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# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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Nineteen members of the Massachusetts Harp Ensemble, led by instructor Judith Ross of Burlington, grace the stage with their heavenly Irish sounds during "A Little Bit of Ireland" at the Reagle Music Theatre. *Photos by Herb Philpott*

## Singers, Dancers, Harpists Aplenty Conjure Up 'A Little Bit Of Ireland' at Reagle Music Theatre

By R. J. DONOVAN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Take an international step-dancing champion, add a dazzling fiddler from Galway, 19 heavenly harpists, one Broadway star, comedy galore and a 30-member choir and you've got "A Little Bit Of Ireland," the St. Patrick's Day musical revue presented by Reagle Music Theatre March 11-13.

Now in its 13th year (make that Lucky 13th), the show is a

**What's Happening This Month**  
See Pages 14, 15

colorful celebration of Irish music, dancing, and light hearted comedy, conceived and directed by Reagle's producing artistic director and founder Robert J. Eagle.

Traditions are important in this show and Eagle believes in giving his audience exactly what they love. That includes

### Revue Set for March 11-13

Ballinasloe fiddler Larry Reynolds who'll appear with his Boston-bred protégé, Brendan Bulger, and the Celtic ensemble Comhaltas. Also on board is step-dancer Liam Harney, who starred in the London production of "Riverdance." The two-time world champion and accredited teacher and adjudicator with the An Coimisiun Le Rince Gaelacha in Ireland heads up the Harney Academy of Irish Step Dancing in Walpole. A troupe of his students will also perform.

One of Reagle's favorite leading ladies is Sarah Pfisterer, who has starred on Broadway in "Phantom of the Opera" and "Showboat." A mainstay in the Irish revue, she has also become a fixture of Reagle's summer productions, performing in "The Music Man," "Hello, Dolly!" and "Carousel," among others.

Rounding out the company are local comedian and Reagle regular Harold "Jerry" Walker; Reagle's own Irish Tenors, offering lullabies and romantic ballads; and an impressive choir incorporating solos by Katie Ford ("The Fields of Athenry"), Christopher King, Erik Sachs, Al Feetham, Cara Green, Jane Corrigan, Gary Vincent, Jean Alfred Chavier, and John Marshall.

In an evening of showstopping moments, one group that provides a definite "wow" factor is the Massachusetts Harp Ensemble. While most people think of the harp as a single entity in an orchestra, the Ensemble blows that image out of the water by showcasing 19 harpists on stage at the same time.

Founded by Judith Ross, former Chair of the Theory De-



Larry Reynolds on fiddle and his musical troupe Comhaltas play traditional Irish folk music during "A Little Bit of Ireland."

partment at the Longy School of Music, the Ensemble has been part of every Irish revue at Reagle since the beginning. Ross herself has been playing harp for Reagle's summer musicals since the early 80s.

The youngest member of the Ensemble is nine years old, Ross

says, "and my birthday is coming up, so by the time we play, I'll be 69 . . . I'm the old lady," she adds with a laugh. "There's another player in her sixties and a few in their fifties. The generational thing is wonderful."

(Continued on page 25)

## Flutist with a Heavenly Touch

### Space Station 'Cool' Place for Playing, Says Astronaut

By ED FORRY  
BIR PUBLISHER

American astronaut Catherine Coleman, of Shelburne Falls in Massachusetts, roared into space in December along with a Russian cosmonaut to dock on the International Space Station, where she will be circling the earth until sometime in May.

While she will have much to do as a working station manager, she has planned for the times when she can relax. An amateur musician, she has four flutes to pick from when she wants to play. One is her own, and the other three are on loan from three well-known musicians: a tin whistle from Paddy Moloney, leader of the Irish trad group the Chieftains; a priceless traditional Irish concert flute from Chieftains member Matt Molloy; and a flute from Ian Anderson, founder of the band



Catherine (Cady) Coleman, a flight engineer on NASA's Expedition 26 mission, playing Matt Molloy's flute at a news conference in Kazakhstan in December before setting off to the Space Station. Below, she dons a Russian Sokol launch and entry suit for training last year in Star City, Russia.

*Photos by Reuters, Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center*

Jethro Tull.

Molloy said he and Moloney got to know the Coleman more than 10 years ago after they had played a gig in Houston. "We had done a concert and as always we had a tune afterwards with local musicians," he said. "It transpired that she played the flute and we have been friends ever since."

A recently retired US Air Force lieutenant colonel, Cole-

(Continued on page 10)



## Angry Voters Endorse New Deal for Ireland

By LIAM FERRIE

THE IRISH EMIGRANT

GALWAY - The inevitable collapse of Fianna Fáil came to pass with the General election on Feb. 25. With the results of three constituencies still to come at deadline, it looks as if the party will be left with just 20 TDs, compared with 78 in 2007. Fine Gael is, for the first time, the largest party in the country and could finish with 78 seats, an increase of 27. Although many independents were elected, it now is clear that Enda Kenny will lead a coalition Government involving the Labour Party.

Labour did extremely well and so far has 36 seats, up from 20. Sinn Féin surprised everyone by taking 13 seats and could add to that (the party had four after the 2007 election and added one in a by-election). Independents and others hold

(Continued on page 13)



### Trooper's Widow: 'Need to Step Up'

For Maryellen Hayes Barry, June 15, 2006 marked the end of one life and the beginning of another. Her beloved husband, Paul, a Massachusetts state trooper, wasn't coming home to her and their seven children. He had died that morning of a coronary event while he was on patrol. Story, Page 8.





## THE IRISH AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP



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Scoil Chaitigherin  
Scoil Na Nog  
SN Ath na Lionta  
SN Faill O gCofaigh Ballydesmond  
SN Naomh Sheamuis  
St. Killian's Special School  
St. Mark's BNS  
St. Brendan's GNS  
Togher NS

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St. Brigid NS  
St. Patrick's PS

##### DONEGAL

Ballyheerin NS  
Belcruit N.S.  
Brownknowe NS  
Dromore NS  
Glentogher NS  
Inver NS  
Keadue N.S.  
Meenagown N.S.,  
Scoil Chroine, Dungloe Town  
Scoil Roisin, Maghera  
SN Beal na Cruite  
SN Olibhear Pluinced  
St. Brigid's PS  
St. Mary's NS

##### DOWN

St. Joseph's PS, Killough  
St. Malachy's PS, Castlewellsan  
St. Patrick's PS, Ballynahinch

##### DUBLIN

Westland Row CBS

##### FERMANAGH

Enniskillen Model PS

##### GALWAY

Barnaderg CS  
Belmont N.S.  
Carnageehy N.S.  
Claddagh NS  
Kilconly N.S.  
Milltown N.S.  
Scoil Mhichil Ballybane

##### GALWAY (cont.)

Scoil Mhuire  
Scoil Naomh Iosef  
SN An Cheathrair Alainn, Inishmore Aran  
SN An Eanaigh Cailini  
SN Ard Carna  
SN Baile An Leasa  
SN Caomhain, Inisheer Aran  
SN Ceathru na Laithigh Tuam  
SN Doire Ui Bhriain Bailr  
SN Gort Na Leime  
SN Inis Meadhoin, Inishmaan Aran  
SN Eoghanoichta, Inishmore Aran  
SN Naomh Padraig  
SN Ronain, Inishmore Aran  
St. Patrick's NS  
Sylane N.S.

