

# Líofa



Department of Culture,  
Arts and Leisure  
[www.dcalni.gov.uk](http://www.dcalni.gov.uk)

AN ROINN  
Cultúir, Ealaíon  
agus Fóillíochta

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Líofa Development Officer, Ursula Uí Dhonnaile, Ariel Killick (Independent State of Happiness), BBC's Lynette Fay who will comper the Líofa celebration event.

## Sonas ort a Líofa! Happy Birthday Líofa!

**A year has passed since Líofa has been launched and to mark the occasion Líofa are hosting a Cóisir Lá Breithe or Líofa Birthday party and everyone is invited!**

The Líofa Birthday celebration has several aims; one of which is to encourage all of the Líofa participants who have taken up the Líofa challenge over the past year. Lá Líofa aims to 'hearten' Líofa participants in their challenge to reach fluency in the Irish Language by 2015 and will offer participants advice and support. Moreover, Líofa's first birthday celebration will be a fun, entertaining, family event open to everyone. You don't have to have any Irish to come along. Lá

Líofa is aimed at those who are curious about the language, those who want to join the Líofa challenge or get more support for learning Irish.

Lá Líofa will celebrate Líofa, and the Irish Language and everyone is welcome to join in this fun-filled day which is **free of charge!** If you are signed up to Líofa, make sure that you come along to **receive your Líofa birthday present** and engage in the activities – bring your family and friends along to the celebration – fáilte romhaibh!

The Líofa birthday event will take place on **Saturday 22 September in Custom House Square, Belfast from 1–4pm.**



### MINISTER'S MESSAGE

"What a great year this has been for the development of the Irish language. I am very encouraged by the vast numbers of people who have joined me in the challenge to become Líofa by 2015. To celebrate Líofa's first birthday everyone is invited to Lá Líofa - Líofa's first birthday party in Custom House Square, Belfast. Join me for a stage line-up of music, family entertainment, craic agus cuideachta. Learn more about Líofa and receive support to start learning Irish including a Líofa birthday present for Líofa participants!"



**Líofa**  
2015

#### **DRAFT STRATEGY: IRISH LANGUAGE CONSULTATION**

You should have recently received an e-mail from the department of Culture, Arts & Leisure giving you the opportunity to shape the content of the draft strategy for protecting and enhancing the development of the Irish language strategy. The consultation period began on Wednesday 11 July and continues until 5:00pm on Tuesday 27 November 2012. The consultation document can be accessed on the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure's website

#### **LÍOFA SIGN-UPS – INVALID E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

As most of you know, Líofa participants sign-up to the Líofa challenge online or via a postal form. However, Líofa have some invalid e-mail addresses which means that some people who are signed-up to Líofa 2015 are not and have not been receiving correspondence from Líofa. If you know any colleagues, family or friends who have signed up to Líofa but are not receiving communication, please ask them to contact Líofa through the contact details below.

#### **LÍOFA NUMBERS**

**Currently more than 2305 people have signed up to Líofa. If you've already signed up yourself why not encourage some of your friends and family to join you on your journey to fluency?**

## **LÁ LÍOFA – COME ALONG AND CELEBRATE LÍOFA'S BIRTHDAY!**

Lá Líofa will consist of stage performances and family entertainment for a fun-filled day out, but Líofa's birthday celebration also aims to offer support, information and encouragement to those who have taken on or who will take on the Líofa challenge of improving and obtaining fluency in the Irish Language by 2015.

**Lynette Fay (BBC Radio and Television presenter)** will compere Lá Líofa; introduce the Líofa celebration, get to know some of the Líofa participants and interview Líofa supporters!

First to open Lá Líofa with their fast paced energetic playing will be **Goitse (meaning 'come here' in Irish)**. **Goitse** are a flourishing, highly talented five piece band who are fast making a name for themselves as one of the most sought after bands amongst connoisseurs of Irish traditional music and sing in both English and Irish. Goitse's talent has seen them enjoying a growing fan base throughout the world. They will come to Custom House Square on the **22 September** to get the Líofa party underway.

**Nodlaig Brolly** recently has become known as one of a small number of musicians currently playing the ancient Downhill harp. Nodlaig is a fluent Gaelige speaker, and will demonstrate the ancient tradition of ballad singing (and nowadays rarely practiced) with accompaniment on the Downhill harp on stage at Lá Líofa.



Pictured above: Fanzini Brothers

The **Fanzini Brothers** will perform their internationally renowned comedy entertainment and amazing antics act on stage and provide walk-around entertainment all day.

**Cór Loch Lao** are An Chultúrlann's (Belfast) Irish singing choir and will perform at Lá Líofa under the direction of native Gweedore Irish speaker and award winning singer Doimnic Mac Giolla Bhríde.

**JJ Ó Dochartaigh** is renowned for translating pop songs like Bruno Mars' 'Just the Way You Are' into Irish – young people, especially, will really enjoy this act and will be encouraged to sing along! Children will be entertained all afternoon with a wide range of activities including face-painting, bouncy castle and craft!

The **Líofa information stall** and various other Irish language groups will allow the public to learn about Irish Language classes, events and offer support to help them get involved in the Irish language.

**Come along to Custom House Square, Belfast 22 September 1- 4pm!**

## **DÉAN TEAGMHÁIL LINN**

Más mian leat clárú le Líofa nó má tá scéal agat dár nuachtlitir fút féin agus foghlaim na Gaeilge, ná bíodh aon leisce ort ríomhphost a chur chuig (Líofa@dcalni.eu) nó scríobh chugainn (Líofa, RCEF, Brainse Teangacha, 7ú hUrlár, Causeway Exchange, 1-7 Sráid Bedford, Béal Feirste, BT2 7EG).

**Más mian leat clárú le Líofa, déan teagmháil linn, le do thoil, trí úsáid a bhaint as Leathanach Baile Líofa.**