

Fans of all things festive are in for a treat this yuletide season. Step back in time to Georgian Dublin and enjoy a traditional Christmas atmosphere as Merrion Square throws open its gates and doors, lights the sky bright with Christmas cheer at a series of free seasonal events this November and December.

Switching on the Christmas Lights

Merrion Square, Tuesday 22nd November 2016 at 6pm

All are welcome to switch on the Christmas lights for Merrion Square as part of our annual ceremony in partnership with ESB and Dublin City Council.

Carols by Candlelight

Pepper Canister Church, Monday 12th December, 6pm

Carols by Candlelight takes place in the beautiful Georgian surroundings of the Pepper Canister Church featuring a traditional service of nine lessons led by clergy from the local churches and carols from Classicus Youth Choir.

The Merrion Square Open Day is co-ordinated by the Merrion Square Innovation Network whose mission is to realise the potential of Merrion Square and make effective use of its considerable and distinctive cultural and historical assets and to develop it into a vibrant cultural and tourism cluster.

All events are free however some are ticketed. Please visit the individual websites for further information and updates



CHRISTMAS ON MERRION SQUARE

**CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS
IN THE HEART OF
GEORGIAN DUBLIN**

www.merrionsquare.ie

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Christmas on the Square 2016: *Nollaig ar an gCearnóg*

Saturday 26th November

10am-5pm

Davenport Hotel

8-10 Merrion Street Lower, www.davenporthotel.ie t: 01 607 3500

Complimentary mince-pies courtesy of the Davenport Hotel to celebrate Christmas on the Square.

Opening Times: 10am - 12pm

Number Twenty Nine

ESB Georgian House Museum, 29 Fitzwilliam Street Lower,

(on the corner of Merrion Square, where Fitzwilliam Street Lower meets Mount Street Upper).

www.numbertwenty-nine.ie t: 01 702 6163

Santa will be making a stop at the atmospheric Georgian surroundings of Number Twenty Nine ESB Georgian House Museum before heading to the North Pole to get ready for Christmas. No need to book, but places may be limited.

Opening Times: 11am - 4pm.

Irish Architectural Archive

45 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, www.iarc.ie t: 01 663 3040

Irish Artisans on the Square: A seasonal celebration of Irish design and craft showcasing 25 of Ireland's leading contemporary Irish designers, makers and artisans.

Opening Times: 10am - 5pm

Irish Traditional Music Archive

73 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, www.itma.com t: 01 661 9699

Uilleann piper *Padraig McGovern* from Co. Leitrim and Longford accordion player Peter Carberry are our featured performers in this special concert to launch the 2016 Christmas season.

Opening Times: 1pm (Admission is free but booking is essential)

Notre Dame

No. 58 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, www.oconnellhouse.nd.edu t: 01 611 0611

Join Notre Dame students for some festive cheer as they perform Irish and American Christmas music for you. An American Christmas from No. 58 Merrion Square, now home to the University of Notre Dame in Ireland. Highlights include *Pop-up O'Connell Café*, bookshop and join Notre Dame students for some festive cheer as they perform Irish and American Christmas Music for you.

Opening Times:

10am-4pm: Pop-Up O'Connell Café and Pop-up Bookshop

11am-3pm: The American Songbook meets Celtic Twilight: Every hour on the hour for 15 minutes.

National Museum of Ireland, Natural History

Merrion Street, www.museum.ie t: 01 648 6316

Pop in and complete our Winter Activity Trail - 'Do Not Disturb' to celebrate Christmas on Merrion Square at the Dead Zoo. No booking required. Wheelchair accessible.

Opening Times: 10am - 1pm

National Gallery of Ireland

Clare Street, Dublin 2, www.nationalgallery.ie t: 01 661 5133

Family Tour at the Gallery. Join guide Rita Brown to celebrate Christmas and look at artworks with a winter theme.

Opening Times: 1.30pm

Oscar Wilde House, American College Dublin

No 1, Merrion Square, Dublin 2, www.amcd.ie

A rare opportunity to get inside the Oscar Wilde House for a brief talk and tour about Oscar Wilde and the connection to American College Dublin. Children can create and keep a Christmas ornament for their tree or home and the Musical Theatre students will perform Christmas songs.

Opening Times: 10am - 3pm

The Wilde, 53 Merrion Square

www.iconicoffices.ie 01 905 3508

"Have an (Oscar) Wilde Christmas" at The Wilde, Dublin. Join us for home-made mulled wine, festive mince pies and walk through a historic and beautifully restored piece of Merrion Square history. This impressive piece of Irish architectural history and modern Irish design will be running one hour tours at 12pm, 2pm and 3pm with tour group sizes of 25 people.

Opening Times: 12pm, 2pm and 3pm

(places must be booked via thewilde@iconicoffices.ie)

The Merrion Hotel

Upper Merrion Street, www.merrionhotel.com t: 01 603 0600

Come visit the Merrion Hotel "Pop-Up Shop" where they will be selling their beautifully presented gift vouchers together with a selection of 'take home' sweet and savoury treats from The Merrion Pantry!

Opening Times: 10am - 5pm

The Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland

63 Merrion Square, www.rsai.ie t: 01 676 1749

Visit the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland for some delicious festive treats including pop-up cafe by Jennie Moran of Luncheonette's fame; a special screening of *Neige et les arbres magiques (English subtitles)*, a 4 short-film programme brought to you in collaboration with the French Embassy (suitable from age 4 up)

Opening Time: 10am - 4pm (screening time from 2.30pm)

RHA Gallery

Ely Place, Dublin 2, www.rhagallery.ie

Visit the RHA Gallery as part of Dublin Gallery Weekend and enjoy free admission to David Crone RHA, John Cronin, RHA Members' Exhibition and Diana Copperwhite RHA. Visit the artists in residence, open studios and take the kids to RHA Art Cart.

Opening Times: 2 - 4pm

National Print Museum

Beggars Bush, Haddington Road, www.nationalprintmuseum.ie t: 01 660 3770 e: info@nationalprintmuseum.ie

The National Print Museum's popular Winter Fair returns with market stalls selling all sorts of unique gifts. Families can print a special Christmas poster with the Museum's elves. Press café will be serving mulled wine and festive treats.

Opening Times: 11am - 4pm