##### KERRY

Aghatubrid NS  
Ballyduff CS  
Boheshill MXD N.S.  
Bouleensheare NS  
Boy's NS, Quay Street  
Caherciveen Convent Schl.  
Cahir N  
Clochar Daingean NS  
Coars NS  
Convent of Mercy NS  
Cromane NS, Killorglin  
Dromerin NS Listowel  
Gap of Dunloe N.S.  
Holy Cross College  
Kilgarvan C.S.  
Killury NS  
Knockaclarig NS  
Knockanure NS  
Lauragh N.S.  
Listowel Presentation PS  
Scoil Bhreanainn  
Scoil Caitlin Naofa, Dingle  
Scoil Eoin XXIII  
Scoil an Fhail Mor  
Scoil Naomh Michael  
Scoil Realt na Mara  
S.N. Cillin Liath  
S.N. Muire Gan Smal  
SN Naomh Mhicil  
SN an Ghleanna  
SN Cillin Liath  
SN Dar Earca  
S.N. Phroinnsias Naofa  
St. Clare's N.S.

##### KERRY (cont.)

St. Erc's NS  
St. Finian's NS  
St. Joseph's Girls NS  
Tarbert NS  
Tulloha N.S.  
**KILDARE**  
Ballyadams NS  
St. Carban's BNS  
**KILKENNY**  
Graig Na Manach Buac NS  
Scoil Naomh Joseph  
SN Colmain  
SN Lisnafunchin  
**LEITRIM**  
Cortober NS  
Craobheleithe NS  
Differeen NS  
Drumnamore NS  
Drumshambo NS  
Fenagh NS  
Mohill 2 NS  
Scoil Brid Naofa  
SN Achadh Mhaolain Garadice  
SN Beal an Atha Mhoir  
SN Naomh Brigid

##### LIMERICK

Coolcappa NS  
Feale View NS  
Martinstown NS  
Scoil Lile Naofa  
SN Loch Guir Holy Cross  
SN Naomh Padraig  
SN Sheoirse Clancy

##### LONGFORD

Killasonna NS  
Scoil Mhuire  
Tang NS

##### LOUTH

Gaelscoil Dhun Dealgan

##### MAYO

Barnacogue N.S.  
Carnacon NS  
Culmore NS  
Convent of Mercy NS  
Coogue N.S.  
Craggagh NS  
Crimlin NS  
Drumgallagh NS  
Gaelscoil Uileog de Burca  
Glenisland NS

##### MAYO (cont.)

JGortJordan NS  
esus NS  
Kilkelly N.S.  
Killasser NS  
Kiltimagh CS  
Kinaffe N.S.  
Meelick NS  
Midfield N.S.  
Murrisk NS  
Neale NS  
Robeen Central NS  
SN Coill a tSidheain  
**SN Croiosa**  
SN Druim Slaod  
SN Lainn Cille  
SN Thola  
St. Anthony's Special Schl.  
St. Dymrna's NS  
St. John's NS Claremorris  
St. Joseph's NS  
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Tourmakeady NS  
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**MEATH**  
St. Patrick's NS  
**ROSCOMMON**  
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SN Padraig Naofa  
Soeey NS  
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Castlerock NS  
Cloonacool NS  
Coolbock NS  
GaelscoilChnoc na Re  
Moylough NS  
SN Naithi Naofa Achonry  
Stokane NS Enniscrone  
**TIPPERARY**  
SN Na Hine Thurles  
St. Mary's NS  
**TYRONE**  
Drumglass HS  
Eglish PS  
St. Joseph's HS  
St. Mary's PS  
**WATERFORD**  
Kill NS  
Portlaw NS  
Scoil Naomh Gobnait  
St. Saviours NS

NS: National School, SN: Scoil Naisiunta (Irish for National School), PS: Primary School, CS: Central School, HS: High School

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University College Dublin  
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Shannon College of Hotel Management  
St. Patrick's Teacher Training College  
Waterford Institute of Technology

## ON THE TOWN WITH THE BIR

### Irish Priest Says O'Malley's Irish 'Visitation' Offers Hope

A story written by **John L. Allen** and published in the *National Catholic Reporter* on Feb. 17 played down recent media reports out of London suggesting that Boston's Cardinal-Archbishop **Sean P. O'Malley** sees the Catholic church in Ireland "on the edge of collapse," saying that the leader of a reform-minded group of Irish calls the visitation "far more positive" for him and other like-minded priests.

Father **Tony Flannery**, a founding member of the Association of Catholic Priests that was launched last September, told Allen that his group's experience is that the visitors are "really listening," that they grasp the "depth and urgency" of the crisis in Ireland generated by revelations of decades of sexual abuse and cover-up, and that they have placed "no restrictions" on the conversation about reform.

Flannery told Allen that the "edge of collapse" line "wasn't quite fair to what O'Malley said." The point O'Malley was trying to make, he said, was that the visitors understand there are "very deep and real problems" exposed by the sexual abuse crisis, and that "just papering over cracks is not going to deal with them."

O'Malley declined a request to comment for NCR, citing the confidentiality of the visitation.

Flannery told NCR that the tone set by the visitors has provided a sense of hope. "I think it's fair to say that our initial response to the visitation was negative, bordering on cynical," he said. "But so far our experience has been good."



Anthony Bourdain and Cindy Quinn

Photo courtesy Bill Brett

### No Reservations at Greenhills

The globe-trotting foodie **Anthony Bourdain** filmed a segment of his popular "No Reservations" series at Dorchester's own Greenhills Bakery last month. Bourdain and a companion settled in for more than two hours at one of the eatery's cozy tables and chowed down on a signature Irish Breakfast sandwich. **Cindy Quinn**, who co-owns the landmark bakery with her husband **Dermot**, said that Bourdain and his friend had been sampling some of the city's, ahem, spirit purveyors the night before and needed a hearty breakfast to recover.

"A producer called right before Christmas and said they'd heard about our breakfast sandwiches and they wanted to come in," said Quinn. "He was real nice — a funny guy — and they filmed in here for about an hour and a half."

Quinn says she has caught episodes of "No Reservations" before — but counts herself a real fan now. The Boston show is scheduled to air on March 17 on the Travel Channel.

### American Irish By the Numbers

*The following is courtesy of the U.S. Census Bureau:* Originally a religious holiday to honor St. Patrick, who introduced Christianity to Ireland in the fifth century, St. Patrick's Day has evolved into a celebration for all things Irish. The world's first St. Patrick's Day parade occurred on March 17, 1762, in New York City, featuring Irish soldiers serving in the English military. This parade became an annual event, with President Harry Truman attending in 1948. Congress proclaimed March as Irish-American Heritage Month in 1995, and the president issues a proclamation commemorating the occasion each year.

#### Population Distribution

Number of U.S. residents who claimed Irish ancestry in 2009: 36.9 million. This number was more than eight times the population of Ireland itself (4.5 million). Irish was the nation's second most frequently reported ancestry, trailing only German.

Number of Irish-born U.S. residents in 2009: 122,000. Those from Ireland are much older (a median of 60 years old) and have a higher median household income (\$56,158) than U.S. residents as a whole (37 years and \$50,221, respectively).

Percent of Massachusetts residents who were of Irish ancestry in 2009: 24 percent. This compares with a rate of 12 percent for the nation as a whole.

