



The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Connecticut is an academic cooperative that provides older adults with opportunities for intellectual development, cultural stimulation, and social interaction

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY

St. Patrick's Day celebrates the Roman Catholic feast day of the patron saint of Ireland. St. Patrick died on March 17, 461. But did you know that he wasn't even Irish? **Here are some facts about St. Patrick:**

Patrick's birthname was Maewyn. He was born in Roman Britain. He was kidnapped into slavery and brought to Ireland.

He escaped to a monastery in Gaul (France) and converted to Christianity. He went back to Ireland in 432 as a missionary. While Christianity had already taken hold in the country, tradition has it that Patrick confronted the Druids at Tara and abolished their pagan rites, making Christianity more widespread.

Patrick became a bishop and after his death was named Ireland's patron saint. Celebrations in Ireland were understated though. When the Irish emigrated to the U.S., they created the bigger celebrations and parades known today.

Eighteenth century Irish soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War held the first St. Patrick Day parades. The celebrations became a way for the Irish to connect with their roots after they moved to America.

### Fun Facts:

**The shamrock:** According to legend, St. Patrick used the three leaf clover (or shamrock) to explain the Trinity.

**Dyeing the river green:** The practice of dyeing the river green started in Chicago in 1962, when city officials decided to dye a portion of the Chicago River green.

**Corn beef and cabbage:** This is an Irish-American dish. Irish-Americans were so poor they could not afford certain meals. On St. Patrick's Day, the best meal they could afford was beef and cabbage. It became a staple for the holiday.

Georgia Public Radio



**OLLI Clubs and Activities Committee invites you to a game hour of Irish trivial pursuits and competition. Included in this celebration of all things Irish will be an assortment of special refreshments designed to please one's palate and make us all "Irish for a day." Members are encouraged to join in this festive celebration by the "wearing of the green."**

**OLLI Cafe, Room 119 - 12:15-1:30 PM**

