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BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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'The Sole Mates' dancing team features, from left, Danielle Enblom, Nicholas Yenson, and director/choreographer Kieran Jordan. Sean McComiskey on the accordion and Josh Dukes on flute and guitar fill out the unit that will be performing in Cambridge on Feb. 20.

Introducing 'The Sole Mates,' Free Spirits of Dance and Music New Ensemble to Perform in Cambridge Jan. 20

By BIR STAFF

Boston-based Irish dancer and choreographer Kieran Jordan will present her new collaboration, "The Sole Mates," for one night only this month before the group hits the road in March for an 11-gig tour of Germany and Switzerland.

Two performances will take place (6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.) on Sun., Feb. 20, at the Julie Ince Thompson Theatre at The Dance Complex, 536 Massachusetts Ave. in Central Square, Cambridge.

Audiences can expect live Irish music that is exuberant and robust, and free-spirited choreography that interprets the many moods and flavors of Irish dance.

Jordan toured Germany last March with husband-and-wife duo Matt and

A Comeback for Jordan

For Kieran Jordan, the two Cambridge performances on Feb. 20 with her new group, "The Sole Mates," will mark the first time in almost half a year that she will be physically able to perform.

Story, Page 14.

Shannon Heaton, two popular musicians based in Medford. The German agency, Magnetic Music, asked Jordan to return with her own ensemble featuring her brand of Irish dance. "I love improvisation," says Jordan. "My approach comes from sean-nós or 'old-style' Irish dance. This is neither the competitive Irish dance form nor the commercialized show-style. It's about finding your individual expression,

within the traditional music and steps. It's about dancing something very personal... no matter how that may be categorized among the academics and adjudicators of Irish dance."

Jordan's "dream team" of dancers and musicians includes accordion player Sean McComiskey from Baltimore, guitarist Josh Dukes from Washington, D.C., dancer and fiddler Danielle Enblom from Minneapolis, and dancer/choreographer Nicholas Yenson from New York. "People think this is crazy," says Jordan, "that I work with people who are scattered all over the US. And it certainly presents its challenges. But this is the nature of Irish music and dance today. There are many successful tour-

(Continued on page 14)

IMAGINE IRELAND ... IN BOSTON

Culture Ireland Sponsors Events At ArtsEmerson's Irish Festival

By R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

ArtsEmerson's highly anticipated Irish Festival kicks into full swing this month with an eclectic program of plays, readings, discussions, and films (see Calendar in this edition for full listing). Funding for two plays in the Festival – the Druid Theatre's "The Cripple of Inishmaan" and Abbey Theatre's "Terminus" – comes in part from Imagine Ireland, an initiative of Culture Ireland. Both productions will tour nationally following their Boston engagements.

To provide a bit of history, Culture Ireland was established in 2005 by Ireland's Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism as the state agency for the promotion of Irish arts worldwide. In March of 2009, Taoiseach Brian Cowen, requested that Culture Ireland mount a year-long strategic initiative, to be called Imagine Ireland, promoting Irish arts throughout the United States during 2011.

As a result, more than 1,000 Irish artists and producers will present more than 400 events in 200 cities across 40 states in a celebration of theater, music, literature, visual arts, dance, and film. The Irish government's investment in this unprecedented effort comes to \$5.2 million. The project was unveiled in New York last month by the newly named Cultural Ambassador for Ireland, Gabriel Byrne.

Eugene Downes has served as CEO of Culture Ireland since 2007. When he was in New York last month to participate in the announcement event at Lincoln Center (in the middle of a blizzard that was crippling the North-

(Continued on page 11)



Catherine Walker, Declan Conlon, Olwen Fouere in Abbey Theatre's "Terminus."

Photo: Courtesy ArtsEmerson

ArtsEmerson's Irish Festival Calendar

THEATER

"The Color of Rose" (world premiere; through Feb. 13) – A candid, dramatic reflection on matriarch Rose Kennedy as she revisits her past through the eyes of her youth and middle-age.

By Kathrine Bates, Paramount Center Black Box Theatre. Produced in association with the Department of Performing Arts at Emerson College.

"The Cripple of Inishmaan" (Feb. 2-6, Druid Theatre) – A quintessentially Irish comic masterpiece with eccentric island characters trading stories to within an inch of their lives while a young man tries to make sense of who he is.

By Martin McDonagh, Paramount Mainstage. Part of Imagine Ireland, Culture Ireland's year of Irish arts in America in 2011. Druid is grant-aided by the Arts Council of Ireland.

"Terminus" (Feb. 8-13, The Abbey Theatre) – Three actors present an incredible journey through a night of strange and fantastical occurrences in this dark work showing the raw and sometimes violent underside of Dublin life, using a rapid-fire and beautifully rhythmic poetry.

(Continued on page 12)

New Man for Fianna Fail

THE IRISH EMIGRANT

GALWAY– The big story at month's end was, of course, the election of former Minister for Foreign Affairs Micheál Martin as leader of Fianna Fáil. The changeover appeared to take place in a civilized manner with all the party's TDs pledging their support for the 50-year-old Cork politician, or else remaining silent. Brian Cowen continues as Taoiseach until his successor is ap-

See Joe Leary, Page 4

pointed after the election but the Fianna Fáil election campaign will be led by Martin. Election day will almost certainly be Feb. 25.

Then there was the matter of getting approval for the finance bill, which is part and parcel of the recovery deal with European banks. To this end, Fianna Fáil and the Green Party were at one, and once two Independents were given

a few more concessions they fell into line. The opposition parties, while saying they would facilitate the passage of the Bill, voted against it. They knew it was essential if the country was to retain any credibility, and they knew that if it wasn't passed by this Government then they most likely would have to pass it after the election. It all worked out well for them in the Bill that was approved over the last weekend.



BRIAN COWEN
Taoiseach loses a post

INSIDE

Ireland Fund's Greeley Hails Country's Promise

You can't be pessimistic about Ireland's future if you're hanging around Stephen Greeley, right, executive director of the American Ireland Fund.

Greg O'Brien profile, Page 6

Black 47's Larry Kirwan, has plenty of attachments to Boston – and very soon he'll have another.
Sean Smith interview, Page 9

Pictures and new exhibit news mark the 50th anniversary of John F. Kennedy's inauguration as president.
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"Mrs. O'Brien"

Vincent Crotty



Mrs. O'Brien Oil 8" x 10" 2005

Mrs. O'Brien, Oil 8" x 10, 2005

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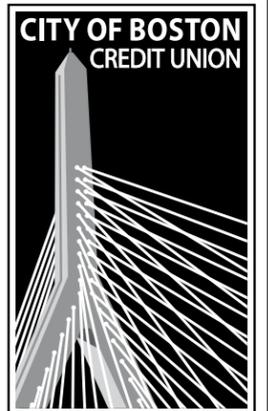
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*** Comes with choice of soup or salad.**

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ON THE TOWN WITH THE BIR

MCCA's Rooney Joins Convention Assn. Board

Jim Rooney, executive director of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, has been elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of the Professional Convention Management Association (PCMA),



the meeting and convention industry's most

significant and influential organization. Headquartered in Chicago, PCMA has 16 chapters throughout the United States and Canada. Rooney's appointment to the 20-member board was made at the 55th PCMA's annual meeting in Las Vegas. "It is indeed a personal

and professional honor to be appointed to the PCMA board," said Rooney. "But beyond that, holding a seat among my peers on the PCMA board reflects the

Commonwealth's and Boston's elevated status in the international convention and meeting industry. I pledge to represent our destination well." Rooney will be one of only three convention center executives on the 20-member board, sitting with convention center heads from Scotland and Hawaii.

"We are delighted that James Rooney will be joining the PCMA Board this year," said PCMA

president and CEO **Deborah Sexton**. "He brings a wealth of experience to the table and is well known in the meetings industry for his leadership and vision. He has been very active in PCMA,

participating in both the North American Advisory and CEO Summits, and we look forward to the contributions he will make in his role as a board member."

Sheila Gleeson Bids Adieu

Longtime immigrant activist **Sheila Gleeson** has stepped down from her post at the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers, and friends and supporters from the coalition, the Irish Immigration Center, and the Irish Pastoral Centre are planning a "Thank You Sheila" party on Feb. 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Green Briar Restaurant & Pub, 304 Washington St., Brighton. See related story in this edition's report from the IIC on page 8.

New Look at Neponset Circle

That new three-story building you may have seen rising last month along the Southeast Expressway at Neponset Circle is the work product of Norwood-born billboard advertising guy **John T. Carroll**. The project, called the Neponset Circle Professional Building, will house first floor retail space as well as executive and professional offices. Revealing his family's lineage in the West of Ireland, between Killary Harbour and Kilkieran Bay, Carroll is offering a month's free rent to prospective tenants with roots in Connemara. Contact him at 617-872-1777 or by e-mail at john@carrolladvertising.com.

ICC Seeking Volunteers

The Irish Cultural Centre has sent out word that it is recruiting additional committee members for the Centre's first Annual Charity Casino Night, now planned for May 21. "We potentially need about five more people to join the committee," says the ICC's Vanessa Leite. "This event will serve as one of this year's major fundraisers for the centre and will definitely be a fun-filled night with a Vegas style feel. If you are interested in being a part of the committee or need more details please e-mail me as soon as possible at vanessaleite@irishculture.org or call 781-821-8291."

Leite also will host a volunteer club meeting at the centre on Wed., Feb. 2, at 6:30 p.m. Attendees are asked to e-mail Jacqui Ryan at jryan@irishculture.org. Meanwhile, on Feb 19, the ICC will host a screening of the film "Michael Collins," part of its "Look Back Series." The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with appetizers, lecture, full buffet dinner and a screening of the movie. Tickets are \$25 for ICC members, \$30 general admission.

Irish-Look Design: Online Offer for Images

A specialized house sign and memorial company in the west of Ireland that makes unique Irish product by engraving Irish limestone with Celtic images and Irish themes has launched a website, skatwinen-graving.com, on which you can design your own or add text to pre-made images," says company owner **Patrick Tully**. "We also offer a free service where you can e-mail your ideas and we will help you make



Ireland Consul General to Boston Michael Lonergan greets Emerson College Executive Director for the Arts Robert J. Orchard during a January 20 preview event for the Imagine Ireland- Irish Festival now underway at Emerson's Paramount Theatre in Downtown Boston. The Irish Consulate together with the American Ireland Fund is supporting the visit of the Abbey Theatre and the Druid Theatre productions this month. Story, Page 1.

your own unique house sign or memorial and we will e-mail you back an image of your own unique sign to make sure you are happy before you order. "Our limestone is quarried in Kilkenny, Galway, Roscommon, and The Burren" says Tully, "then crafted in County Mayo. Irish history is rich with imagery ranging from Neolithic spirals found in Newgrange to intricate Celtic ornamentation and extraordinary manuscript like the book of Kells. We draw on these rich sources to design signs and plaques and other engraved products with authentic Irish character and pedigree.

Website Tracks

Munster Ancestors

A Kerry business is helping American families trace their Irish roots. Munster Ancestors is an online genealogical service that traces family history throughout Ireland. "We recently helped an American lady trace her roots and walk the very farmland her relatives had left during famine times," said Catriona Dunlea of Kerry, who, with Mary Howard and Rachel Foley, set up the site.

"We offer local knowledge and come from a strong oral tradition. Combining this with genealogical research and the Internet is what makes our service unique," said Howard, mentioning accessing census records, Griffiths valuation, church and civil records, townland maps, landlord records, tithe applotment books, and local journals as ways the trio uses a hands-on approach to delving into the past for their clients.

"Munsterancestors.com has been inundated with requests from Americans wanting to trace their Irish roots," said Foley. "Just provide us with some family background information and you may be surprised by the outcome."

Other Upcoming Events

ArtsEmerson's highly anticipated Irish Festival kicks into full swing this month with an eclectic program of plays, readings, discussions, and films. See stories and a calendar of events in this edition. ... The 12th annual Boston Irish Film Festival will take place next month, March 24-27. ... Cumann na Gaeilge i mBoston will be holding a Lá Gaeilge on Feb. 5 (Feb. 12 snow date) at Catholic Memorial High School, Baker Street, West Roxbury. ... The Boston North East Divisional Board (the governing board of the GAA in New England) will be holding its annual general meeting on Sun., Feb. 20, at 2 p.m. at the Irish Cultural Center in Canton. For more information, check bostongaa.org.

There will be a celebration of the Feast of St. Brigid of Ireland at Dorchester's St. Brendan Parish on Sun., Feb. 13 from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. All events will take place in Father Lane Hall. St. Brigid was born circa 450 AD at Faughart, Co. Louth. One of the country's patron saints, she is known as "The Mary of the Gael" and her feast day is Feb. 1, the first day of spring in Ireland and the beginning of Imbolc, one of the cornerstones of the Celtic calendar. Events will include a crafts workshop for children (1-3 p.m.), Mass at 3 p.m. celebrated by Rev. John McCarthy, chaplain at the Irish Pastoral Centre, and between 4 and 8 p.m., supper, refreshments, and a traditional ceili dance.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children, with Under 5's free. To get tickets in advance, call the Pastoral Centre at 1-855-479-2471, St. Brendan's Parish Center at 617-436-0310, or Maureen McNally at 781-871-1247. Proceeds will benefit the Pastoral Centre. The event is being organized by the IPC; C.A.R.E.; Cumann naGaeilge; CCE, Ceol trad na hEireann and friends; and LAOH.

KENNEDY LIBRARY FORUMS

February 2011

Ask What You Can Do For Your Country

Thursday, February 3,
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.



Alan Khazei, co-founder of City Year in Boston, discusses his new book, *Big Citizenship: How Pragmatic Idealism Can Bring Out The Best In America*, with David Gergen, a professor at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

Edmund Morris on Theodore Roosevelt

Sunday, February 6,
2:00 to 3:30 p.m.



Edmund Morris discusses the final volume of his trilogy, *Colonel Roosevelt*, chronicling the last ten years of Theodore Roosevelt's life, with Boston Globe writer, Mark Feeney.

Lyrics as Literature – In Partnership with PEN New England

Friday, February 11,
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.



Songwriter Paul Simon and Pulitzer Prize-winner for Poetry, Paul Muldoon, talk about how the art of writing lyrics is a form of literature with writer Bill Flanagan.

* This will be a ticketed event. Reservations limited to two per person.

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All forums are free and open to the public. To make a reservation, call 617-514-1643. You may also register on-line and check any updates to the schedule at www.jfklibrary.org. Reservations guarantee a seat in the building but not the main hall. Once the main hall is full, seating is in an overflow theater where the forum is streamed live. Doors to the main hall open one hour before the program begins.



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Publisher's Notebook

'Irish Hearts for Haiti' – Round Two

By ED FORRY

A group of local Irish Americans are gathering up again this year to host an afternoon of Irish music, dance, and merriment in April to raise funds to help victims of last year's earthquake in Haiti.

"Irish Hearts for Haiti" is chaired by Winnie Henry of Milton and Pat "Doc" Walsh of Dorchester, and they have gathered a committee to plan the day-long event, now set for the Quincy Marriott on Sun., April 3, from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

In an open letter seeking sponsors, the committee describes the mission:

"More than 12 months have passed since an earthquake devastated the country of Haiti. Living in an earthquake-ravaged country in the most impoverished country of the Western Hemisphere, Haitian children continue to bear unimaginable suffering and adversity. One year later, these children remain displaced and in need of housing, healthcare, and access to education.



Ed Forry

"Continuing to support agencies that provide care to these children is the aim of the second annual benefit dance for Haiti, 'Irish Hearts for Haiti.' The plight of many have been answered by the work of Friends of the Orphans and the Saint Rock Clinic; however, there is much more work to be done.

"The mission of the Friends of the Orphans is to care for orphaned, abandoned, and disabled children. Under the guidance of Father Rick Frechette, the national director and physician, Friends of the Orphans has expanded to meet the long-term demands of Haitian children. Through St. Damien's Premier Pediatric Hospital, brand-new orphanages and schools, child protection camps, cholera medical clinics, and other outreach programs, more than a million have been helped.

"This year we have also included the Saint Rock Haiti Foundation, an organization that parishioners at St. Agatha's in Milton have worked with for the past five years. The foundation provides healthcare, housing, and education to the children of the rural mountain village of St. Rick in Haiti. Through the decades-long work of its founder, Ralph Stowe of Hull, this organization has improved the lives of many children and continues to do with with volunteer support.