#### Irish-Americans Today

Percentage of people of Irish ancestry, 25 or older,

who had a bachelor's degree or higher: 32 percent. In addition, 92 percent of Irish-Americans in this age group had at least a high school diploma. For the nation as a whole, the corresponding rates were 28 percent and 85 percent respectively.

Median income for households headed by an Irish-American: \$56,383. This is higher than the \$50,221 for all households. In addition, 10 percent of people of Irish ancestry were in poverty, lower than the rate of 14 percent for all Americans.

Percentage of employed civilian Irish-Americans 16 or older who worked in management, professional and related occupations: 40 percent. Additionally, 27 percent worked in sales and office occupations; 16 percent in service occupations; 9 percent in production, transportation and material moving occupations; and 8 percent in construction, extraction, maintenance and repair occupations.

Percentage of householders of Irish ancestry who owned the home in which they live, with the remainder renting: 70 percent. For the nation as a whole, the homeownership rate was 66 percent.

#### The Celebration

U.S. beef and cabbage production, respectively, in pounds, in 2009: 26.1 billion and 2.3 billion. Corned beef and cabbage is a traditional St. Patrick's Day dish in the United States.

Source: 2009 American Community Survey



Julia Roberts and Paul Rudd

### Paul Rudd Named 'Honorary Irishman' at Oscar Wilde Event

The actor **Paul Rudd** received the "Honorary Irishman" award at the sixth annual "Oscar Wilde: Honoring the Irish in Film," event in Los Angeles on Feb. 24. Also honored were casting agents **Ros and John Hubbard** and the actress **Sarah Bolger**, who received the "Wilde Card" award, which recognizes rising talent in film.

The singer/actress **Maria Doyle Kennedy** performed and the actor **Donal Logue** emceed the event.

US-Ireland Alliance president **Trina Vargo** learned of Rudd's connection to Ireland from the Irish journalist **Patricia Danaher**, who is based in LA and covers the film business.

"Patricia is a regular at our LA event and kindly always keeps an eye out for Irish connections to those she interviews," said Vargo who learned that Paul has strong ties to Ireland and has visited several times. "Paul is an incredibly talented actor with a body of work that has received both critical acclaim and box office success. We're delighted to make him an Honorary Irishman," she said.

The pre-Academy Awards party was hosted by the US-Ireland Alliance and sponsored by Culture Ireland, the Irish Film Board, and American Airlines.

### Providence College Retires Flynn Jersey

Former Boston Mayor and US Ambassador to the Vatican **Raymond L. Flynn** was honored in dramatic fashion last month by his alma mater, Providence College, last month: His No. 14 basketball jersey was officially retired and lifted to the rafters at the Providence Civic Auditorium. The event took place on Feb. 19 at halftime of the University of Cincinnati and Providence College Big East game.

Flynn led the Friars to national basketball prominence in the early 1960s, and was voted the Most Valuable Player in the National Invitational Tournament at New York City's Madison Square Garden. The life-long South Boston resident and Southie High graduate was voted high school All American and Massachusetts All Scholastic in three sports. He was joined at the event by many longtime friends from the neighborhood.

Please come and celebrate  
**Dorchester's Fifth Annual  
 St. Patrick's Day Brunch**  
 Saturday, March 19, 2011, 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Blessed Mother Teresa Parish Hall  
 800 Columbia Road, Dorchester

Guest Speaker: Joseph P. Kennedy III

All proceeds to benefit  
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Dr. Larry Ronan and Jim Brett  
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\$100 per person  
 Reservations will be held at door

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## Publisher's Notebook

# Remembering What Barney Did

By ED FORRY

Barney McGinniskin was the first Irish cop in Boston. He arrived in Boston's North End from County Galway in the 1840s, and found work as a laborer, until finally, on Nov. 4, 1851, he was hired by the city and he put on the blue waistcoat of a Boston police officer.

BIR contributing editor Peter Stevens told his story in these pages in 2008: "Boston had its first officially appointed Irish cop. Not surprisingly, his presence soon ignited a political, social and cultural furor in the land of 'Yankee icicles.'

"This person woke up one morning and found himself famous," noted the Irish newspaper *The Boston Pilot*. "He is the first Irishman that ever carried the stick of a policeman anywhere in this country, and meetings, even Faneuil Hall meetings, have been held to protect against the appointment."

"The very notion of an Irish policeman enraged Brahmin and Yankee tradesmen alike in the Boston of 1851," Stevens wrote. "Of the city's population of nearly 140,000, 53,923 hailed from Ireland but on Boston's eight-man Board of Aldermen, no Irishman represented the immigrants, and only one, Edward Hennessey of the West End, served on the 48-man Carmen Council. Alderman Able B. Monroe summed up the sentiments of many native-born Americans with his contention that appointing any Irishman to the police force would create "a dangerous precedent" because, in his opinion,



Ed Forry

"Irishmen commit most of the city's crime and would receive special consideration from any of their own wearing the blue."

Stevens wrote that in 1854, "A groundswell of anti-Irish rancor espoused by the so-called 'Know-Nothing' American party shook Boston politics and bounced McGinniskin from the police ranks for good." His years as a cop had lasted less than three years.

Barney McGinniskin passed away in March 1868, and was buried in a cemetery on what is now Dorchester Street in South Boston, next to the St. Augustine Chapel. His burial place is marked by an almost illegible stone, and now there's a movement to restore his gravesite and give a heightened recognition to his place in history.

Several current Boston cops are joining with the Boston Emerald Society, the South Boston Citizens Association, and Southie's Historical Society to honor the memory of McGinniskin. first with a reception on March 14 hosted at the South Boston branch office of Mt. Washington Bank, and later in the spring with a graveside event at St. Augustine Cemetery.

Emerald Society past president Sean McCarthy, a police officer from West Roxbury, said the bank reception will feature a police honor guard and an information program telling McGinniskin's story. He said there will be an unveiling of a memorial stone at the cemetery "coming in the spring, when the ground thaws. This is a guy who is a piece of our history, a piece of our Irish heritage, and a piece of Boston's history. If you read about the struggles he went through to get appointed, how long he lasted on the job, and why he was relieved of his post, you'll see some of the bigotry that persisted against Irish and Irish Americans back then. He cleared the way for other immigrants as well."

"This isn't a Boston Police Department event," explained Jack Forbush, Mt. Washington Bank's Community Affairs director. "The bank is the host [of the reception], and it is sponsored by the Emerald Society, the South Boston Historical Society, and the Citizens Association."

"The bank over the years has tried to get involved in the St. Patrick's festivities, and we traditionally try to host an event at one of our offices," said Mt. Washington Bank president Ed Merritt. "Seeing the historical significance of the Irish in Boston, this really fits in and we're happy to be able to do this."

Forbush said there are plans to have a "commemorative challenge coin" available at the time of the reception. Others joining in the planning are Robert E. Anthony, chronologist of Boston Police Memorials in the commissioner's office, and Detective Richard Devoe of the SB Historical Society.

The reception will be held on Mon., March 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Mt. Washington Bank branch office, 708 East Broadway, South Boston.

