



FLEADH CHEOIL NA BREATAINE 2024

INFORMATION PACK

**29TH-30TH
JUNE 2024**
**CARMEL COLLEGE
ST HELENS**



Cathaoirleach's Address

Céad Míle Fáilte!

One hundred thousand welcomes!

You are very welcome to Fleadh Cheoil na Breataine 2024. It is a great pleasure to be able to welcome you as the Chair (Cathaoirleach) of this year's All-Britain Fleadh, held in the Northern Region at Carmel College, St Helens.

The All-Britain Fleadh represents one of the major highlights for Comhaltas members across the province of Britain, bringing together the Comhaltas in Britain family to celebrate our rich heritage, and our passion for Irish traditional music, song and dance. As a member of Comhaltas since the age of 10, my annual calendar has always featured a trip around the UK to attend, compete and enjoy the All-Britain Fleadh. Some of the fondest memories I have of were created at All-Britain Fleadhs, and I always look forward to catching up with old friends in the corridors and in between competitions, or over a well deserved pint on the Saturday night.

As such I am delighted to be able to welcome you here to St Helen's, for what promises to be an excellent weekend, showcasing the incredible standard of music that Britain has to offer.



Fleadh Committee

At this point, I would like to pay tribute to the superb team who have worked tirelessly over the last few months to help deliver Fleadh Cheoil na Breataine 2024. This year's Fleadh committee is composed of members of the Provincial council, Northern region, Music sub-committee, and our three excellent members of staff. As a team, everybody has brought something different and unique based on their own skill sets and interests, and helped contribute to different aspects of running this year's Fleadh. Without these individuals, the Fleadh as you see it would not have been able to take place, so I want to formally recognise these individuals and thank them for their efforts:

Position	Name
Cathaoirleach (Chair)	Patrick Ballantyne
Leas Cathaoirleach (Vice Chair)	Declan Bibby
Co-Secretary: Logistics & Clerks	David Browne
Co-Secretary: Fleadh Office & Volunteers	Mairi Docherty
Cisteoir (Treasurer)	Michael Fitzgerald
Fundraising Officer	Michelle Hemmingway
Music Sub-Committee Representatives	John Burke & Mairi Campbell
Delegate Liaison	Theresa Gallagher

Staff Support

Operations Manager: Paddy Callaghan
Community Project Officer: Elske Simpson
Outreach & Development Officer: Erin Brown



St Helens, Northern Region

This year's All-Britain Fleadh comes to you from St Helens. St Helens (derived from the medieval hamlet: St Elyn's), is situated between the major cities of Liverpool and Manchester and really came to be during the Industrial Revolution. As a leading centre for coal mining, copper refinery and the glass industry, St Helens expanded rapidly, and saw large influxes of Irish people who migrated from Ireland during the famine in search of new and exciting opportunities.

Today St Helen's is synonymous with Rugby League, home to the St Helen's Saints, who have won the League Championship 17 times. It is also home to a number of heritage centres, such as World of Glass, and contains a vibrant town centre with plenty of shops, bars and restaurants. St Helens is also a stone's throw away from the nearby town of Ashton-in-Makerfield, which is home to the Ashton-in-Makerfield branch of Comhaltas. Ashton CCÉ is a vibrant branch of Comhaltas, who hold regular classes and sessions, continuing to pass on the rich heritage of Irish traditional music, song and dance to the next generation in and around St Helen's, from their base at the Brian Boru Irish Club.

The Fleadh Committee received strong support from the St. Helen's Borough Arts Council, recommending local attractions and over 700 accommodation options. They plan to collaborate with local officials and educational leaders to use libraries for pre-Fleadh performances, aiming to make a lasting impact on the St. Helens community.