"At last year's event over 700 people participated from all over the South Shore and greater Boston area. If your organization would like to provide sponsorship we would be ever grateful.

"Several bands will provide entertainment including Erin's Melody, the Andy Healey band, Kevin Doherty, Noel Henry's Irish showband and Brendan Bulger and friends. The event will also feature dancers from the Harney Academy of Irish step dancing and the Quinn Academy of Irish step dancing as well as a silent auction and raffle prizes. Please mark this date on your calendar and help us to help them by spreading the word to your family and friends."

Last year, the first event raised more than \$50,000, and it is hoped that goal will be exceeded this April. You can reach the committee by phone at 617-696-8585 and 617-298-8220; online at irishheartsforhaiti.com.

Commentary

Ireland's Political Upheaval Foretells New Beginning

By JOE LEARY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Whether it was the fault of Ireland's unscrupulous bankers, greed-driven businessmen, or incompetent politicians, the country is now experiencing a traumatic collapse of its ruling government.

Prime Minister Brian Cowen and Ireland's ruling political party, Fianna Fail, have lost the confidence of the people and new elections in late February or early March are expected to bring a complete change of leadership and, ideally, a new sense of hope to the citizenry.



Joe Leary

Ever since Ireland's severe economic problems became evident three years ago, Fianna Fail and Cowen have come under intense criticism for their handling of the crisis. Naturally, many of the attacks came from opposing political parties seeking to take advantage of the situation,

but they have had their effect: Newspapers report polls placing the party's approval rating at just 14 percent.

The deep recession seems to have affected some nations more than others. In Ireland, the major problem appears to be the banking system and the lending of funds they didn't have to businesses that were unable to pay them back. The banks in turn borrowed the funds from European banks that became very nervous when repayment looked doubtful. The Irish government, fearing a run on the banks (which had already begun,) decided to guarantee all bank loans, thereby causing much of the country's current indebtedness.

In order to stay solvent, the government borrowed 85 billion euro from the European Central Bank, thereby committing Ireland to reforming its system and disciplining its banks. The Europeans, of course, were protecting their own banks, which had loaned the funds to Irish banks.

Opposing politicians called these commitments "a loss of sovereignty" and loudly criticized Cowen and his finance minister, Brian Lenihan. In retrospect, the bank bailout in Ireland was probably the start of the government's downfall.

But a lot more is wrong in Irish society. The recession has hit hard. Many families are suffering, and unemployment is at near 14 percent, the highest in years. Emigration to Canada, Australia, and the United States has increased for the first time in many years. Tourism in Ireland is at a 12-year low. The systems delivering water to homes, hospitals, and offices are frequently breaking down. In some parts of the country, including counties Louth and Clare, suicides are more numerous than automobile fatalities. Aer Lingus is facing daily disruptions of service due to labor problems caused by cost-cutting efforts. And, unfortunately, the Catholic Church has been so damaged that few people – almost no young people – are finding solace within the walls of its churches.

Off the Bench

Reflections on Love, the Ultimate Virtue

By JAMES W. DOLAN
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Love is the all-encompassing virtue. Yet in our culture it is corrupted, distorted, and debased. Emphasis is placed on the self rather than the other. Self-absorption and self-seeking replace the essential generosity or selflessness that are so much a part of what love really means.

For love is giving not taking, caring not being cared for, sacrifice not selfishness, and forgiveness not anger. It knows when to overlook, ignore, and understand things that offend.

It places the happiness of others ahead of our own. It is the sacrifice of parents caring for a disabled child or the joy of a family gathering.

Love is more readily manifested in the helping professions: doctors, nurses, teachers, social workers, firefighters, EMTs, police officers, and members of the Coast Guard, jobs where people help those in need.

It is less apparent in a culture consumed by consumption; where developing and selling new things are the measures of economic success. Advertisers promote the accumulation of stuff as principal signs of success and a measure of self-esteem.

The greed upon which capitalism is based demands production to fuel consumption, and generating profits to repeat a cycle that goes far beyond what is necessary or beneficial. Advertising is the nervous system of capitalism, stimulating desire and creating a need for more and more stuff.

Love of things, a form of self-love, replaces love of others. We are a society consumed with the love of what is new, high tech, pleasurable and attractive, regardless of how shallow, unfulfilling, and harmful they may be.

It is a celebrity culture where often those who represent the fulfillment of our worst impulses are treated as icons, false idols in a world where the glorification of self is sold as an ideal. It's what you have and how you look that truly matters.

Love is tolerance, understanding, and sacrifice. In politics it is a commitment to the common good rather than the promotion of special interests, including that

Then came the devastating revelation that Cowen had played golf with Sean Fitzpatrick, chairman of Anglo Irish Bank – a bank that is considered one of the most serious examples of financial malfeasance. Cowen denied talking about the loan problems, but the people either did not believe him or were amazed by his lack of judgment. He lost any semblance of credibility.

Cowen's majority in the Irish Parliament was already in jeopardy as he faced sponsoring a finance bill through Parliament in order to formalize the agreement with the European banks. By the middle of January, many in his own party were calling for his resignation. He refused, and barely survived a party confidence vote, but on Jan. 22, he announced he would resign – just after six of his ministers had resigned, many saying they would not run again.

In late January, as this column is being written, Cowen remains as Ireland's prime minister but not the leader of his party, moving one reporter to ask him, "How can you run the country when you can't run your own political party?"

Fianna Fail has elected as its new party leader Micheal Martin, a 51-year-old Cork man who represented Cork South Central from 1989. He has been foreign minister under Cowen since 2008.

It is apparent that once the European banks' finance bill is passed, the current Parliament will be dissolved and new elections will be called, probably for late February.

Martin has a very tough fight on his hands in order to make a respectable showing in the election. He has already challenged opposing leaders to debates and added new energy to his party. At last count, Fianna Fail had 72 members in Parliament. Some guess that the party will have no more than 30 seats after the count is in on the upcoming vote. It should be remembered that Fianna Fail has been Ireland's largest political party for many years; it may be a bit early to count them out completely.

If, as expected, Fine Gael wins the most seats, that party will form a new government in coalition with Labour. The latest newspaper polls (before Martin's election as Fianna Fail leader) show Fine Gael with 35 percent, Labour with 21 percent, Fianna Fail with 14 percent, and Sinn Fein with 14 percent. Coalition governments are always difficult to manage. In this case, Enda Kenny, the leader of Fine Gael, is a controversial figure and will be tested if he becomes prime minister as is currently anticipated.

Nearly 40 of Parliament's 166 members are not running for re-election, including former prime minister Bertie Ahern, and about half of those are Fianna Fail members who can easily see the handwriting on the wall.

Whatever the result, the elections will offer a new start for Ireland. The upcoming campaign will be very interesting, and the weeks and months following will be a great opportunity for the country to solve its major problems. The world's recession seems to be fading, and with all its infrastructure in place, its financial problems addressed with the European loan, and many painful lessons behind them, Ireland and its new leadership should succeed.

most common of special interests – one's own self-interest. The temptation to confuse self interest with the common good contributes to political dysfunction.

The common good requires a keen awareness of the easily overlooked: the poor, sick, disabled, and homeless. How we treat the vulnerable is an important measure of our love. Love is not something you earn; it is a gift, and all the more precious when given to those who need it rather than deserve it.

Slavery was an example of the absence of love among those who professed Christian virtues. The need for cheap labor – what they would have termed economic necessity – prompted the southern gentry to ignore a fundamental teaching of their religion: "Love thy neighbor." They did so by dehumanizing an entire race.

In the absence of love, there's a void, with indifference at one extreme and hate at the other. While most of us are able to recognize and avoid hate, it is easy to slide into indifference. Hate is more intense and may lead to violence, but indifference can have the same effect because it says: "I don't care."

It is easy to love those we respect and admire. But what of those we do not respect, or even like? First, you look for some quality that is worthy of respect; most have at least one or more redeeming virtues. Absent that, you love them for your shared humanity with all its flaws. Love is obviously a matter of degree – you love some more than others.

As a verb, love is often hard work, so much more than the romance, glamor and sex that seem to define it in our culture. Given that context, the use of the word may make people uncomfortable and inclined to restrict it to home, family, and friends.

Perhaps it is easier to think of it as caring for others. There doesn't appear to be enough of that around these days. Care is misplaced by those principally charged with protecting the common good who are more interested in the special interests of the few than in the well-being of the many.

James W. Dolan is a retired Dorchester District Court judge who now practices law at Dolan Connolly.

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Mary C. Forry, President (1983-2004)

Edward W. Forry, Publisher

Thomas F. Mulvoy Jr., Managing Editor

William P. Forry, Contributing Editor

Peter F. Stevens, Contributing Editor

News Room: (617) 436-1222 Ads: (617) 436-1222

Fax: (617) 825-5516 news@bostonirish.comOn The Web at www.bostonirish.com

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Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By **BILL O'DONNELL**

Kennedy 'History' Series Deserved Axe – The History Channel produced and planned to air an expensive TV miniseries allegedly depicting the Kennedy family saga, which, after considerable controversy about the accuracy of its content, the cable channel killed. The *Boston Globe* has charged the Kennedy family and influential allies with “overstepping their bounds in strong-arming the History Channel into abandoning the show.” What patent rubbish. There have been countless Kennedy TV docu-dramas broadcast; many have included totally fictional scenes and dialogue yet they have run despite the disapproval of the Kennedys and their friends.



Bill O'Donnell

There are lingering, substantial reasons to look anew at the entire genre of the “based on fact” television and film output. The finished product begins with actual people (generally famous) and purports to deliver the facts of an event or life story in dramatic style. The real problem, inherent in this type of treatment, is that the “drama” frequently features fictional dialogue, meetings that never took place, and imagined events added to the narrative purely for its audience-grabbing sensationalism. Do the docu-drama producers have a right to do that. Apparently they do; it's virtually impossible today to libel or slander a public figure in America.

Filmmaker **Oliver Stone** has become hugely successful mixing fact with history, real lives with imagined scenarios. His “JFK” movie fantasy about skeptical New Orleans district attorney **Jim Garrison** and his conspiracy theories is well-crafted but fictional, yet an entire generation of 1990's thirty-somethings, confusing a good story for history, continue to cling to their own movie-version “facts” of JFK's assassination. They've been “Oliver Stoned.”

In the latest Kennedy “made for TV” version there is ample reason to justify the History Channel's axing the miniseries. Reports suggest that there are serious over-the-line questions about dramatic license and documented fact, and historians brought in by the series producers condemned the early script; later, **Robert Dallek**, author of arguably the best biography of JFK, “An Unfinished Life: John F. Kennedy, 1917-1963,” and **Steven Gillon**, the resident historian of the History Channel, had recommendations for changes. Some were taken, others were not. The *New York Times* said that “neither Mr. Dallek nor Mr. Gillon felt the miniseries met History's standards.” The respected journalist **Richard Reeves** said a number of events shown in the miniseries most likely never occurred. The late **Ted Sorensen** called the script he had seen “vindictive and malicious.”

It seems to me that families, loved ones and, colleagues who have problems with the way the entertainment media jazz up a televised life story, often replacing mundane meetings and pro forma conversations with high-octane fiction, have a right to inquire, criticize, and seek changes and, if necessary, to demand truth in the telling of the story. And this would seem to apply, yes, even to the family of the late president.

Who Is The Greenest Of All? – If you asked the US Census Bureau which city or town in Massachusetts, or maybe in the entire United States, is the Greenest, the clear answer is Scituate, the seaside community often called the Irish Riviera. Today in Scituate one out of every two citizens, almost 50 percent, claim Irish ancestry, which is likely the highest percentage in the country. Some 16 communities south of Boston lead the pack in their green connection. Among the leaders in Irish population following Scituate are Marshfield, Braintree, Hull, Milton, Pembroke, Hanover, Whitman, and Weymouth. Others in the top sixteen tier are Walpole, Duxbury, Holbrook, Norwell, Avon, and Boston.

In Boston, one out of six trace their roots to Ireland and in the Bay State itself, close to one-quarter of the state's population (23.7) claim Irish heritage.

Back in the 1950s the popular consensus would likely have focused on spots like South Boston and West Roxbury leading the Irish population parade, but that's no longer true in Southie, although West Roxbury still maintains a large but aging Irish population.

Ten Days That Changed Irish Politics – For Ireland's leading political party, Fianna Fail, the recent upheaval in Dail Eireann is a body blow that will effectively for the near future immutably change the political dynamic in the Republic. The Soldiers of Destiny have been the senior coalition partner in government since 1987. More recently **Bertie Ahern** and his handpicked successor, **Brian Cowen**, have led Fianna Fail and the Irish government as senior coalition partners with the Progressive Democrats, Labour, and, most recently, with the Green Party.

All that has come crashing down with the very public political humiliation of the current Taoiseach, Mr. Cowen. First, an inescapable part of the shift in political power came with the financial bailout (over \$100 billion) by the IMF and the European Union. The public and many politicians were asking why there was such a lack of warning of the impending banking disasters by the FF-led government. Others were asking why the Irish government under Cowen and **Brian Linehan** as finance minister had guaranteed to make the erring Irish banks completely whole, relying not on bond holders or bank debtors but Irish ratepayers. Added to this was the Cowen-Linehan budget mandating the most stringent cost-saving measures in Irish history. The beleaguered Cowen had until mid-January fought to stay in power and pledged to lead his Fianna Fail party into a March election. Then came the resignations of senior cabinet members (fresh faces for the upcoming election?), a falling out with coalition partner, the Green Party, Cowen's resignation as party leader, a walkout by the six Green Party Dail members, including ministers and, for the moment in this fast-moving scenario, a caretaker government, and a snap general election now newly set for this month.

Brian Cowen is a decent man, buffeted and badly bruised by the financial collapse and bailout. The same could well be said for Finance Minister Linehan struggling quietly with cancer. Cowen was considered a bright, knowledgeable finance minister in the Ahern government and was one of the better prepared ministers when he assumed the role of Taoiseach. But all that is gone.

The challenge now is to elect a new coalition, quite possibly Fine Gael and Labour. It seems unlikely that either of those two poll-leading parties will be able to attract enough support to lead government alone. Fianna Fail's election job is simply to try to survive the political tsunami and stay alive politically, albeit far out of power, and look to better days down the road.

Mixed Signals From Orange Order – The North's Orange Order has been making sounds in recent months that could be construed as reaching out to the Republic and border counties, looking to become a benign tourist attraction and Northern cash cow. There has even been talk of turning the exclusivist July 12 holiday/cum parade day into a major marketing campaign in the North. The twelfth is traditionally a holiday out of town for many Belfast Catholics and the bonfires on the eve attract few nationalists. But with a new Grand Master and an eye on attracting tourists, the old Order is looking to freshen up its act.

All this amity and good fellowship, however, has been tempered recently by the words of the new Grand Master, **Edward Stevenson**, a dairy farmer from a rural village near Strabane. Former Sinn Fein Belfast Mayor and assembly member **Alex Maskey** has offered to meet with Stevenson and other Orange Order members, but the Orange leader is having none of it.

In reply to Maskey, Stevenson said, “Sinn Fein carry a lot of baggage as far as the Orange Order is concerned ... as the situation is at the moment we will not be meeting with Sinn Fein.” Stevenson also said the policies of the Orangemen on parades, a continuing source of dispute, would not change.

Maskey, an assassination target as

a city councillor, had a good run as a gregarious Belfast mayor and is sincere in trying to find common ground if such exists in the contentious North today. But, as always, it takes two.

Did You Know ... That an Irish American priest and native son of Cambridge, Massachusetts, **Father James Walsh**, co-founded the Maryknoll Missionary Society with **Father Thomas Price** in 1911? The two priests met first in 1910 and later traveled to Rome where they met with **Pope Pius X** and gained permission to found the foreign mission society, which celebrates its centenary this year.

Maryknoll, the US-based Catholic missionary movement includes the Maryknoll Society of Fathers & Brothers; the Maryknoll Congregation of Sisters, the lay missionaries, and the Maryknoll affiliates. The Maryknolls currently serve in 39 countries worldwide.