## Commentary

# Anger, Disgust Drive Irish Voters to Send Fianna Fail to Sidelines

By JOE LEARY

SPECIAL TO THE BIR

DUBLIN – Foreclosures, higher taxes, higher health insurance costs, and huge pay cuts for most everyone over the last several years had created an Irish anger that demanded change, and right away. In addition to those woes, there was a broad disgust and a deep loss of pride at the government having to borrow from European banks to bail out Irish banks. On Feb. 25, Ireland's voters complied resoundingly with the call for change and sent the former leaders of Fianna Fail into oblivion.



Joe Leary

Former Taoiseach Brian Cowen, most of his ministers, and fellow members of his party in the Irish parliament either did not run for re-election or were defeated in the national voting held last month. All the results were not in as this article was being written but it is safe to say that Fianna Fail, which had 72 seats in the last Irish Parliament, will have fewer than 20 seats in the new assembly -- a humiliating defeat by any measure.

The new government will be formed by a coalition of two parties, Fine Gael and Labour. Fine Gael will have the most seats and therefore its leader, Enda Kenny of Mayo, will become prime minister. Fine Gael will also control most of the ministerial positions, but Labour will be given its own ministers as a trade-off for their voting support in the Parliament.

The Irish people are betting that the newly elected politicians will do a much better job of it than the departing Fianna Fail group. That remains to be seen. The problems with the Irish economy are very difficult with the cost of running the government much higher than current revenue. And there is a real feeling in Ireland that the people will not stand for further cuts in services or higher taxes.

The election may have been more a vote in anger – a throw-the-bums-out vote rather than a result of any confidence that the new men and women will be able to provide solutions to the country's difficulties.

As an example of this, Sinn Fein did well in this election and they are criticizing all three major parties – Fianna Fail, Fine Gael, and Labour – without detailing what they would do. This seems to appeal to young people, who traditionally support hopeful new voices. Gerry Adams, formerly

*The election may have been more a vote in anger – a throw-the-bums-out vote rather than a result of any confidence that the new men and women will be able to provide solutions to the country's difficulties.*

a member of both the British Parliament and the Northern Ireland Assembly as well as president of Sinn Fein, resigned both seats. But because Northern Ireland citizens are considered citizens of the Republic, Adams decided to run for Dublin's Parliament of the County of Louth just across the border. Not only did he win, but he also topped the ticket, coming in ahead of Fergus O'Dowd, the established favorite who was also elected and may become a Fine Gael minister.

Last year, Sinn Fein had only four seats in the former Parliament; the party is projected to win 13 seats in the new Parliament. This gain is a significant victory that will provide Sinn Fein with a much larger influence in national affairs.

In the recent Parliament, the Green Party, with six seats, was Fianna Fail's partner. All its candidates were defeated in last month's election, marking an end to the party's influence, at least for the immediate future.

Combined, the new coalition of Fine Gael and Labour is projected (by the *Irish Times*) to have more than 110 seats in Parliament, well above the required majority of 83. By statute, the coalition's term is five years, long enough to solidify its power unless some additional unforeseen calamity befalls Ireland. On the other hand, five years will give Fianna Fail time to repair its standing with the Irish people.

Since their basic philosophies are markedly different, there will be some severe disagreements between Fine Gael, which is well on the conservative side, and Labour, which is quite liberal. Running up to the election, they had many arguments and were only united in their mutual criticism of Fianna Fail.

But let us hope for the sake of Ireland that they will get along and be able to set the right course of action for themselves and for the country's beleaguered citizens.

## Off the Bench

## The Tale of My Left Foot

By JAMES W. DOLAN

SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

My left foot greets me from the end of a cast that stretches from my thigh to my heel. I can see it, feel it, and even wiggle my toes, but it might as well be on the moon should I try to reach it.



James W. Dolan

A skiing accident might give my condition some style; but no such luck. I went down on ice as I exited my back door to feed the birds. While I was able to get up and hobble on my right leg, I knew I had injured something.

My wife insisted upon calling 911, asking only for some help putting me in the car so she could take me to the emergency room.

Much to my chagrin, a few minutes later a fire truck and ambulance responded to the call.

We thanked the responders but I managed to get into the car hoping it was only a minor injury. Not so, sad to relate; an x-ray revealed a torn tendon and a few days later I underwent surgery and was introduced to my new friends: a cast that feels like it weighs 35 pounds, and two crutches.

Thus began the series of indignities that only the aged, infirm, and disabled can fully appreciate. Try putting on your pants when your leg is outstretched in a fiber-glass enclosure. Without help, I have to try to lasso my left leg with my pant leg and then, using the crutch handle, hook it and pull it up to the point where I can reach it.

Having failed in this feeble effort to retain my dignity, I now rely on my wife to help me put on my pants and socks. But, that is only a minor inconvenience when compared with the dreaded shower.

Before entering the shower, one must first cover the cast. Garbage bags have been replaced by a stylish, leg-shaped, transparent, plastic covering that is held in place by a couple of thin Velcro straps. Getting it on requires a degree of intimacy preferably forgotten.

Entering and exiting the shower has to be fully choreographed in advance to avoid a catastrophe. For most of us at this age, "naked" sounds better than it looks.

Four days after my fall I was due to go skiing in Telluride, Colorado, with my son and son-in-law. Fortunately they found a substitute and all managed to have a great time. Later I missed a week in Florida.

Thankfully, I'm able to go to work each day, an important distraction that helps to pass the time and avoid feeling sorry for myself. Being engaged in useful activity may not be the fountain of youth but it certainly slows the aging process.

I will go from a cast to a brace and then to physical therapy. I look forward to resuming taking the rubbish out, carrying laundry up and downstairs, vacuuming and doing all those routine chores that define my role as a husband and give meaning to the notion of shared responsibility within a marriage.

In the meantime, I remain dependent. Love is tested when times are tough, not when everything is fine. I am fortunate to have a wife who patiently adapts to the situation. I regret the demands I am forced to make on her and appreciate more than ever her willingness to put up with me.

God blesses those who care for a loved one or a stranger in distress. In a troubled world, there are fortunately enough of them to save us from our own destructive impulses.

With every week, the toes on my left foot appear to be getting closer. Touching them is my next goal – my mini Everest.

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## BOSTON IRISH REPORTER



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# Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By **BILL O'DONNELL**

**Reading More, Liking It Less** – If you are an Irish citizen you would be



**Bill O'Donnell**

forgiven if you took little solace in the bruised cliché that all publicity is good publicity. That is demonstrably untrue and especially so with two articles last month in major US publications that savaged the Irish economic crisis and its perps, and a second article

that inflicted yet more damage on that country's reeling Catholic Church.

The first article, "When Irish Eyes Are Crying," bantering but vicious, is a lengthy look at the Irish insolvency by **Michael Lewis** in the March issue of *Vanity Fair* that has precious few kind words to describe Ireland's brutal manhandling of its once vibrant economy and the villains from the banking, development, and political world who operate out of Dublin. Lewis, author of the Wall Street expose "Liar's Poker," published in 1989, names names, with a facile flourish and puritanical glee, targeting politicians like **Brian Cowen**, the outgoing Taoiseach, and his Finance Minister, **Brian Lenihan**, with a broad-brush scouring of the landscape that details the perfidy of greedy bankers and builders who thought that wall-to-wall development, fueled by feral speculation and piles of easy money, was the second coming of the Celtic Tiger.

