



St Patrick – the legend behind the celebration

Almost everyone has heard of St Patrick's Day that is celebrated worldwide on March 17th (perhaps slightly less this year for obvious reasons!!) But do you know the story of the man behind this joyful celebration?

Legend has it that Patrick lived in the 4th Century in Britain and was kidnapped and taken to Ireland as a slave when he was just 16. He managed to escape but returned later to Ireland to convert the Irish to Christianity. He established many monasteries, churches and schools around the country and many legends remain concerning him. One of the most famous stories behind this enigmatic figure is that he drove out all the snakes from Ireland and used the Shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity.

During the famous potato famine in Ireland between 1845 and 1852 almost 2 million Irishmen left Ireland and emigrated to the USA where every year on 17th March they remembered their homeland by celebrating St Patrick's Day.

Nowadays, St Patrick's Day is celebrated all over the world. People wear green clothes to remember the Emerald Isle, they eat a traditional meal of corned beef and cabbage and consume large quantities of Guinness, the famous Irish stout beer.

Happy St. Patrick's Day to you all!