The Queen Is Coming, The Queen Is Coming – It appears that **Queen Elizabeth** is going to visit the Republic of Ireland this year sometime before President **Mary McAleese's** term ends in late 2011. The royal visit will take place once the election has been sorted out and a new Irish government and Taoiseach are in place.

There have been the usual low key rumblings from Irish republicans and some nationalists about the visit, but with an eye towards a tourism boost, and vastly improved relations with the British, including strong trade arrangements between the two countries, there seem few obstacles to the queen's state visit.

Meanwhile, what has been termed by some as an “awkward diplomatic moment” occurred last month when the North's Deputy First Minister, **Martin McGuinness**, publicly criticized the queen. McGuinness said he “would not be enamored by a visit from the queen of England.” He added that he was looking for an apology, pointing out that the “British royal family are colonels in chief of the Parachute Regiment” and he had not heard the queen nor any of her sons say anything about the murder of 14 people on the streets of Derry.

The Glass House cliché reflexively springs to mind when assessing the McGuinness statement. **Gregory Campbell**, who rarely misses a chance to touch up Sinn Fein's IRA veterans, noted that McGuinness (an IRA commander in Derry during the Conflict), has never publicly apologized for his involvement in a “failed campaign of violence.”

And there it sits – McGuinness accused of hypocrisy, and Campbell, eternally embittered at the Irish republican campaign of violence, only too happy to attach the “failed” tag to Sinn Fein/IRA's positive role in the peace process.

Grand Night For Irish Theatre and John B. – Some 45 years since it debut in Dublin, **John B. Keane's** harsh, iconic play, “The Field,” returned to Dublin's Olympia Theatre stage with veteran American actor **Brian Dennehy** as Bull McCabe. In the original production in 1965 of Keane's most honored play, the marvelous **Ray McAnally** was Bull and John B's brother **Eamon** played “The Bird” O'Donnell.

Sharing in the nostalgia and joy of a theatrical opening night to remember in this new year the Keane family was there some 44 strong, although John B. and his brother had died. **Mary Keane**, who often shared bar duty with her late husband at Keane's pub in Listowel, was there with her three sons and daughter **Joanne**, and John B's only surviving brother, **Dennis**.

It is impressive to recall that Keane's “The Field” has had three superb actors play Bull McCabe. First in 1965 was the legendary McAnally (he played **Cristy Brown's** father in “My Left Foot”). In 1990, it was **Richard Harris** in perhaps his finest movie role, and the newest production just last month with the much honored Hollywood and stage veteran **Dennehy**.

An Overdue Mea Culpa to a Fine Public Servant – Former state Sen. **Marian Walsh** got herself in a political firefight in 2009 when she was offered and accepted a highly paid state administrative job from Governor **Deval Patrick**. It was an awful lot of money for a state position that had gone unfilled for several years but Senator Walsh, a lawyer with four degrees including a

masters from Harvard Divinity School, had the background and the political smarts for the job. To cut to the chase, Walsh got chewed up by the media and withdrew her name for the job.

A few words about her: While an administrator with the Suffolk County DA's office, she established the Victim/Witness Assistance Program, the first full-time organized crime division, and the Homicide Response Team. Later she served 16 years as a legislator (assistant majority leader) and was assistant director of government relations for the Mass Medical Society. And she has taught at three local universities.

As a senator she championed a number of controversial issues; she was the only state legislator to call for Cardinal Law to resign; she came out strongly for opening the books of the Archdiocese; she made the case for fairness for gays in a staunchly conservative district; and she was the only senator to vote against corporate welfare for Fidelity, Raytheon, and the Red Sox.

This is a woman of substance and courage. I am sorry that from my quiet corner of the local press, I failed to speak out, failed to write something good when I had the chance to while the Boston media was beating her up. She deserved better. Thank you to the *Globe's* **Joan Vennoch** for reminding me of that.

RANDOM JOTTINGS

There is growing consensus among unionists and nationalists that the St. Patrick's Day holiday should become a holiday in the North, making it an All-Ireland celebration. ... Get used to H-Blocks The Museum as the British government has asked the EU for \$30 million to develop the site. ... Petrol in Ireland, or gasoline as we call it, is selling around \$8 an imperial gallon, which holds 20 percent more than our gallon (do the math). ... There will be more later but the JFK Library & Museum has launched the first online presidential archive, which means you and I now get to see it online. ... The Irish Department of Finance in February 2008 ruled out a blanket bank guarantee but Cowen and Linehan issued the blank check guarantee anyway. ... Looking up: the Presbyterian moderator and GAA officials held an historic first meeting to look towards a shared future. ... **Gerard Kilcommins**, newly elected chief of the US Chamber in Ireland, is hoping that Ireland can rebuild its reputation following the bailout. ... There is a new delay in ordering a “public” inquiry into the 1989 murder of **Pat Finucane**, but the late lawyer's family is hopeful.

Ryanair, the famous Irish cheapo airline, carried over 72 million passengers in 2010 and had a 82 percent load factor. ... The 32-county sovereignty movement is sadly still trying to win hearts and minds for Irish unity with bombs and bullets. ... Good news for the punters: Irish ministers who are retiring this politically disastrous year have to pay taxes on their pension excess. ... The Irish Catholic Church is looking for a self-styled “revolution” that will spread religious teaching back into homes and parishes. ... The Irish birth rate is the highest in the 27-member European Union at 17 per thousand. ...

Bay State Congressman **Richie Neal**, the outgoing chairman of the Friends of Ireland, is the Irish Echo's Irish American of the Year. ... The Irish government has been steadfast in blaming Sinn Fein/IRA for the famous \$50 million heist at the Northern Bank in 2004. ... Salon, one of the classier blogs and well-wired, is saying that U.S. Sen. **Scott Brown** may be the target of a Tea Party campaign against him and the teaPs might back a more right wing candidate in the Republican primary. ... A huge problem in Belfast these days, police admit, is the abuse of prescription drugs, especially among the younger set. ... Has **John McCain** got a good grip on his personal luggage? Late last month he suggested with a straight face his 2008 campaign trail mate, **Joe Lieberman**, for Secretary of Defense. Is it the desert heat? ... Junketeer extraordinary and newly resigned Irish Minister of Health **Mary Harney** left her cushy health portfolio whining, casting herself as some sort of an overworked victim while hundreds of patients still waited on gurneys in hospital corridors. Don't let the door hit you in the fanny on your way out, Mary.

To Greeley of the American Ireland Fund, the Old Country is Ever a Land of Promise

BY GREG O'BRIEN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

For an island nation blessed with remarkable beauty in its pastoral landscape and its precocious people, a literary history that boasts some of the world's finest writers, poets and playwrights, a stirring, serpentine coastline crafted by the right hand of God, a Celtic culture that resonates throughout the globe, and a collective, abiding faith that makes Michael the Archangel look like a slacker, the year 2011 doesn't present a pretty picture.

Ireland is in a world of hurt: Government debt totals 64 percent of the country's GNP; the unemployment rate is the second highest in Europe at close to 15 percent; 76,000 children are living in poverty; 6,000 people are homeless, a number that has tripled in the last decade; 20 percent of Irish charities face closure; and more than 100,000 people are projected to leave in the next 18 months in search of work, an outflow proportionately not far off the mark when 250,000 emigrated in a single year during the height of the Great Famine some 160 years ago.

So why are the Irish eyes of Stephen Anacletus Greeley smiling?

The cerebral executive director of the Boston-based American Ireland Fund is buoyant about Ireland's promise for the future. Working closely with the worldwide parent organization, The Ireland Funds, Greeley has embarked with his colleagues on an international campaign, called Promising Ireland, to raise \$100 million by December 2013 for charities across the country. The push began quietly in 2009, and 40 percent of the goal has been met.

"The energy and dogged determination of the Irish and those of Irish descent is inspiring," says Greeley, a consummate Irishman who wears green on his sleeve. It's part of the job description. Raised in Somerville, the Harvard Law School graduate lives in Scituate, the so-called "Irish Riviera," where 46 percent of the population claim Celtic roots. He is now intent on harnessing the Irish Diaspora—80 million strong throughout the world—to give back "to the land of their ancestry in meaningful ways."

"I really believe those of Irish descent

have an imbedded computer chip that gets activated in different ways," he says. "But once activated, it's hard to turn off—an immersion in the Irish culture and its fine art, literature, music, and, of course, those visits to Ireland. What I try to do every day is activate more of those chips."

Hardly a geek, Greeley, 58, is more of an architect, a cultural engineer of sorts who helps coordinate the "largest network of people of Irish ancestry and friends of Ireland dedicated to raising funds to support programs of peace and reconciliation, arts and culture, education and community development throughout the island of Ireland," north and south. The organization also assists disadvantaged youth and cares for the "forgotten Irish," as the American Ireland Fund proclaims in its mission statement.

With chapters in Boston, New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Palm Beach, San Diego, and San Francisco, the American Ireland Fund has helped to raise more than \$350 million in the past 30 years to advance the work of more than 1,200 organizations assisting those in need, "untouched," says Greeley, "by the long-gone Celtic Tiger."

An integral part of The Ireland Funds—with chapters in 12 countries, including Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Japan, Monaco, New Zealand, Singapore, and the United States—the American Ireland Fund hosts fundraisers, seminars, and events, like the Irish gala held on Cape Cod last summer at Ocean Edge Resort and Golf Club in Brewster, hosted by American Ireland Fund National Director Joe Corcoran, Chairman of Corcoran Jennison Companies. The Boston Dinner Gala, with a sold-out attendance of 1,100, raised \$2.1 million in November. In the last two and a half years, the American Ireland Fund has provided more than \$500,000 in local funding to greater Boston area organizations, like the Irish Pastoral Centre and the Irish Immigration Center.

Now how did Greeley, an inner-city Somerville kid in the late Tip O'Neill's district, make his way to the fore of one



Stephen Greeley

of the nation's most prestigious Irish-American fund-raising organizations? Luck of the Irish, he says. Others would argue that Greeley's reputation as a highly motivated analytical thinker preceded him.

Such resolve sprang generations ago from the homeland. With paternal and maternal stock in Galway, Kerry, and Cork, Greeley, a third generation member and one of six siblings, is the son of a career Veterans Administration worker and a junior high school secretary who sold wedding gowns at night at the Mary Burns Bridal company in Boston, where many Irish girls purchased their wedding attire. Greeley's gritty maternal grandmother, Anne Dwyer, walked with perseverance and pride two miles a day from East Cambridge to Harvard where she cleaned rooms and restrooms in the resident halls. "I never forgot those stories; they motivated me," says Greeley.

Humble pie, love of Ireland, respect for others, and a pursuit of the best education possible were hallmarks of the Greeley household, a modest but impressive (in a Somerville way) home on Westwood Road with 18-foot-high ceilings. The single-family home was the embodiment of his mother Dolly's (Marie Dwyer) personal ambition. Greeley's father, "a hot ticket," as his son calls him, worked several side jobs to pay the mortgage and feed a growing family—two boys and four girls. Stephen, the third of six, never suffered from middle-child syndrome; insecurity and underachievement were simply anathema to him.

"My parents (now deceased) were strict, and taught us to respect one another and to honor authority," he recalls. "They were loving, fun, strong-willed and practiced great discipline—traits passed down to their children. They allowed us a certain amount of freedom, given they were both working, with the caveat of never embarrassing the family." Like Vegas, what happened in the Greeley household stayed there.

Greeley's dad was from central casting of his era: an usher at Mass, an active member of the Holy Name Society in Saint Catherine's of Genoa Parish; and an avid member of the American Legion in the post-war days of the Greatest Generation. His mother was "quintessential Irish," a gifted piano player who opened her blue-collar home to neighborhood gatherings of Irish music.

"Everyone knew my mother in the neighborhood and at work," Greeley said from an interview at his Congress Street office. "She was an ever-strong Irish mother, who exercised great authority, and it wasn't until her retirement party that I realized she wasn't principal of Southern Junior High School. We all thought she was."

Both parents instilled a gut commitment to Ireland in their children. "My Mom, for example, wrote checks each month to Irish missionary groups when there wasn't much free cash in the house," said Greeley. "That's how we were raised, a tremendous pride in the Irish."

Greeley also had innate pride and self-discipline as he raised the bar in his own life. After graduating with honors from parochial Matignon High School in Cambridge, he didn't take the brass ring—a full academic boat to Boston College. Instead, he accepted a post-graduate year at Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire "to refine my academics," then attended Penn as a political science and urban studies major, graduating magna cum laude, a Phi Beta Kappa member, and president of his senior class. Most young men at

that point would have declared victory and headed to Disneyworld, but Greeley pressed on to Harvard Law School because the Yankee bastion was simply the best, and Grandmother Dwyer would have been proud.

Loyalty—to family, friends, the Irish—has been the coin of Greeley's life. For example, he chose Anacletus as his Confirmation name—it's the male variant of the name of his elementary school principal, a nun in the order of the Sisters of St. Joseph whom he greatly admired. Anacletus was the third pope, successor St. Peter and St. Linus, and the name, common to ancient Greek slaves, means "blameless." All of which is perhaps too much information, as actor Jon Lovitz might say, but yet a window into Greeley's young personality at a time when most of us were more concerned about whether Jimmy Piersall would be an All Star.

Throughout his life, Greeley has had presidential aspirations, at least in grammar school (as he calls it), high school, and college, where he served as president at each level. He also had a "toe in the water" approach to politics.

"It wasn't the craft of being a lawyer that appealed to me; it was a potential means to an end in the noble profession of politics and public service," he recalls. "And going to Harvard would distinguish me from others in the field. I even fantasized at one point of replacing Tip in Congress when he stepped down. I thought Harvard Law School was the way to get there."

An avid reader, Greeley must have pondered Robert Frost's poem, The Road Not Taken. Thus he set out on a 29-year career as a commercial real estate attorney in Boston and ultimately became a partner in the firm of Carolan, Greeley, Shea & Machado. Never one to over-contemplate what he wanted to do when he grew up, and busy with the rigors of professional life and fatherhood, he received a phone call in 2008 asking if he would consider an appointment as executive director of the American Ireland Fund. He was the hands-down choice. No need for a national search. "It caught my interest," he said. "I felt at home."

Greeley and his wife Jan (Reilly), a special needs para-professional tutor in Scituate, have five children who give generational definition to overachieving: Stephen, 30, now a scout for the Los Angeles Kings of the NHL, was a Boston University hockey star and a former minor league player; Jack, 27, an Amherst College graduate who captained the hockey team, works at Merrill Lynch in institutional European equity sales; Michael, 25, is a Boston College grad who started the school's club hockey team (which his father still coaches) and now works as a broker in investment sales for Cushman & Wakefield in Boston; Tommy, 23, who graduated from BC last June, works for a Boston-area healthcare company that values the financials of assisted living projects throughout the country; and Megan, 17, is a junior at Thayer Academy in Braintree which all the Greeley children attended. She just returned from Washington, D.C., where she worked as a congressional page for the Democrats' side of the House of Representatives and was assigned to the cloakroom—"where all the work gets done and the deals are made," her proud father says.

So what does Stephen Anacletus Greeley want to be when he grows up? He's not growing up, thank you. He's fully reinforced and satisfied as a doting husband (he asked me to say that), a successful father, a community leader, a hockey coach (he freely concedes that his play as a youth was not at his sons' levels), and the Boston face of a worldwide effort to support worthy Irish causes, a strong Gaelic economy, and peace and Irish reconciliation.

Yes, Stephen Greeley is smiling because he knows the Irish will triumph. And you don't have to check history on that; just look into his Irish eyes.

Greg O'Brien is editor and president of Stony Brook Group, a publishing and political consulting company based in Brewster, the author/editor of several books, and a contributor to regional and national publications.