While I had few factual complaints after reading Lewis's piece – he is generally accurate if irritatingly condescending – his brief throwaway description of Cowen is particularly cruel: "He is not an obvious leader of Men. His movements are sullen and lumbering, his natural resting expression a look of confusion." Lewis is a tad less harsh in calling Brian Lenihan dull: "He proceeds to make the collapse of the Irish economy as uninteresting as possible. The normal social responsibility – normalizing a freak show – is now a meaningful part of the job of being Ireland's Finance Minister." Ouch.

And there's more where that came from.

Finishing off the second of the scathing magazine pieces, "The Irish Affliction" in the *New York Times Magazine* of Feb. 13 by **Russell Shorto** (described as a contributing writer) is another take-no-prisoners portrait of an uncaring, power-driven Irish Catholic Church that breaks little new ground but finds an insider, the **Abbot of Glenstal Abbey**, who bitterly castigates his church: "Ireland is a prime example," he says, of what the church is facing, because they made this island a concentration camp where they could control everything. And the control was really all about sex ... Generations of people were crucified with guilt complexes. Now the game is up."

Given the sluggish pace and the Vatican's frequent lack of clarity in confronting sexual abuse cases and its reluctance to concede the complicit role of some of the Catholic Church's hierarchy, there are surely, and sadly, more reports of this type still to come.

**Michael Flatley Flying High** – After he left "Riverdance," the world famous Irish American dancer and producer created "Lord of the Dance" and took this company around the world, playing before tens of thousands and raking in revenue by the fist-full. And he's far from finished. Flatley's latest spectacular (reminiscent of **President Reagan** in front of the Statue of Liberty in the eighties) will be the performance of his "Lord of the Dance" at the iconic Cliffs of Moher in County Clare this fall, on Sept. 1 & 2. Some 10,000 are expected to attend this first ever open-air performance of the dance spectacular.

The appearance of Flatley and company at the Cliffs will highlight a campaign by Clare to have the site selected as one of the "New 7 Wonders of Nature," which will be announced in November. Ticket availability for the dance group's outdoor performance in September will be limited to 5,000 patrons each night. At \$100 each, they went on sales last month and could still be available at [ticketmaster.ie](http://ticketmaster.ie) and at various Ticketmaster outlets.

**Ireland Fund US Contribution In Jeopardy** – For 25 years the International Fund for Ireland has had the financial support of successive Washington administrations, but that annual funding may have reached the end of the line. The Republicans, who now control the House, have announced that they want to end the Ireland Fund contribution. Other countries also provide funding for the IFI – the EU, Australia, New Zealand, Canada – but the US dollars are important symbolically as well as financially.

The IFI impost on the federal budget, being debated as I write this, is slight (\$17 million) when stacked up against huge cuts to education, high-speed rail, and community health centers, but in recent years there has been a softening of support for this funding and a growing consensus that the Ireland Fund, if it is to continue to have relevance and fill needs, should likely look to the European Union or the UK. And this sentiment might well find a voice in the Senate, despite **John Kerry's** support, where there are fewer of the original supporters around to defend the Ireland Fund.

In a sidebar to the legislative battle over IFI funding, another group doing good work in Ireland, **Trina Vargo's** US-Ireland Alliance, which runs the **George Mitchell Scholars Program**, has put in a bid to see if some of the targeted IFI money might be diverted to the Alliance projects. I think it's a long shot, but as my father would say, you can't win if you don't play.

**Irish Air Travel Among World's Safest** – Despite the Feb. 10 crash in Ireland of the Belfast-to-Cork commuter flight and the death of six people, Ireland and its skies remain among the safest anywhere in the world. And that is particularly true with respect to Ireland's national airline, Aer Lingus. You would have to go back 43 years, to March 24, 1968 when Aer Lingus Flight 712 flying out of Cork to London, crashed into the sea off Tusker Rock, County Wexford, killing all 61 aboard.

The aircraft, a British-made Vickers Viscount, went down 30 minutes after a morning takeoff from Cork Airport. Speculation centers on the possibility that the plane suffered structural failure, or a bird strike. The cause of the crash has never been officially determined. That crash remains the single biggest loss in Irish aviation history.

**Polls Tell a Chilling Tale** – Despite two years of solid, steady successes after inheriting a busted economy, two expensive wars, a budget burdened with deficit from enormous tax benefits for America's wealthiest, and millions mortgaged out of their homes, **Barack Obama** still has to struggle to attach basic truth to the public's perception of his stewardship. This is clearly evident in a Public Policy Polling survey (Feb. 11-13) taken among Republican primary voters that shows a shocking 51 percent (two years into the president's term) believing that the president was not born in the United States, so he is not a US citizen! An earlier poll among all voters showed that around 40 per cent believed that Obama was or could be a Muslim, despite his repeated public assurances that he is a committed Christian. This is a new and frightening America.

There is a concerted, ongoing effort to delegitimize this Democratic president and that effort signals the widely effective propaganda campaign of the Fox television network and its conservative talk radio allies to bring down an elected president. Senate Minority Leader **Mitch McConnell** asserts on television that the GOP's main goal is to bring down the president, **Glenn Beck** calls Obama a "racist," and **Rush Limbaugh** keeps hoping that the president will fail. In addition, five likely Republican candidates for President are regular paid on-air commentators for Fox TV, whose owner, **Rupert Murdoch**, has contributed a million dollars to the Republican National Committee.

The Fox slogan, "fair and balanced," is a national bad joke, but given the successful brainwashing of 20-22 percent of the electorate, the joke is on those of us who want honest, fact-driven debate on important policy issues, not outlandish "facts" made up on the spot and on the run. Thus far it is clear that Fox TV and friends are winning the war of words.

Readers, do yourself a favor: Click on Media Matters ([mediamatters.org](http://mediamatters.org)) for a critical look at what Fox is up to.

**Bailout Update** – Ireland is on notice by the European Union that there will be no renegotiations or redoing of the Irish loan terms agreed to by the Irish government and the EU-IMF. There have been statements made by political candidates in the lead-up to the Feb. 25 election, who are faced daily by outraged voters, that Ireland could get the loan terms eased. Not so. What could happen, although still improbable, is that bank bondholders, made immune from loss so far by Irish government fiat, might be asked to absorb a percentage of bank losses. The 100 percent guarantee to bondholders was unnecessary and done in panic mode.

Fine Gael's taoiseach in waiting, **Enda Kenny**, who has run a masterly campaign, has made three risky but popular moves: He skipped a television debate hosted by columnist **Vincent Browne** because he felt Browne was unfriendly; he traveled to Germany to tell Chancellor **Angela Merkel** that Ireland was keeping its low corporate tax rate; and he announced the minimizing of the importance of the Irish language. Nothing, though, seems to have hurt Kenny's poll numbers.

**Grace Notes From A Master** – The death last month at 91 of **George Shearing**, composer of "Lullaby of Birdland" and a gifted, internationally celebrated piano superstar for over sixty years, reminds me of a short story about the only time I was ever in the great pianist's presence. I was with my wife **Jean**, her mother, **Catherine McKenna**, and Jean's sister and husband, the **Savards**, outside Carnegie Hall on a July evening in 1973. We had just exited the hall after listening to Jean's brother, **Dave McKenna**, play a solo piano performance with eight of the top piano players of their time, including **Earl "Fatha" Hines**, **Bill Evans**, **Ellis Larkins**, **Jimmy Rowles**, **Eubie Blake**, and **George Shearing**.