Accommodation



Mercure St Helens

Linkway, St Helens
WA10 1NG
01744 453444
info@sthelenshotel.com



OYO Lakeside

Garswood Old Rd,
St Helens
WA11 7LX
020 8089 8579
info@premierinn.com
www.oyorooms.com



Griffin Inn

Church Lane,
St Helens
WA10 5AD
01744 27907
info@griffin.co.uk
www.griffininn.co.uk



Ibis Styles Haydock

Piele Rd, Haydock
WA11 ORG
01942 290045
H9553@accor.com



Travelodge Haydock

Piele Rd
WA11 9TL
0871 984 6145
www.travelodge.co.uk



Eccleston Arms

Prescot Rd, St Helens
WA10 3TU
01744 881881
www.ecclestonarms.co.uk



Mercure Haydock

Penny Lane, Haydock
WA11 9SG
01942 559940
Ha0h4@accor.com
all.accor.com/hotel/A0H4



Premier Inn St. Helens South

Eurolink, St Helens
WA9 4TT
0333 3219022
info@premierinn.com
www.premierinn.com



Holiday Inn Haydock

Lodge Ln, Haydock,
Newton-le-Willows
WA12 0JG
0333 3209329
www.holidayinn.co.uk

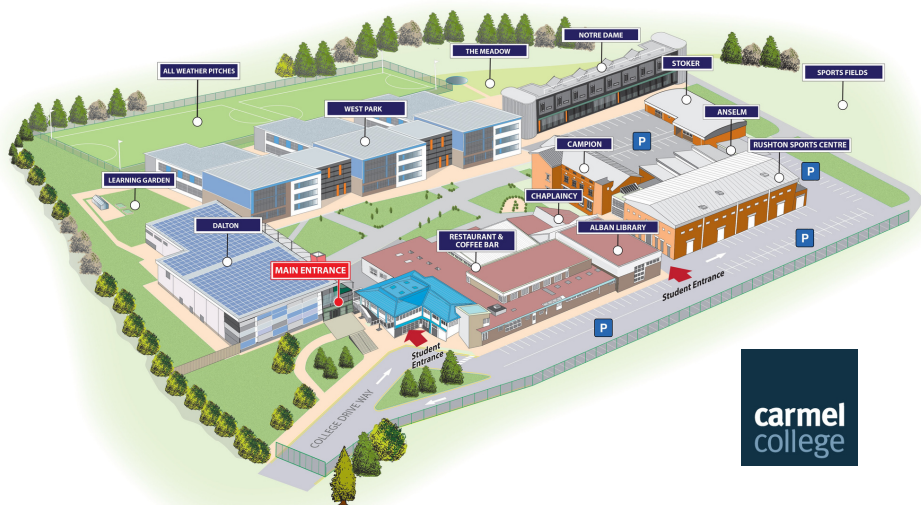


Carmel College

Carmel College is a Roman Catholic sixth form college, located in St Helens. It was established in 1987, and currently has approximately 2,200 students. It offers a number of A-levels, and in its role as an Associate College of the University of Liverpool, also offers foundation courses that lead directly onto degrees in Science, Engineering, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Sciences at the University or Liverpool.

We are particularly excited about this year's Fleadh venue, which has a great mixture of classrooms and teaching spaces, drama studios, as well as a large performance theatre and sports gym. The college campus is compact and centres around a large open green space, from which you will be able to access all of the competition venues across the weekend. We are particularly pleased that the competition venues are fully accessible, and that the campus has great provision of catering options and toilet (and changing) facilities. There is a large number of car parking spaces available on site, with additional parking available during both competition days in the neighbouring West Park Rugby Football Club, and on the unrestricted neighbouring streets. It is also worth mentioning that the team at Carmel have been fantastic to work with this far in our planning journey, and we hope to build on the success of Fleadh Cheoil na Breataine 2024, by holding future Fleadhanna on this campus.

Campus Map



Competition Venues

The Fleadh committee recently visited the Carmel site and is currently working on selecting the most suitable rooms for the competitions. All of the competitions will be held on the ground floor, centered around the communal area of the college. This means that moving between competition venues should be a breeze.



Practice Rooms

A limited number of classrooms will be open as practice rooms during the weekend. These are costed at £100.00 for the full weekend and are allocated on a first come first served basis. If your branch is interested in renting one for instrument storage or rehearsals, please contact info@comhaltas.co.uk



Food Options During The Fleadh Weekend

The college site's canteen will be providing a variety of hot meals and grab-and-go options throughout the Fleadh weekend. In addition, there is a Costa Coffee outlet on the premises. If you prefer to bring your own food, outdoor seating is available. Additionally, St. Helen's offers a variety of delicious food options that cater to a wide range of tastes.



