed family members to identify and know their loved one was lost.

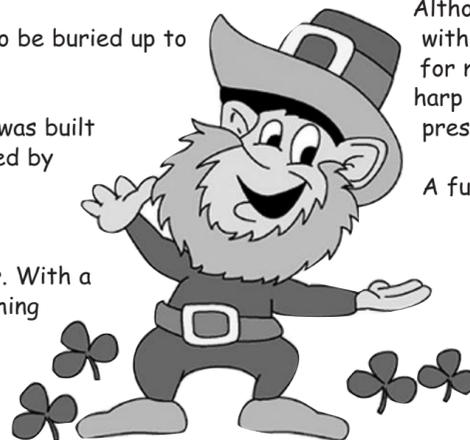
Although the Shamrock is traditionally associated with Ireland, the Harp has been used as a symbol for many centuries. The design of the heraldic harp is based on the "Brian Boru Harp", which is preserved in Dublin's Trinity College.

A full seven percent of the entire Irish barley crop goes to the production of Guinness beer.

The longest place name in Ireland is Muckanaghederdauhaulia, in County Galway.

According to one rather obscure Irish legend, a ringing in your ears means a deceased friend stuck in Purgatory is ringing a bell to ask for you to pray for him/her.

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.



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