As we were walking slowly to the car, we noticed Shearing, blind since birth, approaching with an escort. Catherine McKenna, a fan, stopped, introduced herself and began telling Mr. Shearing how much she had enjoyed his playing. George finally interrupted to tell Dave's mother that her son was one of the most talented pianists he knew and went on to note how good he was and how proud she must be at her son's success. It was a lovely moment that my mother-in-law would not forget.

After finishing that sidewalk conversation with Shearing, we chatted among ourselves about how kind and gracious he had been to Catherine and what a gentleman he was to take the time to compliment his keyboard colleague. Some weeks later, when I was looking over a book of jazz interviews done a year or two earlier when, I saw the following quote about Dave by George in answer to a question about whom he liked among the current crop of piano players, "I think Dave McKenna is the best pianist playing right now. His lines flow like mad, he doesn't suffer from playing solo, and he's the most complete."

**Belfast, Boston Downtowns Struggle** – Boston has its infamous "Filene's Hole" at Downtown Crossing and Belfast has its Aurora Building development in the heart of its city centre. Both locations held out hope for stunning commercial developments and the jobs they would bring to both cities struggling with the economic downturn. It was the vision of Belfast's city council that the Aurora project would act as a catalyst for the regeneration of a neglected and shabby Belfast city centre, but sadly the 37-story building on Great Victoria Street in the North's capital city will not be built, at least not anytime soon as funding has dried up for new, big projects and banks are skittish.

Some new and encouraging signs point to the ultimate viability of the old Filene's site on Washington Street. The former developer is out of the picture and a new player may be ready to surface if the right bank and the right agreement can come together. Certainly if the Boston mayor and his BRA had their way, there would be development activity there today.

In Belfast centre, things are at a standstill. The North's Finance Min-

ister, **Sammy Wilson**, is in a dispute with city planners over the killing of the project and is still hopeful of getting something moving at the central site. There we see it: two capital cities, two scenarios, two busted dreams.

**Farewell Bountiful Bertie** – Former Taoiseach and Fianna Fail Leader **Bertie Ahern** has departed his final elected post as Dail TD and is not seeking anything else from the State. He has a couple of items on his bucket list that, alas, will likely go unaccomplished. His chief hymn to himself was the Bertie Bowl, a national sports stadium that he had proposed, and that might (I say "might") have been named for this now properly remunerated and retired public official. Alas, it was not to be. A final slight to the memory of this well-transported and expensively chauffeured veteran of the Galway Races, VIP tents, and other Fianna Fail campaign battles is the news that Enda Kenny and his Fine Gael Party will put an end to the one limo/one driver/one Taoiseach book tours and similar excesses and make do with the (dreaded) car pool system for government ministers and ex-Taoisigh. Yes, that means you, Bertie.

## RANDOM JOTTINGS

When **Mary McAleese**, an attorney, completes her second and final term as Irish President this November she won't be joining any high-paying corporate boards but instead will return to college and continue to study law. ... The cost of **Pope Benedict's** four-day state visit to Britain last September was \$15 million, with \$2.7 million somehow diverted from foreign aid funding. ... No tears for Brian Cowen. He departs with a \$400,000 platinum parachute and a \$270,000-a-year pension. ... Might **Howie Carr** of WRKO and the Herald be losing his edge? His WRKO station in this new year is ranked in 23d place, a tie with Emerson's better WERS. ... **Gregory Campbell** pulling **Martin McGuinness's** chain in suggesting that McGuinness should be tried for his role (being there) in Derry's Bloody Sunday. ... Rathlin Islanders win one over City Hall, which wanted the island people to vote on the mainland in Ballycastle. They said no and voted at their island polls. Take that, bureaucrats.

Canada welcomes the emigrant; the country continues to loosen the rules and the numbers to make room for the Irish as they flee the no-job zone at home. ... A painting of **President Kennedy** by the Irish artist **Patrick Hennessy** showing JFK as he boarded his flight home in 1963 was originally sold for \$600 but is now for sale in New Orleans for \$100,000. ... Anglo-Irish Bank's former CEO and his wife had 25 bank accounts. He transferred almost \$2 million into a wealth management fund just before declaring bankruptcy. ... I think **Gerry Adams** will be OK in the Wee County when they count his votes but some say he could be in trouble. Meanwhile the family of the murdered **Jean McConville** say their "disappeared" mother was buried in Louth and Adams is "dancing on her grave." ... The average cost to cigarette smokers in Ireland is nearly \$5,000 a year, not counting lung and heart futures. ... Latest poll numbers five days before the Irish punters express their outrage at the ballot box: Fine Gael 39 percent, Labour 17 percent, Fianna Fail 16 percent, and Sinn Fein 12 percent. ... Anybody who pays \$29.95 for a coin commemorating the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attack should know that it's not real currency, it just has a silver "coating," is not authorized nor licensed by the United States government, and most likely will have zero appreciation until it finally goes into the attic.

**RIP** – Former Representative **Marie Howe** of Somerville was kind to send me the obituary and other material from the funeral of her friend, **Marion McCarthy** of Hull, who died the week before Christmas. Marion was a straight shooter, a passionate, caring, intelligent leader and activist in the fight for justice and freedom for Ireland and, at home in her daytime role, a supporter of disadvantaged mothers and children. She was a very special lady, a friend to Ireland and her people, and she was a welcome sight to me whenever our paths crossed. My sympathy to her family on their enormous loss.

## BIR Profile

# Life Can Be Cruel, Trooper's Widow Knows Well; But It Goes On and On, and 'You Need to Step Up'

By GREG O'BRIEN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Massachusetts State Trooper Paul Barry, who cut a stern yet tender swath, was a man of decisiveness, an individual who always knew what he wanted and who had the resolve to attain it. As a young high school junior in Dorchester, he was attracted to an archetypal Dot girl four years his senior. Like Hermie in the Summer of '42, Barry fumbled his way through awkward advances to lovely 21-year-old Maryellen Hayes at Camp Fatima in New Hampshire, a Catholic summer camp for special needs children and adults where they met while serving as volunteers.

"I didn't give him a backward glance," Maryellen said with a blush over coffee last month at Gerard's in Adams Corner across the street from the Eire Pub. "I sort of patted him on his head, and sent him on his way."

As much a strategist as a romantic, Barry pursued his interest through friendship, periodically taking Maryellen to lunch and making sure to regularly cross paths with her in the serpentine tangents of their Dorchester circles. One day, after learning she had broken up with a longstanding boyfriend, Barry delivered an ultimatum with the confidence and charm of a seasoned stud. "This is the last time we're going to lunch," he declared. "The next time we meet, it's going to be for a date. I'll give you three days to decide."

Checkmate. Maryellen, whose close friends today good naturedly call her a "cougar," took the bait and agreed. "You mean we can actually tell our friends!" a giddy Barry replied.

Within time, these two blocks of Dorchester granite, with family roots as deep into Dorchester as into Eire, were married and started producing offspring in typical Irish-Catholic fashion. First Nicholas, then triplets Emily, Alexandra, and Colin—a surprise trifecta of love.

Maryellen was somewhat reticent at first to tell Paul—a family burst of one to four in 13 months. Talk about Irish twins in spades. Ever buoyant, he replied, "This is awesome. Jackpot!" After that, the bell kept ringing, and in time Michaela, James, and Elizabeth arrived—seven in all.