Stall Holders

Over the weekend, a mezzanine floor area will host a variety of music shops, instrument makers, and stalls. As a bonus, the area is in close proximity to the canteen, making it an ideal spot to hang out. If you're interested in having a stall at the Fleadh, or know someone who might be, please email elske@comhaltas.co.uk



Traveling To The Fleadh

By Car: Use WA10 3AG as the postcode for navigation. The college is located on A58 Prescott Road, near West Park Rugby Club, accessible from various road and motorway networks.

By Rail: The college is a 10-minute walk from Thatto Heath and Eccleston Park Rail Stations, on the main line between Wigan North Western and Liverpool Lime Street stations.

Unfortunately, we do not have the facility to park coaches on this site. Kindly reach out to Patrick Ballantyne to explore parking options if your group is arriving by coach.

Fleadh Highlights

The weekend begins with a welcome session at the Mercure Hotel in St Helens, hosted by the Fleadh Cheoil na Breataine 2024 committee on Friday night.

On Saturday, we look forward to meeting faces old and new as they arrive and register for competitions. We're honoured to be hosting an opening ceremony, officiated by the Mayor of St Helens, before the first competition. After a full day of duet, trio, group and band competitions we welcome everyone to join us for the Fleadh mass, Fleadh opening (and awards) ceremony, and official Fleadh 2024 session, which will take place in the main catering and bar areas at Carmel College.

On Sunday we will have a packed schedule of competitions, which will see the best musicians from around the country vying for a chance to compete at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2024 in Wexford.

On behalf of the Fleadh Cheoil na Breataine 2024 committee, we look forward to welcoming you all to Carmel College in June.



This is a provisional timetable.
Timings subject to change.

Support the Fleadh

Sponsorship

Elske is dedicating considerable effort to secure sponsorships for the All-Britain Fleadh to assist with expenses. A comprehensive sponsorship package booklet has been prepared. If you are aware of any businesses interested in supporting the Fleadh, please reach out to Elske, and she will provide them with a customised sponsorship booklet.

Sponsoring a Competition or Venue

One way branches can help is by sponsoring a competition or a venue. If you're interested in sponsoring, either for yourself or in memory of someone, speak to Elske at the convention or send an email to elske@comhaltas.co.uk.

Programme Adverts

The Fleadh Committee is seeking sponsorship from Branches, Regions, and commercial partners for a full or half-page advertisement in the Souvenir Programme. The advertising rates are as follows:

- **Full Page:** £100 for Branches/Regions - £150 for Commercial
- **Half Page:** £80 for Branches/Regions - £100 for Commercial

Please send your adverts to erin@comhaltas.co.uk by 1st May 2024

Local Promotion

We are beginning to plan the promotion of the event in St. Helen's and the nearby areas. We are seeking assistance from local PROs to support us with groundwork tasks. Marketing materials and any necessary assistance will be provided. The role will extend over the next few months leading up to the Fleadh, requiring spare time to distribute flyers in local businesses and organisations. If you are not a PRO but would like to contribute, please feel free to do so. For further details, you can contact us via email.

Volunteers

We Need You!

Volunteers play a crucial role in the success of the Fleadh, providing an important foundation for the event. Without their dedicated efforts, our event wouldn't be possible. If you're keen on offering your assistance, please use the sign-up sheet below.

Various responsibilities are available throughout the weekend, including, competition clerks, assisting at the registration desk, car park duties, driving, and overseeing the competition venues.

Sign Up Here!



Book Now!

FLEADH TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE!



Item	Early Bird	Door
Adult Weekend Ticket	£20	£25
Student Weekend Ticket	£15	N/A
Child Weekend Ticket	£10	£15
Adult Day Ticket	£15	£20
Student Day Ticket	£10	N/A
Child Day Ticket	£7	£10



All-Britain Fleadh 2024
Early Bird Tickets
29-30 June

ADMIT ONE

Student tickets not sold at venue.
Child tickets are valid up to age 18.
Attendees must follow event code of conduct available on [website](#).