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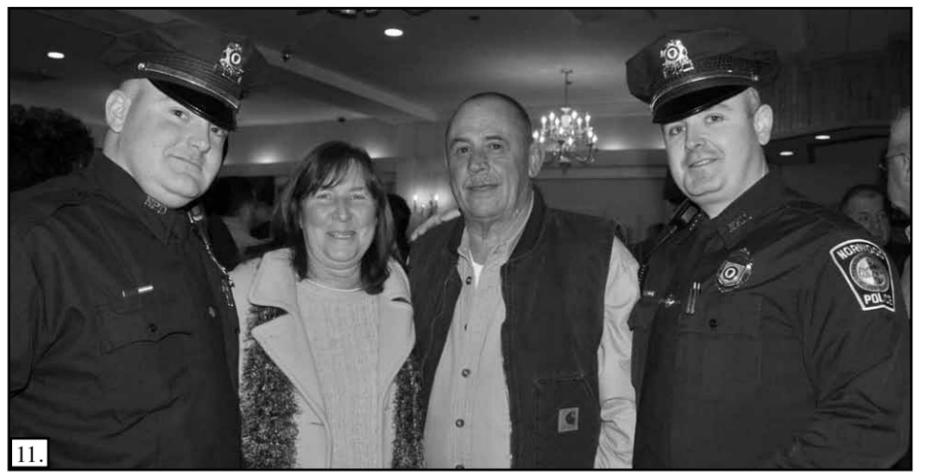
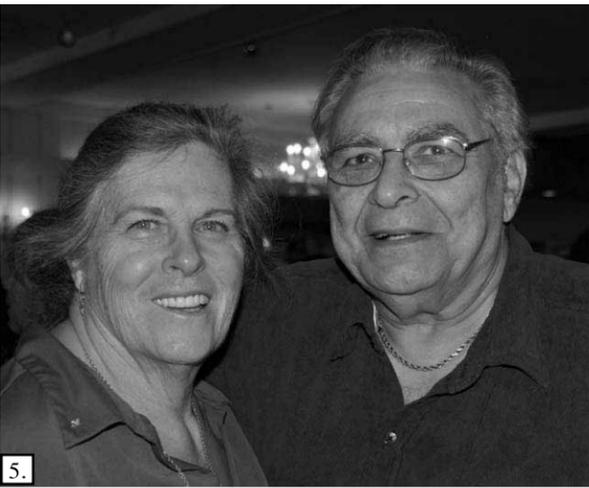
BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett

Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

Two Norwood brothers, both US Marines, were wounded in action, and each is now recovering from their wounds. Sgt. Carl S. Brady, serving in Afghanistan, had a leg amputated, while his brother, Sgt. Craig S. Brady, suffered traumatic brain injuries from fighting in Iraq. On Jan. 22, the Norwood Military Family Support Group hosted a benefit for the family at Concannon's Village. All funds raised will be donated to the Brady Family to help defray the costs for their parents, Bob and Diane Brady, to visit them as they recover, Carl at Camp Lejeune, NC, and Craig at Walter Reed Army Hospital.

1.) Nate and Linda Puzey with mom Ana; Maureen Brady (grandmother of Marines) all of Norwood; Sheila Campbell, Braintree; 2.) Kelly and Don Fay, Billerica; 3.) Mike and Donna Cunningham, Norwood; 4.) Jack and Jean Taylor, Norwood; 5.) Reana Chappell and Larry Rubin, Walpole; 6.) Bob and Diane Brady, Norwood; 7.) Kathy Arthur, Paul McGee and Mary Noble, all of Norwood; 8.) Russ Watson, Marine Corps League, Norwood; 9.) Chris Drummey and Jeff Mahoney, both of Norwood; 10.) Elizabeth, Tom and son Trevor Carroll, Norwood; 11.) Joe Reen, Susan and Larry Lopes; Brian Riley, all of Norwood; 12.) Diane Rodger, Kate Curran and Deb Curran, all of Norwood; 13.) Daniel Drummey, Norwood; Thomas Sharkey, Mattapan; Kevin Roach, Norwood; Jimmy Grover, Boulder, Co.



NOTES FROM THE IRISH IMMIGRATION CENTER

An agency accredited by US Department of Justice



100 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110

Telephone (617) 542-7654 Fax (617) 542-7655

Website: iicenter.org Email: immigration@iicenter.org

Congratulations and Thanks to Sheila Gleeson, a True Advocate for Irish Immigrants in the US.

We would like to take a moment to thank and congratulate Sheila Gleeson, who has recently stepped down as Executive Director of the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers (CIIC).

The CIIC is a national umbrella organization of Irish immigration centers across the US, including the IIC and the Irish Pastoral Centre. Established in 1996, the CIIC works to advance the welfare of Irish immigrants at the national level, and Sheila excelled in promoting its mission during her tenure as Executive Director.

We have a special place in our hearts for Sheila. Prior to her work at CIIC, she spent ten years at the Irish Immigration Center expanding our immigration legal services and outreach. Along with IIC volunteer attorney and Board Member Eoin Reilly, Sheila started our first monthly legal clinic at the Kells Restaurant and Pub through the generosity of its owner, Jerry Quinn. She and Eoin were there many a night until closing to ensure that each client was seen.

Sheila recognized that some immigrants dealing with domestic violence, depression, unemployment, substance abuse, or illness did not know where to turn because of

their status, and she was instrumental at building a foundation of service excellence for which the IIC is known. "Sheila brought her strong social work background and her concern for undocumented immigrants to IIC and was passionate about providing excellent services and for advocating for legislative change," says IIC Executive Director Sister Lena Deevy.

When Sheila left in 2005, we were sorry to see her leave but knew what a tremendous asset she would be to Irish centers across the US. At CIIC, she developed a strong coalition, enabling centers to speak with one voice on behalf of their constituents while building strong relationships internally.

Please join the IIC and the Irish Pastoral Centre in paying tribute to Sheila on Mon., Feb. 14, from 6:30 p.m. at the Green Briar Restaurant in Brighton Center. For more information, contact Danielle at 617-542-7654, ext. 14, or at dowen@iicenter.org.

"Taste of Ireland" on Cape Cod at the Cape Cod Irish Village, Sun. Feb. 13 – The IIC invites you to sample the finest offerings of local Cape restaurants and guarantees both parents and children an afternoon of fun that has been the hallmark of this event for over a decade. \$15 admission. A free legal clinic will take place in the morning to help you with your immigration

and citizenship questions. NOTE: The Cape Cod Irish Village has moved! The new address: 822 Main St, Rte. 28, South Yarmouth. For directions, please call 508-771-0100.

"Black and Green" event Sun., March 6 – This annual event began as a joint venture between the Irish Immigration Center and Monsterrat Aspirers. Its goal is to forge new partnerships and relationships between Irish and many other ethnic communities. This year's theme will be *Lessons about Hope: Resilience in the Face of Disaster*. The event will take place from 2 to 6 p.m. at Montserrat Aspirers Hall, 364 Washington St., Dorchester, MA 02124 and will include live entertainment, traditional Caribbean cuisine, and engaging speakers. Call Erin at IIC at 617-542-7654, Ext. 43

PROGRAM UPDATES
The IIC is grateful to the Irish Government for major funding for our programs. With their support we offer legal assistance, counseling, education, and health services to individuals and families from Ireland who now live in the Boston area, and we help those who come from Ireland to learn and work.

Community Counseling and Education Services – The IIC offers counseling, free health clinics, job skill workshops, and other resources to Irish immigrants. Director Danielle Owen, a

licensed substance abuse counselor, can assist you if you are experiencing issues such as substance abuse, domestic violence, anxiety, depression, lack of access to healthcare, or homelessness. For assistance, contact Danielle, in confidence and without judgment, at the IIC at 617-542-7654, Ext. 14 or at dowen@iicenter.org.

Classes & Workshops on offer in 2011 -- Computer Classes: Running Now – call today, we have a few spaces left; **Free Health Screening:** Wed., Feb. 2, 10:30 a.m. to 1p.m.; **Citizenship Class:** Beginning Feb. 3; **Book Reading with Colin Broderick, author of Orangutan:** Sun., Feb. 27, from 4:30 p.m. Free event, with coffee and refreshments served.

Call or send an e-mail to Danielle or Ann Marie for further information or to register for any of the above classes or workshops.

Legal Clinic Schedules – Upcoming dates, times for February: **First (1st) and third Tuesdays (15th), 4 p.m.-6 p.m.** at the IIC Office, 100 Franklin St. in downtown Boston (Enter from the side entrance at 60 Arch Street or 201 Devonshire Street); **Mon., Feb. 7, 6:30 p.m.** at the Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington St., Brighton; **Tues., Feb. 22, 6 p.m.,** South Boston Labour Center, 275 West Broadway.

IMMIGRATION Q & A

Why Wait On US Citizenship?

Q. My husband has a green card and has been eligible to apply for US citizenship for quite some time, but he keeps putting it off. Can you give me a list of good reasons why he should become a citizen?

A. Here are a few of the major reasons:

Voting: If you are making this country your permanent home and want to participate fully in the American democracy, becoming a citizen is a key step. Almost without exception, only US citizens can vote. A US citizen is eligible to vote in every local, state, and federal primary and general election. (Note on unlawful voting: a non-citizen who has voted in violation of any federal, state, or local constitutional provision, statute, ordinance or regulation may be barred from obtaining US citizenship and may be considered inadmissible. If voting involves a false claim to US citizenship, it could be a deportable offense.)

Deportation: Green card holders run the risk of being deported if they are convicted of certain types of crimes. Following the passage of federal immigration legislation in 1996, this can be the case even for a number of seemingly less serious offenses. Once you become a US citizen, you are no longer deportable, assuming you received your citizenship lawfully in the first place. Consider also that if you have foreign-born children under 18 who are lawful permanent residents, and if you or your spouse naturalize before the children turn 18, then the children are also US citizens. (If they were born in the US, they are US citizens automatically, regardless of their parents' citizenship). We know of a number of young lawful permanent residents who were deemed deportable after having been convicted of criminal offenses and whose parents failed to naturalize. The parents' naturalization before the children turned 18 could have prevented the deportation of these individuals. (Note: a "conviction" for immigration purposes may involve not only a formal guilty verdict, but other dispositions also.)

Guaranteed US Status: Permanent residents (green card holders) are at risk of losing their status if they spend long continuous periods of time outside the US without obtaining permission from the immigration authorities beforehand. We have fielded many calls from immigrants who inadvertently abandoned their legal permanent residence status, and who later wanted to return to live in the US. Generally they had to go through the whole arduous processing of applying for permanent residence all over again. Also, US citizenship is for life, whereas legal permanent residence must be renewed every ten years at considerable expense.

Government Benefits: Some federal and state benefits programs have been scaled back and in some cases are available only to US citizens. As of July 1, 2006, for example, a new Medicaid regulation went into effect, requiring states to obtain evidence of US citizenship from any individual applying for or seeking to renew eligibility for full Medicaid coverage.

Immigration for Family Members: US citizens receive priority treatment when it comes to petitioning for legal permanent residence for immediate family members. Green card holders, for example, cannot sponsor parents, siblings, or married children, and the length of time it takes to bring in children and spouses is much longer than for US citizens. **Taxes:** US citizens and permanent residents are not always treated alike for tax purposes. This is particularly true with regard to estate taxes, where a non-citizen surviving spouse cannot take advantage of the unlimited marital deduction. You are advised to consult an accountant for more information on this topic.

Please note that both the United States and Ireland recognize dual citizenship. Naturalization to become a US citizen will not result in your loss of Irish citizenship. This is also true of many other countries.

For a free, confidential consultation on this or any other aspect of immigration law, visit one of our legal clinics advertised monthly in this publication.

Disclaimer: These articles are published to inform generally, not to advise in specific cases. Areas of law are rapidly changing. US Citizenship and Immigration Services and the US Department of State regularly amend regulations and alter processing and filing procedures. For legal advice seek the assistance of an IIC immigration specialist or an immigration lawyer.

Matters Of Substance

Alcohol and the Modern Irish Immigrant Experience

BY DANIELLE OWEN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

There are as many different experiences of our immigrant journey as there are Irish immigrants, but for some reason, our relationship to alcohol seems inexorably tied to our story.

There are a number of Irish and Irish American comedians and writers who reflect upon the modern Irish immigrant experience today. Tommy Tiernan, for example, says in *Something Mental*, "There's something about Irish people and alcohol... it just suits us, doesn't it!" Des Bishop, on the Late Late show recently, explored how "for the Irish, going away for a weekend drinking as much as you possibly can for as long as you possibly can is a session. For Americans, a session is exercise where you can lose up to 3 or 4 pounds. In Ireland, after a session, you could lose your family."

Orangutan, written by Colin Broderick, is a story about the darkest depths of alcoholism and shares a "harrowing truth about the modern Irish immigrant experience."

In my counseling room, I hear stories about people leaving Ireland to "get away from the scene at home;" the fights, loss of jobs, friends and family because of their relationship to alcohol – a relationship that we are told defines who we are as "Irish."

Immigrants, having no problem at home, can find that the loneliness and loss that naturally accompanies their move seems to change their relationship with alcohol negatively as they try to cope with these powerful feelings. There are those who choose not to use it at all because of the harm they have seen it bring to their families in Ireland; Irish parents who watch in horror as addiction seems to pass from their own parents to their children despite all they have done to stop the pattern.

Let us be clear, for many Irish immigrants, addiction is not part of their story. However, we cannot hide our heads in the sand, claiming an "unfair" stereotype and pretend there isn't an issue in our community.

My job with the IIC is

to offer a safe, confidential haven for those who decide they want their lives to be different and to find hope. Discussion and awareness can bring this hope. Irish comedians allow us to reflect on our immigrant experience and acknowledge the shared gains and losses that define it for us all – we find we are not alone.

Mr. Broderick's book and others like it offer this message as well as showing us how recovery and change is possible, especially for a community of people who have been told there is only one way to enjoy themselves, to have fun, and to find friends.

Join a discussion of these themes at our up-



Danielle Owen

coming book reading with Colin Broderick, author of *Orangutan*. This free event is being held at the IIC on Sun., Feb. 27, from 5 to 7 p.m., with coffee being served from 4:30 p.m.! Call Danielle at 617-542-7654. Ext. 14, for more information or register with Kielan at Ext. 42.

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BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

BOSTON IRISH ARTS,
ENTERTAINMENT,
TRAVEL & MORE

Black 47's Larry Kirwan talks about his work, and lots else

First of Two Parts

By SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Although he has been a New Yorker since arriving in the city during the 1970s as a college student, Wexford native Larry Kirwan, co-founder and guiding spirit of the seminal Irish rock band Black 47, has plenty of attachments to Boston -- and very soon he'll have another. Kirwan is involved with the pub Four Green Fields, which is due to open at 1 Boston Place this month, and he plans to be on hand for the official opening on Feb. 10.

Kirwan will make another stop in Massachusetts a couple of weeks after that, on Feb. 26, when he and Black 47 perform at Town Hall in Clinton along with Boston's own Irish rock outfit, The Gobshites, local acoustic musician Deirdre Sweeney, and step dancers from the Irish Rhythm School. The concert will benefit The Polus Center, which provides services for people with developmental disabilities and has offices in Clinton, Quincy, Worcester, Petersham, Amesbury, and Peterborough, NH. [See poluscenter.org for more details about the event.]

There aren't enough hues to describe the colorful life Kirwan has led. This is a guy who was forbidden from playing at the legendary New York punk rock club CBGB's because the owner considered him "too demonic," and who, during his time with Black 47, has provoked controversy with unapologetically strident, left-of-center songs about the Iraq war and sociopolitical issues in the US and Ireland. Yet he has also released a CD of children's music, has established a literary career as a playwright, memoirist and novelist, writes a column for *The Irish Echo* and hosts and produces "Celtic Crush" for SiriusXM Satellite Radio. The *Daily News* once included him in a list of the top 50 most interesting New Yorkers -- several places ahead of Madonna.

On one recent wintry afternoon, Kirwan chatted about his various enterprises, musical and otherwise, his favorite authors, and his views on discourse and civility.

Q. You've put down strong roots in New York, but you also have a fondness for Boston. How so?

A. A lot of New Yorkers may have friction with Boston, but I love it. It's a great place for music, as we know, but I've also been drawn to its historical aspects, Boston's prominence in



Larry Kirwan isn't just a musician and singer-songwriter; he writes novels, plays and newspaper columns. "I've found they all kind of feed off each other, that an idea may work in musical form but I might also be able to write about it. All of these activities have taken a lot of time to develop, though -- it's like how you have to serve an apprenticeship before you can really get out and do it on your own."

Photo by Sean Smith

the Irish-American story. And being from Wexford, where's the whole Kennedy connection, you came to see Boston as a kind of a mythical place that way.