It was bliss, albeit frenzied at times—a collective joy turned horror story early in the morning of June 15, 2006 when 39-year-old Trooper Barry's cruiser drifted into the breakdown lane on I-495 in Wrentham, and struck the bed of a six-wheel dump truck parked close to the roadway. A citizen who was certified as an EMT was traveling behind him and immediately stopped to provide medical care. He was able to restore a pulse until another trooper and medical crews arrived. Paul was transported to a local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. An autopsy later revealed that an undiagnosed genetic condition, cardiac arrhythmia, or abnormal electrical activity in his heart, had likely led to the crash.

The accident prompted front page headlines, a formal funeral procession of more than 800 troopers from around the country, outreaches to the family from Sen. Ted Kennedy, Boston Mayor Tom Menino, Gov. Mitt Romney and even California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, whose state had just passed landmark "line of duty loss" legislation.

In one erratic heartbeat, seven children were without a father, and a wife was without the love of her life, a woman of great faith who had thought she would never check the "single mom" card.

"I'm not a big believer in things happening for a reason," she says today, four and a half years after the crash. "Things happen. Plain and simple. It's how you react that's a measure of a life. I find closure ridiculous. You're never going to have closure. Why would you want to? You can close on a death, you can close on an event, but keep the relationship intact."

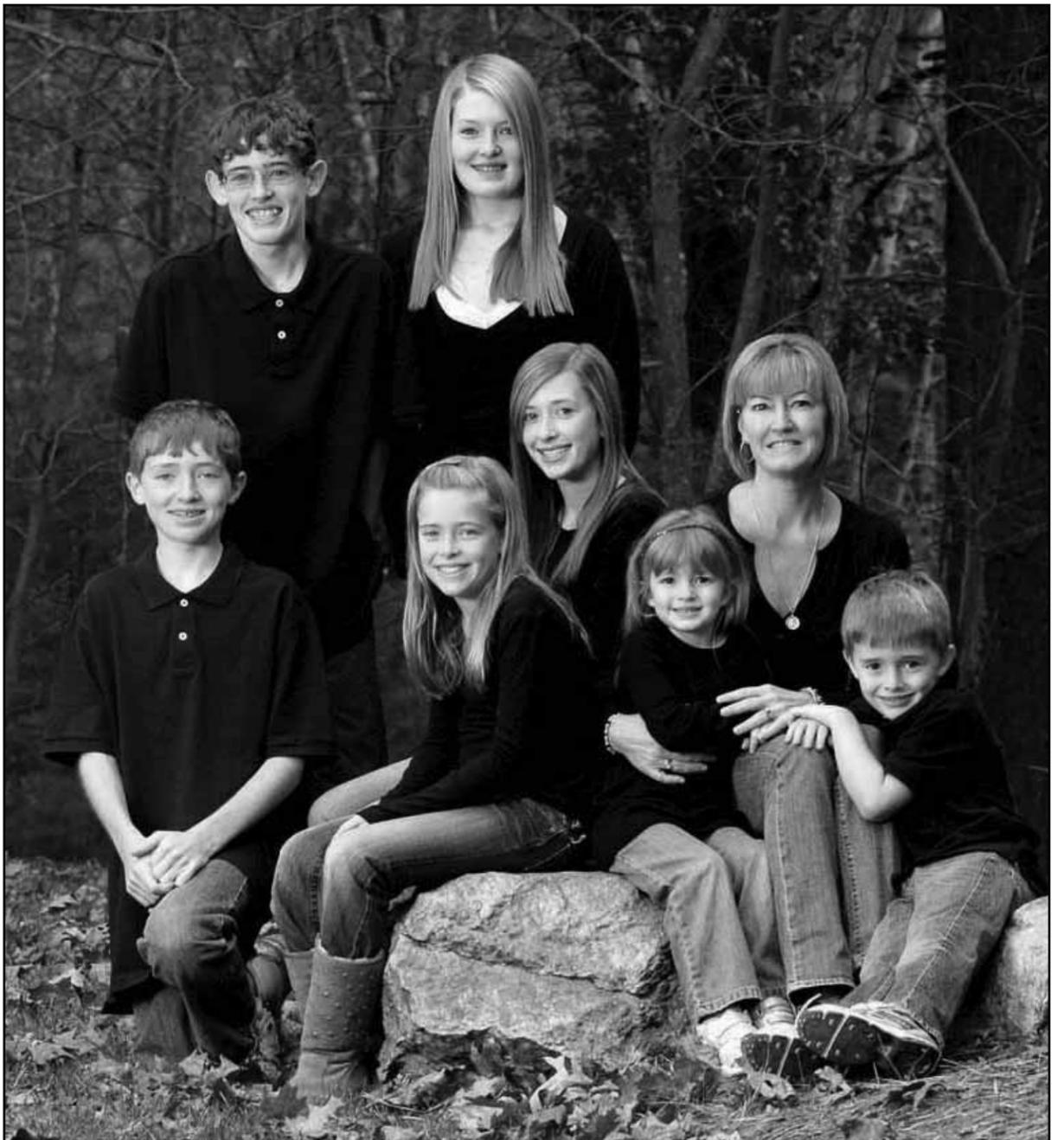
And that's just what the Barry family is doing in earnest—right from the fallout of the accident, when the Trooper Paul Barry Family Foundation was created "to better the lives of children and families throughout the Greater Boston area, through the donation and administration of financial support to worthy causes adhering to the same spiritual, community, and family values that Paul held dear to this heart."

It's a legacy far more enduring than life itself for the Barry family, his fellow troopers, and the Dorchester community at large, all of whom will celebrate Paul Barry's life on March 4 at a foundation fundraiser to be held 7 p.m. at Dorchester's Florian Hall. The event, a night of dancing, cocktails, raffles, and the music of Mark Morris and the Catunes, will raise money for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester. It is being organized by Maryellen and her close friends, Therese Fitzgerald and Mary Theresa O'Sullivan—a line up that sounds like the front row of a convent chapel.

Fitzgerald and O'Sullivan are with Maryellen this afternoon at Gerard's. The three are inseparable these days, and that's good for Maryellen, who delights in close friendships.

Closeness is the coin of Maryellen's life, an intimacy that traces back to her paternal grandparents from Cork. Her late grandfather, James Hayes, was an IRA soldier imprisoned in Dublin in the early 1900s for espionage against the Crown. In a twist of irony, his childhood Cork sweetheart, Anne (Kingston), was Protestant.

"They smuggled letters in and out of prison," said Maryellen, noting that her grandfather had fashioned a



Team Barry: Colin, Michaela, Ali, Elizabeth, Maryellen, and James in front and Nicholas and Emily in back. Photo courtesy Doug Sprague, Gemini Photo Events

wedding ring out of a prison nail. Once he was released, they left Ireland for Boston where they were married; Anne was a nanny and James a hotel bellman during the days of "Irish Need Not Apply." The couple, a study in caring and perseverance, had seven children. Their second oldest, Maryellen's father, James, became a career Boston police officer and married a schoolteacher of French descent, Jeanne DeLorie.

Devout, compassionate Catholics, the Hayeses moved to Blanche Street in Dorchester near Clam Point where they raised four children—Maryellen, sister Susan, and brothers Michael and James. Maryellen's dad, a driven, hard-working cop, went to sleep one night after playing racquetball, and never woke up. He was 38. Her mother still lives in the home.