Traveling and playing around the US, you know, there's always been an opportunity to observe and learn about Irish communities in other cities. I don't know what it is, but the Irish always seem to end up on the south side, whether it's Boston, Brooklyn, Chicago, Buffalo. Very interesting.

Q. Talk a little about your childhood in Wexford. Did you have that "classic" Irish musical upbringing -- sessions in the home, lessons, competitions, etc.?

A. Oh no, not at all. It may seem odd to say, but Wexford wasn't a "traditional Irish" kind of place; it was very rock and roll. Wexford people would tend to go to London, and as soon as performers like Elvis and Eddie Cochran became hits there, that all came back to Wexford. The only traditional music that Wexford had was the sean-nos singing, that kind of song-story which is more a way of transmitting history. That was one of the things I took with me to Black 47, the idea of song as narrative.

Q. You wrote a play, "Liverpool Fantasy," which later became a book, as a kind of alternate-history about what if The Beatles had never made it big. That was inspired by this era in which you grew up, wasn't it?

A. There was boat service between Wexford and Liverpool, so that made for a lot of movement between the two cities; George Harrison's mother's side of the family was from Wexford, you know. And as you can imagine, in the 1950s

and '60s-- what with The Beatles, especially -- this really contributed to the popularity of rock and roll in Wexford. It just became second nature.

That period of time made me look at John Lennon in a different way.

Yes, here would be John Lennon hanging around Wexford, but back then we knew a lot of John Lennon types: They had tons of talent, but they also had some considerable flaws, which ultimately stood in their way. I don't think

John would have made it without Paul McCartney's influence.

Q. When you came to New York as a college student, what made you want to stay?

A. I liked the openness, the fact that you could do anything and be anything. I loved Wexford, but after a while you outgrow the place where you started from. New York in the '70s was such a wild place -- I mean, if you ever watched "Midnight Cowboy" or "Taxi Driver," that's exactly what New York was like then. There was the whole punk explosion going on, and lots of exciting places to go hear or play music, and some great people to play music with. It was just very good timing all around.

Q. Your most recent novel, "Rockin' the Bronx," is a kind of fond reminiscence of the New York that you found and which influenced you. What's been the response to it?

A. I've been very pleased at how people have responded to the book, especially those who were there during that era. It was just amazing to me, discovering this area of the Bronx that was very Irish; I couldn't believe it; it was like Mayo on a Saturday night. There was such a richness to the scene, but no one was really writing about this sort of thing. And by 1993, (Continued on page 12)



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Imagine Ireland . . . In Boston

(Continued from page 1) east), we spoke by phone about Imagine Ireland. Here's an edited version of our conversation.

BIR: Imagine Ireland is truly an ambitious, eclectic showcase of talent.

Downes: The government really supported the idea that it's time for this major initiative, saying, here are some extraordinary ideas, a new wave of creativity and a new wave of art coming out of Ireland . . . It's not just the great names, the major theater-makers and musicians and dancers and writers – the people we know – although indeed they are in the season. But also a whole new generation of younger artists who are making really experimental work, and many of whom would not have been seen stateside and would only perhaps be breaking in now. That whole new wave of energy and ideas and imagination coming out of Ireland was really at the heart of what we're trying to do this year.

BIR: Where do you see Irish culture fitting in on an international level?

Downes: I think the appeal of Irish arts to audiences is constantly evolving. It's not a static thing. As the world changes, art changes with it. Or sometimes, I think art drives change in the wider world. It's really imagining all the new forms of ideas reflecting a change in Ireland. In that sense [Imagine Ireland] is a very contemporary venture.

BIR: With the project

having been in development prior to the world's financial turn, was it a challenge to move forward with it?

Downes: Certainly over the last year or more, with the major financial difficulties that Ireland has been facing, the question of whether we could actually resource such a large scale initiative was a major, major challenge. [It has been] possible because of the very strong engagement of the project from the Irish government, from the prime minister on down.

BIR: It must have been encouraging to know that the government believed the program had real value.

Downes: The level of top-grade political support was really crucial, and our own minister for culture, Mary Hanafin, over the past months or so, played a critical role in securing those funds . . . The government has really engaged with the idea that in difficult times, in fact, Ireland needs to look at its long-term strengths; those key areas where we really can say we're doing something on a world class level. . . Arts and culture are absolutely the key things we'd like people to think of when they think of Ireland.

BIR: And so in Boston you're working with ArtsEmerson's Irish Festival.

Downes: One of the things that excites me about the program at

ArtsEmerson . . . is that we're presenting a new generation of Irish writers . . . [You have] two major productions from two of Irelands greatest theaters, The Abbey Theatre and Druid, and both are presenting work by artists who are maybe tipping 40 years old. That's Martin McDonagh and Mark O'Rowe. They're both using such extraordinary language in terms of its energy, its color, the unique signature that they have in terms of, when you hear that dialogue, you probably wouldn't mistake it for another writer.

BIR: What makes these two pieces so special.

Downes: Mark O'Rowe's play is effectively written as (a kind of) poetry. It's rhyming. It's an extraordinary dark, lyrical version of urban rap almost. And equally, Martin McDonagh's dialogue just sizzles whether he's working on stage or now in film. [There's] the immediacy and the power and the lyricism of the language.

BIR: In addition to your work with Culture Ireland, you've had an extensive career in the arts, including time as Ireland's cultural attache in Russia. What was the Russian experience like for you?

Downes: In terms of understanding or getting some kind of glimpse into how other cultures respond to Ireland, spending that time and living in Russia in the mid-90s was

a wake up call, because on the one hand, the great writers like Joyce and Yeats were known and hugely appreciated there. But on the other hand, many, many Russians that I met had never heard of Ireland. They were mixing us up with Iceland or Iran. So it taught me to never take for granted that people know about your culture or your country. Or, if they know anything about it, it might be something you didn't expect.

BIR: So what do you hope audiences across America will gain from Imagine Ireland?

Downes: We really hope that they will see

a range of work, not just one project or one show, but see an interesting mix of the new work that's coming out of Ireland. It could be a film, a concert, a theater show, an exhibition . . . That it's actually introducing new voices to them. Irish artists that they've perhaps not seen before . . . I'd love to think that people will experience a mix that will surprise them and will, perhaps, open the door to imagine Ireland and Ireland's future in a whole host of new ways.

ArtsEmerson at The Paramount Center presents: Druid Theatre's "The



Eugene Downes, CEO of Culture Ireland

Cripple of Inishmaan," February 2 - 6; and Abbey Theatre's "Terminus," February 8 - 13. Tickets: 617-824-8000 or artsemerson.org.

R. J. Donovan is publisher of OnStageBoston.com.

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ArtsEmerson's Irish Festival Calendar

(Continued from page 1)

Written and directed by Mark O'Rowe, *Paramount Mainstage*. Recommended for ages 16 and over. Part of *Imagine Ireland*, Culture Ireland's year of Irish arts in America in 2011. The Abbey Theatre is supported by The Arts Council of Ireland / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.

FILMS

A Double Feature (Feb. 4, 5, 6 at 7 p.m.): **"Man of Aran"** – Having long wanted to make a film about a "man of

the sea," Robert Flaherty spent almost two years sculpting "Man of Aran," an unforgettable portrait of a family living on the Aran Islands.

"How The Myth Was Made" – Filmmaker George Stoney revisits the island in Ireland where Robert Flaherty shot "Man of Aran," interviewed surviving locals about their memories of the original film and their reactions to making this one.

"Perrier's Bounty" (Feb. 12 – 6:45 and 9 p.m.) – This Irish crime

thriller-comedy was written by Mark O'Rowe, whose "Terminus" is being performed this weekend on the Paramount Mainstage.

Directed by Ian Fitzgibbon, with Gabriel Byrne, Jim Broadbent, Brendan Gleeson, Domhnall Gleeson, Cillian Murphy. Mark O'Rowe will introduce the 6:45 p.m. screening. Co-presented with the Irish Film Festival, Boston.

"A Shine Of Rainbows" (Feb. 13–2 p.m.) – A family screening of a top prize-winner at children's

film festivals around the world, the poignant tale of a loving mother, a reluctant father, and the extraordinary journey that brings a young orphan home.

Directed by Vic Sarin, with Connie Nielsen, Aidan Quinn, John Bell. A co-presentation with the Irish Film Festival, Boston and Belfast's Cinemagic Film and Television Festival for Young People.

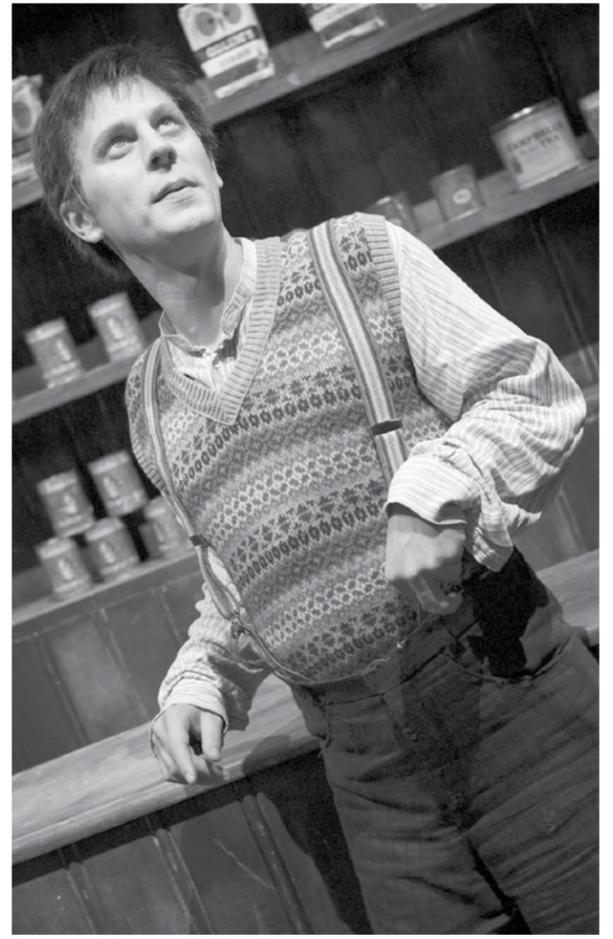
READINGS, TALKS

Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. – A staged reading of "Marble" by Marina Carr. What happens to two ordinary young couples when one man's wife and his best friend have romantic dreams of one another? Studio 7 at The Paramount Center (free).

Feb. 8 at 6 p.m. – A reading by Hugo Hamilton of Dublin, acclaimed author of two memoirs, seven novels, and a collection of short stories, all of which reflect on the increasingly compelling issues of cultural divisions, belonging and identity. Studio 7 at The Paramount Center (free).

Feb. 9 at 6:30 p.m. – Abbey Theatre Director Fiach Mac Conghail hosts a pre-show discussion of "Terminus." Bright Family Screening Room. Free with ticket to any Irish Festival event.

Feb. 10 at 6 p.m. – Peter Murphy, the Irish music writer turned novelist, reads from his debut work, *John The Revelator*. Studio 7 at The Paramount Center (free).



Tadhg Murphy in Druid Theatre's "The Cripple of Inishmaan." Photo by Ros Kavanagh

Feb. 11 at 7:30 p.m. – Playwright Mark O'Rowe hosts a pre-show discussion of "Terminus." Studio 7 at The Paramount Center. Free with ticket to any Irish Festival event.

Feb. 12, following the 2 p.m. performance – A discussion with cast of "Terminus." Paramount Mainstage. Free with ticket.

All events take place at The Paramount Center, 559 Washington Street in Boston. Tickets and information: 617-824-8000 or artsemerson.org.

An Irish Festival Pass is available that includes admission for all three plays plus discounts on the accompanying films.

Q&A With Larry Kirwan

(Continued from page 9) it was all over, and I was stunned. I mean, the Irish are usually not quick movers, and once they find a place they tend to stick there for a while. But there was just no trace of the Irish scene that had been there; you had nail salons where there used

to be bars. I wanted to capture those years, but I had to find people who'd been around then, and verify the recollections and other impressions I'd had. It took a while.

Q. *Black 47 is now into its third decade. When you started out, did you ever think the band would last this long, and maintain the popularity it has?*

A. [Laughs] No, I can't say I ever thought that far ahead. In the late 1980s, people didn't play original

music in Irish bars, but I just was always on for being totally original, playing our own kind of music. Enough people liked our sound, and we would just keep going along, playing three sets a night. Our song "Funky Ceili" hit it big, and it was going on seven or eight years then and I realized that, you know, maybe this will work out.

NEXT: The Time of the Troubles

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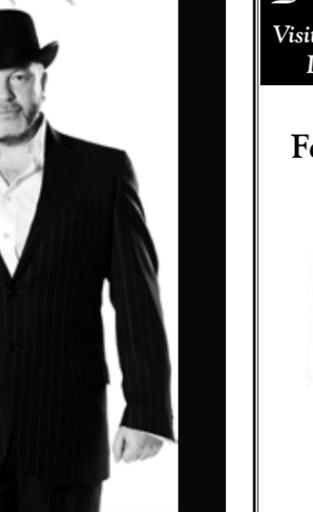
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BIR Music CD REVIEWS

BY SEAN SMITH

Two recent CDs by musicians with local ties are in the spotlight this month:

"Dance," by Lissa Schneckenburger – Maine native Schneckenburger, who for several years lived in Boston and attended New England Conservatory -- and still comes through town (she performed at BCMFest 2011 last month) – has become a foremost musician-scholar of New England roots music. Where her 2008 release "Song" explored the region's traditional folk songs and ballads, "Dance" pays homage to one of New England's most distinctive natural resources: contra dance, which derives its music from Irish, Scottish, French-Canadian, and other traditions, as well as from contemporary tune composers.



While Schneckenburger may be better known for her performance-type ventures – as a member of the bands Halali or Childsplay, for example, or fronting her own band – she has plenty of experience playing for contra dances, and has made the acquaintance of some of the contra dance scene's most estimable musicians, like Bob McQuillen, Dudley Laufman, Dave Cory, and David Kaynor (the latter two both making guest appearances on "Dance"), among others. As respectful of the tradition as she is – the CD's sleeve even includes instructions for the dances associated with these tunes – Schneckenburger is able to reimagine and recast it in often fascinating, and quite listenable ways.

Start with the first track, "Petronella," the epitome of a whirling, stomping, hand-clapping New England contra dance. Here, Schneckenburger tones down the boisterousness and gives the tune some space, playing it as a soulful trio with guitarist Bethany Waickman and piano accordionist Jeremiah McLane; Waickman begins by laying down a subdued, spare chord sequence that Schneckenburger quietly embellishes, until she launches into the tune, doubling the tempo of Waickman's rhythm. (A contra dance veteran hearing this CD almost didn't recognize the tune, so different is the arrangement than what she was used to.)

The "Lamplighter's Hornpipe/Suffer the Child" medley is a feast of tasty rhythm, Schneckenburger's husband, Corey DiMario, supplying double bass and Stefan Amidon snare drum along with Waickman's galloping guitar work, while Schneckenburger's fiddle rides high over it all, and there's a slight and delightful shift in the transition to "Suffer the Child" -- a Greg Boardman composition in honor of local violin-maker and musician Bob Childs, the raison d'être behind Childsplay. "Lady Walpole's Reel/Mountain Ranger/Nancy King" evokes the more familiar contra dance sound, Cory's tenor banjo matching Schneckenburger note-for-note on the melody, and "Fisher's Hornpipe" is nothing short of pure, infectious ebullience, as DiMario, Amidon, and pianist-guitarist Keith Murphy help push the tune forward.

"Moneymusk" and "Jamie Allen" are notable for their use of brass instruments played by David Harris, but the trombone and euphonium don't draw undue attention to themselves; they lurk behind the twin fiddles of Schneckenburger and Kaynor, providing the warmth of a tastefully decorative quilt.

If the true test for a contra dance ensemble is to make music that appeals to both listener and dancer, then Schneckenburger and her cohorts have taken on the challenge with infinite relish and no small amount

of imagination.

"The Blue Dress" by Shannon Heaton – For Shannon Heaton, music is literally more about the journey than the arrival.

There's her geographical journey, encompassing places of residence like Chicago, Thailand and – to the delight of local musicians and listeners – Boston, along with many others she's visited as a performer, picking up tunes, songs, stories, and friends along the way. There's also her odyssey as a musician: A superlative Irish flute and tin whistle player (and a pretty darn good accordionist) who can sing the birds out of the trees, Heaton is constantly on the move inside the Irish tradition and outside of it as well, composing her own tunes and songs, even occasionally blending in her Thai influences; and while she and husband Matt are a much-beloved duo of boundless creativity and virtuosity, she has also established herself in other musical settings, namely as a member of Long Time Courting and Childsplay.

With "The Blue Dress," her first solo album, Heaton has sorted through these various travels to find yet another direction in which to head. For this trek, she has left behind tin whistle, accordion, and voice to focus exclusively on her flute-playing, essaying tunes from the Irish tradition – including some of the most familiar, notably "The Wheels of the World" and even "The Irish Washerwoman" – as well as her own compositions, such as the lush title track, which she wrote to celebrate "the freshness, beauty, and fun in playing Irish music." If this instrumental-only, flute-centered format seems to be limiting for Heaton, rest assured it's not. She takes particular care, and pleasure, in drawing out the full capabilities of the flute and the character and depth of the tunes (not to imply she gave any of those things short shrift before).

Heaton also is aided mightily by her guest musicians: Matt is there on guitar and bouzouki for many of the tracks, and Shannon's fellow Long Time Courting member, Liz Simmons, adds guitar on one track, but it's Scottish harpist Maeve Gilchrist and percussionist/bouzouki and bodhran player Paddy League whose presence are felt the most. The harp's resonance, its versatility as a melody and rhythm instrument, complements the flute's gracefulness, and Gilchrist's leanings toward jazz and world music make her playing all the more distinct. League has this world music busi-

ness down pretty well, too – hey, he sings in Greek and Gaelic, and plays instruments from seemingly every corner of the globe – but most of all he provides a dead-on, yet subtle heartbeat to the rhythm.



These qualities, along with Heaton's penchant for fanciful experimentation, are at the forefront in "99 High," a medley of polkas made exotic by the funkiness of Gilchrist's "prepared" harp and League's drumming, which might not be regulation ceili band but is mesmerizingly brilliant. League switches to bouzouki for the "Red Molly" slip jig set, dexterously enhancing Gilchrist's accompaniment. The "Dennis Watson's" reel set, meanwhile, is a flute-bouzouki-bodhran barnburner, the three instruments gliding ceaselessly around each other like a flock of birds in perfect formation. In contrast, Heaton and Gilchrist bring an energetic, yet relaxed feel to the hornpipes in "Grandfather's Thoughts."

When it comes to feeling, Heaton's compositions, like "Aunt Jane's Trip to Norway" (Gilchrist all but conjures up visions of fjords at the outset) have a special character, bearing as they do a stamp of reminiscence and appreciation for loving family members and friends. "Against the Grain," for instance, honors local artist Vincent Crotty, while "King Nalaly" is an evocation of her bond with Thailand; and "Frost Place" was written for the aforementioned Lissa Schneckenburger and Corey DiMario, a slow reel that is tender and bucolic in the manner of their Vermont homestead.

Heaton notes that the album's namesake, which she's wearing in the cover photo, is "a vintage composition of lace and satin" – a perfectly appropriate description for this deeply felt, engaging work.

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Love songs are often divided into two kinds, according to Arlington-based singer Lynn Noel: pre-love songs and post-love songs. What's sometimes overlooked, she says, "is that there's a delicious filling in the middle, too."

Noel and three other Greater Boston area performers will sing the praises (literally) of the many flavors of love when BCMFest kicks off the 2011 edition of its Celtic Music Monday series on Feb. 14 at Club Passim in Harvard Square. Joining Noel for "Lovin' It: A Valentine's Day Concert of Humorous, Amorous and Deliciously Lusty Ditties" will be Diane Taraz, Jonathan Gilbert and Anabel Graetz.

The evening will feature traditional ballads, parlor songs and love songs from the Celtic, English and French traditions that run the gamut, Noel says, "from proper to partly love-lorn, improper to bawdy."

"We plan to explore and celebrate the love life-cycle to the fullest," she adds, "with lots of opportunities for romantic harmonies and lusty singalongs. These are not the kind of love songs you hear on the radio. The old songs touch our hearts with strength, passion, tears, laughter and compassion for this universal human condition; they explain why fools fall in love."



An early evening session at BCMFest 2011.

Photo by Sean Smith

Lynn Noel (lynnoel.com/crosscurrents); Diane Taraz (dianetaraz.com); Jonathan Gilbert (hornpipe.org/current_members/jonathan_gilbert.html); Anabel Graetz (gis.net/~mtf/prop.htm).

Tickets for Celtic Music Monday, which begins at 8 p.m., are \$12, \$6 for members of Club Passim, WGBH and WUMB. See passim.org for more information.

Injuries Kept Jordan On the Sidelines

Her large following of friends and fans are looking toward Boston Irish dancer/choreographer Kieran Jordan's return to the performing stage this month.

For Jordan, the two Cambridge performances on Feb. 20 with her new group, "The Sole Mates," will mark the first time in almost half a year that she will be physically able to perform.

She first was injured early last summer, when she pulled a hamstring while dancing. After a long stretch of limited movement, she returned to dancing in September, only to be hit with a severe foot injury that left her unable to dance at all.

A preliminary exam by orthopedists suggested she had suffered a stress fracture in the foot, and one doctor cautioned her that the injury might force her to cease dancing completely. The injury was similar to an athlete's injury, and the medical people were stymied about how best to treat it.

The prognosis kept changing, but after a grueling fall and winter of rehab and healing, Jordan has been able to lace on the shoes and return to the stage later this month, much to her delight and relief.

Last September, days before the injury, Kieran joined the Irish Studies Program at Boston College as a part-time faculty member. The 1996 BC graduate says she is "delighted to be back at her alma mater, teaching Traditional Irish Dance for undergraduates."

The Sole Mates Are Ready to Go

(Continued from page 1)

ing groups, comprised of people who live in different cities, and often in different countries. When you connect artistically and personally, you just want to dive in. You make the best of it."

Jordan is a veteran of Irish music and dance performances throughout North America and Europe, including the WGBH production of A Christmas Celtic Sojourn, for which she has served as choreographer and dance director for seven years.

Tickets are \$20 general admission (\$15 for students with ID, \$18 for BDA members). Reservations are strongly suggested. Cash or checks only, at the door. To reserve tickets, send an e-mail to solematesirishdance@gmail.com or call 617-645-3743.

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Traveling People

Herewith Some Irish Notions to Ease the Winter Blues

By JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

One of Ireland's most appealing attributes, as we've said in previous columns, is that no matter how many times you visit, you can always discover something new.

For instance, local friends recently toured Ireland and spotted a sign for the Skelligs Chocolate Co. as they drove near Ballinskelligs, Co. Kerry. They took the road and came upon the most wonderful factory where chocolates are made and packed in hand-painted boxes and other original packaging. Take a look at these websites: skelligchocolate.com and cocoabeanchocolates.com and, if you're in the area, my friends highly recommend a stop at this factory that they totally found by accident and thoroughly enjoyed.

DERRYNANE

I've been to Co. Kerry many times but never visited Derrynane National Historic Park until last spring. The property presents a fascinating look at the country home, heritage and lifestyle of 19th-century Irish patriot Daniel O'Connell.

Derrynane is at the tip of the Iveragh Peninsula and, in O'Connell's words, "Perhaps if I could show you the calm and exquisite beauty of these capacious bays and mountain promontories, softened in the pale moonlight...when all which during the day was grand and terrific has become calm and serene... perhaps you could admit that the man who has often been called a ferocious demagogue is, in truth, a lover of Nature."

The park includes Derrynane House, set amidst some 300 acres, all of which is managed and maintained today by the National Monuments and Historic Properties Service of the Office of Public Works (OPW). The house was opened to the public in 1967. The surrounding parklands opened in 1975 to mark the 200th anniversary of O'Connell's birth.

Daniel was the eldest of Morgan and Catherine O'Connell's ten children and he and his younger brother, Maurice, were adopted by their wealthy but childless uncle, Muiris "Hunting-Cap" O'Connell.

The house is beautifully decorated with many pieces from O'Connell's day as well as other furnishings.

There's a magnificent circular table in the upstairs drawing room with legs carved from a single piece of oak.

The bedroom now contains his deathbed, brought to Derrynane from the Villa della Fontana in Genoa where he died on May 15, 1847. And when you visit, don't miss the beautiful chapel or the coach house that contains the chariot on which O'Connell returned to his Merrion Square home after being released from Richmond Prison in 1844.

Be sure to walk through the tunnel under the road and enjoy the gardens, which are very well maintained and contain the most magnificent flowers and trees. And, keep an eye out for many species of birds from puffins to curlews to, my favorites, the wagtails.

Other OPW sites in the area include Desmond Castle and Charles Fort, both in Kinsale, Co. Cork; Innacullin or Garnish Island in West Cork; the Blasket Islands Visitors' Centre (also signposted as Ionad an Bhlascoid) on the Dingle Peninsula, Co. Kerry; Killarney National Park; Ross Castle, on the shore of Killarney's Lower Lake in Co. Kerry; Scattery Island Information Centre in Kilrush, Co. Clare, and the Ennis Friary in Ennis, Co. Clare.

And don't forget that many tourist attractions in Ireland do not stay open during the winter, so be sure to check in advance before visiting. Most Irish tourist attractions now have websites.

I LOVE MAYO

Speaking of websites, we were interested to see a new website called iLoveMayo.com that showcases the art, photography, and crafts created by artists living or working in Co. Mayo. Initially offering original artworks, canvas prints, and mounted paper prints, the site will expand to include photographs and a range of crafts.

The website was founded by Jane and Alistair Steger-Lewis. "We are delighted to be able to offer beautiful images of Mayo, its culture and crafts, which will provide a reminder of our wonderful county to people around the world," Jane said. The website address is ilovemayo.com

AS TIME GOES BY

It is totally amazing to me how fast time flies! I recently opened the



The beautiful chapel at Derrynane House, the ancestral home of Daniel O'Connell, Irish lawyer, politician and statesman, at the tip of the Iveragh Peninsula in Co. Kerry.



Derrynane, once the country home of Daniel O'Connell, is now a museum and memorial to Ireland's first Catholic statesman and advocate for non-violent change who is often compared to Martin Luther King and Gandhi.



drawer in a bedside table and pulled out a Round Tower Travel brochure for St. Patrick's Week in Ireland, March 14-22, 1976. That was the first time I ever went to Ireland.

My husband, a member of the Boston Police Emerald Society at the time, and I flew over and drove around for a week visiting cousins, aunts, and uncles he had never before met. His mother was from Ballymote, Co. Sligo, and his father from Tarbert, Kerry. They met in Boston where both had immigrated to find work.

During our tour, both of us fell totally in love with Ireland and we returned many times.

How about this? One option - a car, five nights in First Class hotels, two nights at the Royal Dublin, full Irish breakfast daily and a cocktail reception -- was \$159 per person for the week, double occupancy. To rent just an automatic car for a week cost \$135 in 1976. Amazing!

HAPPENINGS

Going over to Ireland this winter? If you're near Dublin this month between the first and the 14th, the Dublin Chinese New Year Festival Committee is planning a diverse program for

Photos by Judy Enright

2011, which is the Year of the Rabbit. There will be cultural exhibitions, a weekend carnival, lecture series, art and crafts workshops, film, Chinese opera, and a host of other activities to celebrate Sino-Irish relationships.

From Feb. 3-6, head up to the Inishowen Peninsula for the International Guitar Festival based in McGrory's of Culdaff. For more info, visit the website iguitar.ie.

From Feb. 17-27, Dublin City will be the site of the Jameson Dublin International Film Festival, Ireland's premiere feature film festival and a citywide event that includes 11 days of movie magic. Each year the festival presents international talent and more than 110 films from 30 countries, ensuring that there is something for everyone. For more info, visit the website jdff.com

Or, how about the Winter and Cask Ales Festival in Cork City? From Feb. 11-13, the festival features Ireland's finest cask ales and craft-brewed winter

Some 300 acres of the Derrynane's land, together with the ancestral home of Daniel O'Connell, make up Derrynane National Historic Park. The properties are managed by the Office of Public Works and are open to the public.

that the Russell Memorial Weekend will be held in Doolin, Co. Clare, from Feb. 25 to 28. The Russell Weekend was established in 1995 in memory of Micho Russell, world famous trad musician who died in 1994, and it is held over the last full weekend in February. This is a celebration of traditional music, song and dance. For more, visit michorusellweekend.ie

TRAVEL
When Ireland is on

flights will be lifting off on a regular basis from Logan to Shannon and Dublin.

Flights and deals are offered by other airlines, too, but usually involve layovers in various cities and can add several hours to your trip but also reduce the cost.

Check out seasonal happenings at Tourism Ireland's website (discoverireland.com) and enjoy your trip to Ireland whenever you go.

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The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

We were going shopping last month – so let's continue. You have already learned how to ask, "How much?" **Cé mhéad?** /kay WEE-uht/, as well as "this" **an seo** /uhn shaw/ and "that" **an sin** /uhn shin/. In addition you know, "expensive" **daor** /deer/ and "inexpensive" (or "cheap"), **saor** /seer/.

You also know the word for "shop" **siopa** /SHAW-puh/. Now imagine two ladies meeting each other on the street.

Eilís: Dia duit, a Cháit.

Good morning, Kate.

Cáit: Dia's Muire duit, a Eilís.

Good morning to you, Ellie.

Eilís: Céan ait tusa ag dul go luath?

"Where are you going so early?"

Cáit: Tá sé an-fhuar inniu.

"It is very cold today."

Tá cóta ur uaim.

"I need a new coat."

Eilís: Céan uair osclóidh an siopa?

"When will the shop open?"

Cáit: Naoi a chlog.

"Nine o'clock."

Cén t-am é anois?

"What time is it now?"

Eilís: Tá sé beagnach chun a naoi.

"It's almost nine."

Cáit: Buíochas. Tá mé siochta. "Thanks. I am freezing."

Let us look at this conversation line by line. You have already had the greetings, "God with you", **Dia leat**, and the response, "God and Mary with you", **Dia's Muire leat**. Here the 's' is an abbreviation of the joining word, **is**, just as we say, "Bread 'n butter" for "Bread **and** butter." "Ellie" is short for "Elizabeth".

Muire /MEER-uh/ is reserved for the Virgin Mary as opposed to **Máire** /MAH-ree/ for a common forename.

In addition you have already learned the **vocative case**. The form required when you speak directly to a person. The **vocative**, remember, requires the prefix **A'** and the **lenition** (aspiration) of the following consonant. Males will "slenderize" the final consonant by inserting **i**.

Examples are **Cáit** /kayt/ to **a' Cháit** /uh hayt/ but **Tomás** /TOH-mas/ to **a' Thomáis** /uh HOH-mish/. Note that **Eilís**, since it begins with a vowel and is a female name does not **lenite**.

Eilís' question and Cáit's answer both have "intensifiers", words that magnify the meaning such as "very" and "so" in English. These you have already had, too, but a little review is good and you have not yet learned **luath** /LOO-uh/, "early".

You learned add emphasis to an expression of time by adding **go** before the adverb.

Such as in **Erinn go bráth**, "Ireland Forever", literally "Ireland until the Day of Judgment". Here Eilís emphasizes both **tú (tusa)** and **luath**, "early", "so early", **go luath**.

In her reply Cáit emphasizes **fuar** /FOO-uhr/ "cold" by prefixing **an-**. **Fuar** is an **adjective** used to describe the weather. When prefixing **an-** to a word beginning with the consonants **f-** and **g-**, it **lenites** them. **An-fhuar** "very cold" or **an-gheal** "very bright (sunny)". Since **fh-** is "silent", the result for **an-fhuar** is /uhn OOR/.

Tá cóta ur uaim. "I need (a) new coat" is an idiom – where the words do not make literal sense but the whole is easily understood by an Irish speaker. Literally the words read, "Is coat new from me" where **uaim** is a prepositional pronoun based on **ó plus mé**.

ó + mé = uaim

ó + muid = uainn

ó + tú = úait

ó + sibh = uaibh

ó + sé = uaidh

ó + said = uathu

ó + sí = uaithi

Clearly the shop is not open since Eilís asks when it will be. Here we have something new, the **future tense** of two-syllable "regular" verbs. Irish regards all words as one or two syllables – anything beyond two syllables in Irish thought are simply two syllable words plus prefixes and suffixes. In this case, **oscail** "open" has two syllables /AWS-kuhl/. We will explain the future tense of two syllable words in the next column.

For review, the future of "regular" one syllable verbs is formed by suffixing, adding either **-fidh** or **-faidh** to the verb. The **-f** is silent, the **(a)** depends on the preceding vowel (if **a, o, u**) and both are pronounced as the **e** in American English "the" or the **u** in "but". Thus **Cuir!** "Put!" in the future is **Cuiridh** /KOOR-uh/ "will put" while **Glan!** /glahn/ "clean!" in the future is **Glanfaidh**, pronounced /GLAHN-uh/, "will clean."

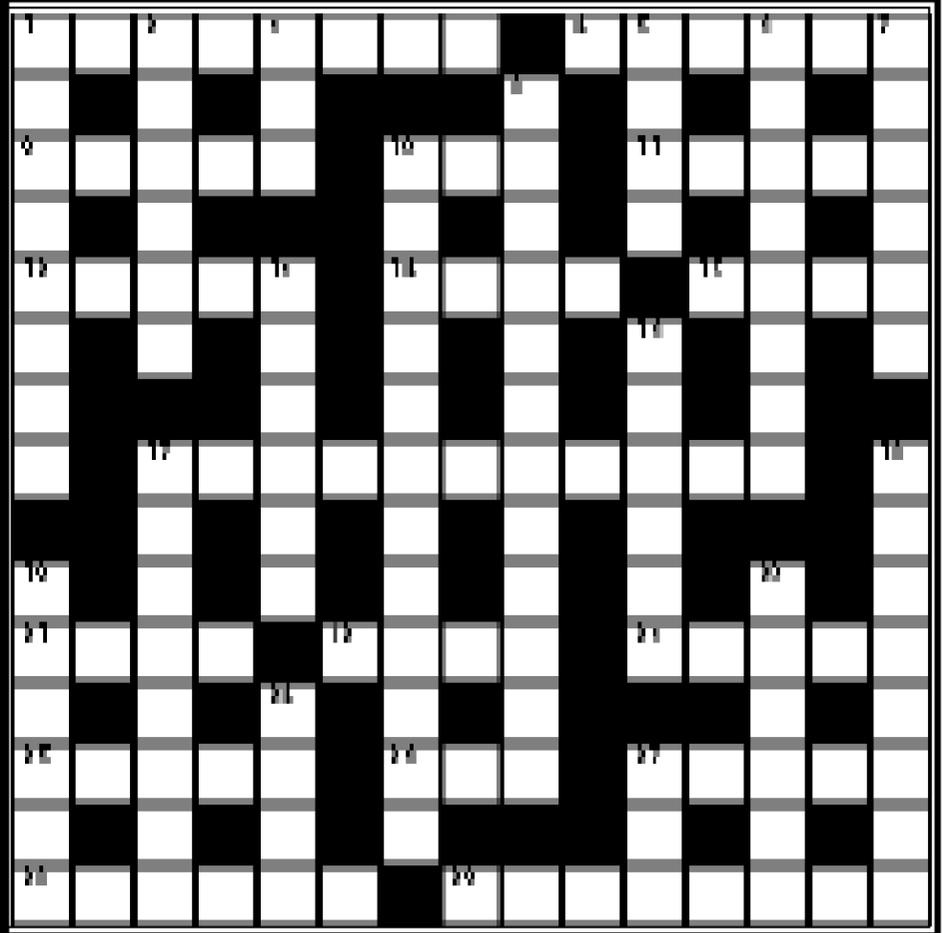
There is not room in this column to teach the **future tense of verbs** of two syllables. We will continue our study of this simple conversation next month.

Meantime, see if you can translate the sentences in to Irish: 1.) "She needs a new hat." 2.) "It's a quarter past eight." 3.) "Siobhan, clean your room." 4.) "I will clean it tomorrow." 5.) "Where is the shop?" 6.) "It's over there." 7.) "Do you speak Irish?" 8.) "Yes, I speak Irish." 9.) "Will they will need coats?" 10.) "De Valera was born in New York."

Answers: 1.) **Tá hata ur uaithi.** 2.) **Tá sé a ceathrú tar éis a h-ochd.** 3.) **A Shiobhan, glan do sheomra!** 4.) **Glanaidh mise sé amáireach.** 5.) **Céan ait an siopa?** 6.) **A bhfuil Gaelge agat?** 7.) **Beidh. Beidh Gaelge agam.** 8.) **An mbheidh coati uathu?** 9.) **An mbheidh coati uathu?** 10.) **Rugadh De Valera i New York.**

CELTIC CROSS WORDS

The Irish crosswords are a service of an Ireland-based website which provides Irish Family Coats of Arms by email. You are invited to visit www.bigwood.com/heraldry



IRELAND IN CROSSWORDS ©-bigwood.com

ACROSS

1. Cake to start with, but no ham following on the way back in Waterford fishing village where whales have been known to beach. (8)
4. Elk Ike disposed of in attractive Clare resort sheltered from the Atlantic by the Duggerna Rocks. (6)
9. Cut ham in pieces for she who wanted Oisín to stay in Tir na nOg. (5)
10. Mr. Baba seen in Donegal incident. (3)
11. Pins that sound like a scot back in Lusk categorically. (5)
12. Get a rub of this old thing for luck in Tramore licensed premises. (5)
14. The two of them are in Drumshanbo, then. (4)
15. "The — — things a man is ashamed of, the — — respectable he is." Shaw. (4)
17. A jig can't run around, but this will take you on a trip around the lakes of Killarney. (8,3)
21. Garden tool, one of those from Mallow? (4)
22. Young creature hidden in Ballinakill ambulance. (4)
23. Fool will moor up facing north. (5)
25. Dish of powdery boiled potatoes is insincere when mouthed. (5)
26. Sunshine lad! (3)
27. Arts graduate so Roman as to be fundamental. (5)
28. Old men get confused as to the megalithic monument, with a fine example in Kiltarnan, Co. Dublin. (6)
29. The do far out in small East Galway town near Ross Abbey beside the Black River. (8)

DOWN

1. A burn can meander in sheltered Donegal resort on the shores of Lough Swilly under Slieve Snacht. (8)
2. Len comes over with 26 across, almost. (6)
3. Hurl off this tree? (3)
5. I, to a confused Greek character, of little consequence. (4)
6. Lose control and do this to the traces, that's one point! (4,4)
7. Shifty eye, ask inside for small Sligo seaside resort near a number of dolmens and ring forts. (6)
8. Brain bent, yet wanders to Co. Wexford Cistercian

- church near Clonmines, having a ruined twin on the Wye in South Wales. (7,5)
10. Bear they beat rears up in Dublin entertainment place burnt down in 1951 and reopened 1966. (5,7)
13. In an informal way chartered accountant leads Saul astray. (6)
16. Disorderly M.C. able to issue instruction not to panic. (2,4)
17. This is made up of unsolicited circulars about milk, Juan. (4,4)
18. Play a sneaky trick on a German night in one of the Ireland's four green fields. (8)
19. Religious doctor outside the untidy room in Leitrim site of old ironworks on shores of Lough Bofin. (6)
20. Fast musical makes rope tangle around the saint. (6)
24. Piece of computer information inclusively concealed by Templemore establishment. (4)
27. "There's no such thing as — publicity, except your own obituary." Brendan Behan (3)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 19

Irish Sayings

- Even a tin knocker will shine on a dirty door.
Every patient is a doctor - after his cure.
"The Windy day is not a day for scallops (thatching)."
"People live in each other's shelter."
"The world would not make a racehorse of a donkey."
"You are not a fully fledged sailor unless you have sailed under full sail," "and you have not built a wall unless you have rounded a corner."
"There is no strength without unity."
"You must live with a person to know a person. If you want to know me come and live with me."
"Praise the young and they will blossom"
"The raggy colt often made a powerful horse."
"Age is honorable and youth is noble."
"Youth does not mind where it sets its foot."
"Both your friend and your enemy think you will never die."

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Thirty-Two Counties

Antrim: A six-hundred tonne Dutch barge moored on the River Lagan at Lanyon Quay in Belfast is home to a maritime museum containing thousands of artifacts associated with the city's maritime heritage, including drawings from Harland and Wolff. Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and the Arts Council, the MV Constance includes a multi-use heritage and arts space in addition to the exhibition and future plans include the provision of a cafe. The new facility opened to the public last month.

Armagh: One of the Chilean miners who were dramatically rescued last October was to address the South American Missions Society Ireland at their Friday Night Live gathering in Craigavon Civic Centre the last week of January. Jose Henriquez planned to tell the story of the miners' survival and eventual rescue. He was also due to talk at the Shankill Parish Church. He will be accompanied by his wife Blanca, and Alf Cooper, chaplain to the President of Chile, will be translating for the couple. The event was organized by Geoff Hamilton.

Carlow: A day of celebrations took place recently to mark the retirement of Margaret Keegan, a past pupil of Scoil Mhuire gan Smáil in Carlow, who has taught in the school for the past forty years. Principal since 2007, Mrs. Keegan received presentations from the children, after which a special Mass was celebrated in Carlow Cathedral. Indicative of the high esteem in which she was held is the fact that she was named Ireland's Teacher of the Year in 1999, a title for which she was nominated by the parents of her junior infant class. The day concluded with a celebratory meal at the Seven Oaks Hotel.

Cavan: Word has gone out from Cavan Town Council for help in locating the town's original charter, granted by King James I in 1610 when Cavan was established as a municipal corporation and given the right to hold a market. The town is due to celebrate its 400th anniversary this year, but unfortunately the original Cavan Town Charter has been missing for a number of years. It was last seen in the council offices and its present whereabouts is unknown. The members of the Town Council are anxious to have it on exhibition during the anniversary celebrations.

Clare: In response to more than sixty objections, including one from world surf champion Mick Fanning, the county council has lodged a revised application for a new pier at Doolin. The surfing community had objected to the original plan, claiming it would affect waves off Crab Island and Doolin Point, and the pier is now to be fifteen meters shorter than originally planned, and located twenty-five meters farther away from the waves. The construction must be completed by the end of the year to avail of the 6-million euro funding.

Cork: At the Fota Island Hotel last month, Paddy O'Brien, the man behind the national Over 60s talent competition, was named as Cork Person of the Year for 2010. Paddy has been running the talent show in communities all over the country for more than thirty years although his voluntary work stretches back to 1953 when he began helping the elderly in the inner city areas of Cork. Recently retired as regional manager of the Irish Heart Foundation, he was accompanied to the awards

ceremony by his sons Ronan and Brian, and his daughter-in-law Susan.

Derry: He may be only sixteen years of age but Joshua Jackson from the Kings Lane estate in Ballykelly is about to embark on his second business venture. Although he has no business background, Joshua already runs a successful public relations company, and he is now planning to open a boutique hotel in Bushmills. The Port Caman House, on the outskirts of the Co. Antrim village, was originally a bed and breakfast establishment, but Joshua hopes to turn it into a five-star boutique hotel with a restaurant. Although adamant that he has had no financial support, Joshua admits to having as his mentor a prominent businessman from the north west.

Donegal: When John Sweeney of Drumaweir, Greencastle reached his 100th birthday last month he not only received birthday greetings from President Mary McAleese, but also from Queen Elizabeth. Up to four years ago John was living in Scotland, where he was born and had lived all his life, and at that time his son Danny persuaded him to move to Ireland and live with himself and his wife Agatha, who has since died. Celebrations took place in the Seán Tí pub in Greencastle where John was joined by relatives and friends from Ireland, Scotland, and Cornwall.

Down: Peter Maxwell and Geraldine Foley, inveterate sailors who spent some years navigating the globe in the yacht they built themselves, have now turned their attention to the inland waterways of Ireland. The couple, who now own a river cruiser, have called a meeting in Scarva Visitor Centre for this month to engender interest in the restoration of the Newry Canal. This is one of the last unrestored stretches of Irish waterways and Peter and Geraldine are anxious to see the work carried out so that it will be possible to travel on inland waterways from Newry to Waterford.

Dublin: Nikki Kavanagh from Swords, a professional singer, is one of five acts who will battle it out on a special edition of The Late Late Show for the prize of representing Ireland in the Eurovision Song Contest. Nikki has already backed Niamh Kavanagh last year and Marc Roberts three years ago, and she is a regular singer with the RTE Concert Orchestra. She will be competing against Jedward, The Vard Sisters, Don Mescall and a new band recently signed to EMI Records. Each entrant has a mentor and Nikki is being helped by David Hayes. The contest takes place on February 11.

Fermanagh: Niall Cox from Belcoo has been selected to represent Ireland at the A International Series bowling competition which will take place in Scotland in March. Niall started his bowling career at the age of six when his parents bought him a set of mini bowls and he first joined Belcoo bowling club before going on to join Mullaghduin, where he is at present a member. The twenty-five-year-old, who was a member of the first All-Ireland Junior Inter Zone winning team, is now hoping that this competition will lead to a place on the full international team.

Galway: The plans for the development of Galway Harbour, which will allow large cruise liners to berth, went on public display last month at the Harbour Hotel in the city. The proposed 50-million euro



new harbour will extend one kilometer out to sea and will have 660m of quay berth for liners, oil tankers, cargo vessels, and fishing vessels. The proposal also includes a marina to provide facilities for more than 200 leisure craft. According to Councillor Brian Walsh, a former member of Galway Harbour Company, the construction phase alone could provide some 500 jobs.

Kerry: The Brennan brothers, Francis and John, who have extensive experience in the hospitality business, have come to the rescue of Vincent Kidd and his sister Fiona, who five years ago purchased The Royal Hotel in Knightstown on Valentia Island. Hit by the recession and a failure to secure a bank loan, the pair saw their business dwindling until the Brennans undertook to help them as part of their television programme "At Your Service." Now the Kidds have reopened the hotel, refurbished the hotel, and are also catering for weddings.

Kildare: Kildare town will be the centre of festivities to mark St Brigid's Day, with the Kindling Flames of Hope event running for a week in the town. A walk through Brigid's Monastic City with Mario Corrigan will set off from the Market Square, while Aras Bhride will be the location for learning how to weave St. Brigid's crosses. The St. Brigid's Eve ritual pilgrimage will take place at St. Brigid's Well, which will also be the setting for the Eucharist on the final day of the festival. This year's Celtic Lecture will be delivered by Charles Doherty of University College Dublin.

Kilkenny: Because a Kilmacow man wanted to be able to tell his now four-year-old daughter in years to come that he did take some action in protest at the Government's handling of the economy, he organized a march. Stephen Tobin was joined by a number of other men walking from Kilmacow to Leinster House to demand an apology from the Government. John Dunphy, Dermot Murray, Ned Murray, and Aaron Tobin were in the group who averaged twenty to twenty-five kilometers a day, carrying placards critical of the Government.

Laois: Pamela Moore from Mountrath has become the

only Irish person to receive the Lancome Golden Rose for her work as a beauty consultant at Debenham's in the Whitewater Shopping Centre. Pamela, the daughter of Mary and William Moore and mother of ten-year-old Dean, is to receive the eighteen-carat gold brooch as well as a champagne reception and dinner at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Powerscourt, an overnight stay and a luxury day at the hotel spa. She trained at the Marie Therese School of Complementary Therapies in Portlaoise before joining Lancome four years ago.

Leitrim: A new Festival Committee has been elected to organise this year's Dromod Family Festival, following the success of last year's event. The festival, on the first Sunday in May, is once again being held in Noreen Diffley's field and among new events this year will be guessing the weight of a bull, a bungee run, and the village's first ever Dog Show. The festival will be officially launched at the end of February in the Brandy Well and fundraising is due to start in the coming weeks.

Limerick: Damien Ryan from Ashbrooke Garden in Limerick, who teaches at the Sexton Street CBS, is setting off on his own to ride his BMW F650 motorcycle from Limerick to Ghana in order to raise funds for education in the African country. Damien has already raised money to provide books to children in a school in Malawi through his charity Oideachas San Afraic and has now contacted three schools in Ghana that he aims to help with his fundraising activities. In addition to books, he is also hoping to be able to supply the schoolchildren in Ghana with school uniforms.

Longford: With only a small amount of exterior work still to be completed on the new 1.5-million euro Ballymahon Library it is hoped that it will be opening in the near future. The library is housed in the old courthouse and the interior work has already been completed. In addition to the library the early nineteenth century building also comprises a one-stop-shop and community facility, with the library on the ground floor and the upper floor to be used as a large meeting room or community room.

Louth: Early this month, Carlingford will resound to the

strains of fiddle, tin whistle, and accordion as Ceol Charlinn 2011 takes place in the town. Organized by the local Community Development, St Oliver's Primary School, and the Lough Youth Peace Project, this is the sixth year of the event which features classes held in a number of instruments including the harp and uilleann pipes. There will also be concerts on the Friday and Saturday night, and an 'In Conversation' event in The Foy Centre will be led by Fintan Vallety, editor of 'The Companion to Irish Traditional Music'.

Mayo: Aaron Joyce from Westport is not only studying for his Leaving Certificate but also runs his own business. During his transition year the seventeen-year-old worked in Market 57, a homeware shop in Westport, and came up with the idea of selling the stock to a wider market within Ireland on the internet. A local homeware supplier provides the stock and Aaron collects a commission on everything he sells online. He set up the business last November and so far it has shown a profit, but now Aaron is hoping to expand to an international market. The company is based over the homeware shop that inspired his business success.

Meath: Sonya Macari from Clonee has landed a role in the American television comedy 'Chuck', but she will be speaking with an Italian accent. The twenty nine year old has been in Hollywood for the past two years working towards her big break, and it came with an audition in which she had to read a part in Italian. According to Sonya, the directors didn't realize she was speaking Italian with an Irish accent and hadn't realized she was Irish until filming began. The third series of the programme is due to air this month.

Monaghan: At just ten years of age a young girl from Castleblayney has become a world champion. Rebecca Sweeney, the daughter of John and Rosaleen Sweeney, travelled to the Line Dancing World Championships in Milan and was placed first in both categories in which she was entered. First dancing six dances in her line, and then eight with a professional partner, Rebecca, who attends the Memphis Belles Line Dancing Club in Carrickmacross, won both contests and was named World Champion in Youth Newcomer.

Offaly: Daingean Reformatory, which earned a poor reputation for the treatment of the boys who were sent there during the last century, is to see a new lease of life. Part of the building is to be handed over to the Daingean Sports Complex Committee by the Office of Public Works and it will be developed as a sporting facility for local children. The committee, under chairman Donal Milne, has been granted a ten-year license to the premises and it is hoped that its past reputation can be overcome by its future potential.

Roscommon: With the signing of a twenty-five-year lease with Mid Town Property on a building at the Centre Point Retail Park, it appears that Roscommon town will eventually have its own cinema. The project has been subject to a number of delays but Darren Corcoran of Flix Leisure said it will now definitely be opened this year. It has taken longer than anticipated and he admitted that it had been a mistake to set an opening date that they had subsequently been unable to meet. The company is at present in the process of purchasing state-of-the-art digital

(Continued on page 18)

NEWS DIRECT FROM IRELAND

Inflation up to 1.3% – The annual Consumer Prices Index in December was 1.3 percent higher than in December 2009, with a 0.2 percent increase recorded last month. This compares to a decrease of 0.5 percent recorded in December 2009. Increased fuel prices had the biggest impact in the month as this affected transport costs and home heating costs. Other factors were increases in the prices of hairdressing, private health, and motor insurance. The cost of clothing, footwear and alcohol fell during the month. The 1.3 percent rate is the highest in two years.

Further deaths from flu but case numbers decreasing – A further nine deaths from flu were recorded during the third week of January, four in the Republic and five in the North. However numbers diagnosed are decreasing. In the South the Health Protection Surveillance Centre reported 7,700 cases in that week compared with 9,000 in the previous seven days, while in the North director of public health Carolyn Harper has said the numbers of cases has peaked. Those with underlying health conditions are, of course, still vulnerable. To date the North has seen 21 deaths from swine flu, 18 of the victims having underlying conditions, while in the South six people have died from flu, five of them from swine flu.

Thousands attend McAreevey funeral – On Jan. 24, thousands of people attended the funeral of newlywed Michaela McAreevey, the 27-year-old teacher who had been murdered in Mauritius two weeks earlier when she woke up to thieves in her hotel room. The funeral at St. Malachy's Church, Ballymacilroy, was one of the largest funerals ever seen in Co. Tyrone. A large marquee was erected outside the church to hold some of the overflow. Michaela's coffin was carried on the shoulders of family, friends, and neighbors for most of the mile-long journey from the Ballygawley home of her parents, Mickey and Marian Harte.

At the church were President Mary McAleese, Cardinal Seán Brady, GAA Patron Archbishop Dermot Clifford, politicians from across the divide, leading GAA figures, members of the

Ireland Today: Six Michelin Stars Retained, One is Lost

Deanes Restaurant in Belfast had to close for four months at the start of last year due to flood damage, and it is claimed that it is this factor that led to its losing its Michelin star after 14 years. Chef Michael Deane earned the prestigious star the first year he opened his restaurant on Howard Street and had retained it ever since. Michelin Guide editor Derek Bulmer commented that the flood would not have come into the consideration when the restaurant was being evaluated.

The six Michelin star restaurants in the Republic all retained their rating. They include Restaurant Patrick Guilbaud, L'Ecrivain, Chapter One, Bon Appetit, and Thornton's, all in Dublin, and the Cliff House Hotel in Waterford.

Tyrone football team, members of the local Errigal Ciarán's football team and pupils and staff from St Patrick's Academy in Dungannon, where Michaela had been a teacher. Bishop John McAreevey, uncle of the grieving husband John, was chief celebrant at the requiem Mass just as he had officiated at the couple's marriage in the same church on December 30.

Among those attending the house over last weekend were First Minister Peter Robinson and a number of his DUP colleagues. Also there was deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness, who returned for the funeral on Monday.

Vatican rejected move to report clerical abusers – An RTE program shown last month included information on a Vatican directive issued in 1997 in which the pope rejected a recommendation that priests who abused children should be reported to the civil authorities. The directive also said it would offer support to any priest defrocked by the Irish Church following known child abuse, and did so on a number of occasions. This was confirmed in 1998 when Archbishop of Dublin Desmond Connell was told by the prefect of the Congregation for Clergy that it was Vatican policy to defend the rights of an accused priest.

Major garda operation budget cut by 50 percent – Operation Anvil, the most significant operation against organized crime in the Republic, has had its budget cut in half, down from 21-million euro last

year to just 10 million this year. The shortfall will mean that the operation will have to become more focused, according to Garda Commissioner Martin Callinan. He also said that he had access to additional funds should the need arise. Operation Anvil was established in 2005 in response to an increase in organized crime.

Gangloot 60 boats on Shannon – In the early hours of Jan. 18, a gang of five masked men, who were caught on CCTV, broke into 60 boats moored at Butler's marina near Carrickon-Shannon, Co. Leitrim, and made off with a large number of items. The gang had parked their vehicles some distance from the marina and they made several trips to load up the televisions, GPS systems, alcohol and other items taken. Gardaí are now to contact all members of the inland boating fraternity in case the gang attempts to sell the items in this country.

New Red Cross chief is former AIB official – The newly-appointed secretary general of the Irish Red Cross, Dónal Forde, is the former head of Allied Irish Bank's Republic of Ireland division. Forde moved from that position to director of group strategy at the bank just seven months before he left the bank in December 2009. Persistent concerns about the governance and financial irregularities at the Irish Red Cross led to calls for reform of the body which, a report found, did not have sufficient staff or management controls to deal with the response to its appeal

following the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

Employment & Industrial Relations

58 jobs to go in Dublin – DFDS, the Dutch transport company, has announced that it is to close its ferry services at Dublin Port from the end of January, with the loss of 58 jobs. SIPTU official Ken Fleming called for the industry to be regulated, saying that the withdrawal of DFDS is due to the issuing of too many licenses to shipping companies. Others see it as simply a reduction in business due to the recession.

Software company to create 150 jobs in Cork – Just before he resigned last month, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Innovation Batt O'Keeffe announced that US multinational Quest Software is establishing an international shared services center employing 150 staff in Cork city. The new jobs, which will be based in Citygate in Mahon, will come on stream over the next three years. Quest develops enterprise systems and network management software for businesses. The company already has a sales office in Dublin.

Concerns over cash-for-gold lead to investigation – Former Minister for Justice Dermot Ahern has asked Garda Commissioner Martin Callinan to investigate whether some of the numerous cash-for-gold businesses that have been set up in recent times are being run by organized crime gangs. Cash-for-gold kiosks have been set up in shopping centers all over the country and there is concern that they facilitate the disposal of stolen goods.

Health Admonishment for surgeon found guilty over patient death – Dr. Jarvaid Ahmad Butt has been found guilty of professional misconduct in relation to the death of Colette Donohoe, 54, at St. James' Hospital in August 2006. The Fitness to Practise Committee found that Dr. Butt, who is to be admonished by the Medical Council, had fallen short of the standards expected of doctors in his treatment of Ms. Donohoe, who died from multiple organ failure, sepsis and severe infectious colitis five days after being admitted to hospital.

HIQA recommends emergency response time – The Health Information and Quality Authority has recommended a response time of eight minutes by ambulance services to emergency calls. The HIQA has also recommended that emergency service providers should begin to report their response time starting later this year.

Teenager awarded damages for birth injuries – Nicole Hassett, 13, has been awarded damages of 3.75-million euro in the High Court as Justice Iarfhlaith O'Neill found that her consultant obstetrician had delayed her delivery at St Joseph's Maternity Hospital in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary. The court heard that Nicole, who has cerebral palsy and is severely disabled, was delivered at 1. a.m. on Nov. 15, 1997, and that most of her injuries occurred in the half hour before her birth. Dr Raymond Howard should, according to Justice O'Neill, have been ready in the operating theatre from 12.20 a.m. and he described the obstetrician's delay in delivering the child as "inexplicable."

Travel & Tourism Talks held on Golden Trekker scheme – Talks are being held involving Fáilte Ireland, Iarnród Éireann, and Tourism Ireland to discuss the future of the Golden Trekker scheme. Introduced last year, the scheme gave free rail travel on main line, Dart, and commuter trains to all tourists over 66 years of age. Between March and December some 15,000 tickets were issued. Iarnród Éireann has said it will consider continuing the scheme if it receives funding from Fáilte Ireland.

St. John's Castle to be redeveloped – A Government grant of 4.7 million euro has been secured by Shannon Development, who will contribute a further one million euro for the redevelopment of the 13th century St. John's Castle in Limerick. Interpretative facilities will be installed and a number of re-enactments will take place, and it is expected that the development of the castle and the Castle Lane complex will significantly increase tourism numbers to the city. The project is due for completion next year, when the castle will celebrate its 800th anniversary.

THIRTY-TWO COUNTIES

(Continued from page 17)

equipment for the new facility. **Sligo:** Director of Discover Sligo Keith McNair is calling for an amicable solution to the dispute that closed Lissadell House to the public following a High Court case. McNair, who claims to have the signatures of a thousand Sligo people who support owners Edward Walsh and Constance Cassidy, believes an alternative route to give access to the beach could be agreed on and not impinge on the home life of the Walshes and their seven children. He further claims that Lissadell house engendered an input of 20 million euro into the area last year between visitors to the house and the two major concerts held there.

Tipperary: The twentieth anniversary of the death of accordionist Paddy O'Brien of Newtown, Nenagh, will be marked in mid-March with a concert in aid of North Tipperary Hospice for Home Care. The gala concert in Portroe Hall is being organized by musician Eileen O'Brien-Minogue from Moanfin, Paddy's daughter, while a second gathering will take place in Bobby Reidy's bar in Newtown. At this event

All-Ireland ballad singer Nora Butler Swan from Nenagh will launch her CD, "My Homelife in Tipperary." Both she and Eileen O'Brien-Minogue are members of the Bru Boru entertainment group.

Tyrone: One of the ten venues across the North to be chosen to host the annual Winter Woollie Walks organized by the Northern Ireland Cancer Fund is Gortin Glen Forest Park. The walk is due to take place on the last Saturday in February and participants will be encouraged to raise as much money as possible through sponsorship. The Winter Woollie Walks vary in length from between two and five miles and all money raised in the ten venues will help to provide services and support to young cancer patients under the age of twenty-four, and their families.

Waterford: The first tricolour was unveiled by Thomas Francis Meagher at 33 The Mall in Waterford City on March 7, 1848, and on March 5 this year, at 18.48, the city will begin to celebrate the event. A function at the House of Waterford Crystal will set the weekend of events in motion, David McWilliams will host an evening of political

theatre, while the following day a flag-raising ceremony will be held at The Mall. The commemorative weekend is an initiative of local man Cian Foley and James Doherty, a history enthusiast.

Westmeath: Councillor Tom Allen has called for action over the courthouse in Moate which, he says, is becoming derelict. Although he admits that there are no funds available to have work carried out on the early nineteenth century building, the councillor, and director of services Barry Kehoe, have urged voluntary groups in the town to consider making use of the courthouse. It has been used for the past while by Moate Boxing Club but they might not be able to continue using it due to a leak in the roof.

Wexford: The Oylegate Guild of the Irish Countrywomen's Association is not only the longest continually running branch in the country, it also boasts the oldest member. Due to celebrate its 100th birthday this month, the branch includes among its members 96-year-old Margaret Quirke, who has had an involvement in the movement since she was aged ten. Up to a few years ago she was also honorary president of Oylegate and held

meetings in her own home. The Oylegate ICA Guild will hold its centenary lunch and tea dance in the Talbot Hotel.

Wicklow: A report into the numbers of deer in the county has recommended establishing a deer-management project in areas where the deer population is considered unsustainable. Commissioned by deer societies, farmers, foresters, and the National Parks and Wildlife

Service, the report cites an increase of 175 percent in red and hybrid deer over a fifty-year period up to 2008, and a 767 percent increase in Sika deer. In some places the animal density was found to be between 33 and 44 deer per square kilometre, where the European average is ten animals per square kilometre. Ballinastoe and Ashford have been earmarked as pilot deer-management areas.



IRELAND'S WEATHER

REPORTED MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2011

Temperatures were close to normal on Tuesday and Wednesday but after that we had frosty nights and bright cold days.

More unsettled conditions are forecast for the coming week.

Latest Temperatures:
Day 7C (45F) Night 2C (36F)

Recalling the Heady Days of JFK's Inauguration



John F. Kennedy gives his inaugural address on January 20, 1961.

US Army Signal Corps photo courtesy JFK Library



President-elect and Mrs. Kennedy arrive at the Inaugural gala held in the National Guard Armory, Washington, DC, January 19, 1961. Photograph by Jacques Lowe © Estate of Jacques Lowe



President-Elect and Mrs. Kennedy leave their Georgetown home on Inauguration morning, January 20, 1961. Photograph by Jacques Lowe © Estate of Jacques Lowe

As part of the 50th-anniversary commemoration last month of John F. Kennedy's inauguration as president on Jan. 20, 1961, the JFK Library launched two exhibits that will remain on display through most of this year:

Passing the Torch – The Inauguration of John F. Kennedy (through August 26, 2011) – Before taking the oath of office and delivering one of the most memorable addresses in our nation's history, John F. Kennedy spent months preparing to ascend to our nation's highest office. This special 50th anniversary exhibit presents

treasures from the ceremonial events building up to the inaugural – JFK's farewell to his home state of Massachusetts; his arrival in Washington at an inaugural eve gala – and from the inaugural ceremony itself.

Poetry and Power: The Inaugural Address of John F. Kennedy (through the fall of this year) -- This exhibit pres-

ents documents from the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library Archives that trace the evolution of President Kennedy's inaugural address. Widely viewed as one of the most enduring inaugural messages in United States history, the speech was meticulously crafted – then worked and reworked – by President-elect John F. Kennedy and

his close advisor, Theodore (Ted) Sorensen. This exhibit focuses on the drafting of President Kennedy's inaugural address between the election on Nov. 8, 1960, and the inauguration. Many of the notes and drafts provide fascinating glimpses into the drafting process.

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PUZZLE SOLUTION
FROM PAGE 16

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