"I thought I'd never date or marry a police officer," Maryellen says, "I knew the toll it could take on a relationship."

A jock of sorts, Maryellen played sports at her parish elementary school, St. Ambrose, then enrolled at the private Fontbonne Academy in Milton, "just over the hill" from Dorchester. She attended UMass-Boston, as did Paul, where she majored in business management. She then went to work for a Dorchester car dealership, a Dorchester auto body shop, and the downtown law firm of Choate, Hall & Stewart as an office manager.

But her real vocation—and the leaning of her husband-to-be—was to be a wife and mother and raise a family.

After school, Paul worked as a banker with BankBoston and Fleet, then, at age 31, he scratched an abiding itch and joined the Massachusetts State Police with a goal of becoming a trooper, a position he attained and held for six years. Ever supportive, Maryellen was expecting the couple's fifth baby at the time Barry entered the six-month training stint at the police academy in New Braintree. After he was assigned to the Holden barracks, near his Route I-495 beat, the family moved to Franklin.

Thereafter life was tranquil until early on that calm summer morning in June 2006 when Trooper Neal Noonan, an academy classmate of Paul's, came by to tell Maryellen that there had been an accident, and that she had to come with him quickly. A close neighbor watched six of the children as Maryellen took the youngest, Elizabeth, in a cruiser with Noonan to nearby Milford Regional Medical Center.

"Is he still alive?" she asked in the car. "There's a pulse," Noonan said. She didn't have to ask more, and yet instinctively

Maryellen Hayes Barry, with true grit and faith, thought she could fix it. "I began bartering with God," she recalls.

Barry was gone by the time she arrived at the hospital despite extraordinary measures to save him. She could see the devastation in the faces of the doctors and nurses, who asked the young woman with the baby in tow if this was her first child.

"No," she replied. "It's my seventh."

You could hear a pin drop.

Maryellen spent an hour or so alone with Paul for a last, wrenching goodbye. Still the caregiver, she blotted the blood from his face, and put bandages over his cuts. "I was trying to fix things," she recalls. "I knew he was gone, but he was always such a well-groomed, immaculate guy."

Back at the house later she told the children, assembling them in the living room, the gathering hub of the home. They all knew something was terribly wrong. "The accident was worse than I thought," she said as they sobbed. "The doctors did all they could. Daddy has gone to heaven."

The faith-filled Maryellen remembers the moment as if it were seconds ago. "I had to tell my children what happened to our wonderful family, that what we had, we didn't have anymore! It was tough. They were layered in shock. It was like a Scud missile going off in your home. A father goes out and he's supposed to come home. He didn't."

Days later, at a packed funeral service at Dorchester's St. Mark's Church, where Barry had been a parishioner, Maryellen told her children, "I know how awful and impossible this is for you, but I won't let it rule your lives! Have the faith to know that even in the worst of times, you will have family and friends to lean on. You will go on. Have faith in God and in yourselves."

Over time, Maryellen herself learned to let go and let God take charge of her life, with help from family and close friends. "At first, I was trying to do everything myself," she says, "flying around with a cape. It got old."

Reaching for a fourth cup of coffee at the end of a lengthy, emotional conversation, Maryellen Hayes Barry reflects on her promise. "I don't want Paul's death to define my children," she says. "They all need to step up in life, as I do. Never use death as a crutch. Don't throw the sympathy card."

Greg O'Brien is editor and president of Stony Brook Group, a publishing and political consulting company based in Brewster on Cape Cod.

# Holocaust Survivor Has Wrenching Story to Tell His Fellow Irish citizens

By MARTIN MCGOVERN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The Emmy-award winning Irish filmmaker Gerry Gregg is the man who produced the first major documentary about the Holocaust made in Ireland. His 2009 production, *Till the Tenth Generation*, tells the story of Tomi Reichental, now an Irish citizen, who lost 35 members of his family to Adolf Hitler's madness.

With the making of the documentary, Reichental, 75, broke almost six decades of silence to publicly explain what happened to him in 1944 as a nine-year old when he was rounded up by the Gestapo and dispatched with 12 members of his family to Bergen-Belsen.

A native of Slovakia, Reichental moved to Ireland in the late 1950s to help establish a factory. In time, he married a member of Dublin's Jewish community and made the city his new home. Since breaking his silence, he has been on a mission of remembrance, speaking to school and civic groups in Ireland about his experiences.

Recently, as part of the Republic's commitment to the European Union's Stockholm Declaration on raising awareness about the annihilation of European Jewry at the hands of the Nazis, the Minister of Integration, John Curran, commissioned the Holocaust Education Trust of Ireland to prepare an instruction program on the

## 'Till the Tenth Generation'

Shoah for schools based on the documentary.

Last month, a copy of *Till The Tenth Generation* was distributed to every post primary school in the Republic of Ireland to assist with education on the Holocaust.

*Till the Tenth Generation* will have its North American premier at this year's Boston Irish Film Festival, with a screening at the Somerville Theatre on Sun., March 27, at 2 p.m. Gregg and Tomi Reichental will be present for the screening.

We recently caught up with Gerry Gregg to find out more about Reichental and his powerful story.

**Q.** How did you find out about Tomi Reichental?  
**A.** Every so often you are blessed as a film maker to meet someone whose story will resonate with and challenge audiences long after the usual ephemeral life cycle of the 24/7 news story. I was introduced to Tomi in Dublin in 2007 by Oliver Donohoe, a former radio producer with RTE and a longtime researcher on "The Late Late Show," the world's longest running TV chat show. With that imprimatur, I knew I was on to something. When I met Tomi, and heard his unforgettable story I realized that if I do nothing else as a director I will record his testimony and bring it to as wide an audience as possible.

**Q.** What is it like to meet history like this firsthand?

**A.** All of the production team felt a great sense of honor that we were somehow chosen to help him make his historic statement -- a statement of a survivor who witnessed the greatest crime of the 20th century. A statement that will endure for as long as humanity strives to ensure that the cataclysm is never repeated. Because if Tomi's eye witness account of the genocide falls on deaf ears, you would have to fear for the future of humanity.

**Q.** You traveled back to Slovakia to visit Tomi's home town and then on to Bergen-Belsen with him, that must have been a difficult journey?

**A.** It was. Every day we set out to a site associated with evil. Tomi lost 35 relatives. His paternal grandparents were gassed in Auschwitz, others were worked to death in Buchenwald, a grandmother starved to death in Bergen-Belsen, and an uncle was guillotined for anti-Nazi activities in a prison in Poland in 1943.

So it was tough, then one day we encountered by chance a 92-year-old woman outside Piestany in Slovakia. Maria Vavrova had harbored several of Tomi's relatives in a bunker under the kitchen of her farmhouse. Altogether she saved 18 Jews at great personal risk. Why did she do it? Tomi asked. Why not? she replied, "Aren't we all the



Tomi Reichental on location at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Below, with his mother and brother from a long time ago.

same." That brave woman is today recognized by the state of Israel as a "Righteous Gentile." It was a humbling experience to meet someone so selfless and so matter of fact about defying a tyranny that knew no boundaries.

**Q.** Tell us about the Irish reaction to his message?  
**A.** Tomi is received very well wherever he goes. Teachers never have to ask for silence and respect; Tomi just seems to command it by his very presence. The letters flood into him every week. The impact is uniformly benign and positive. Only recently a young woman wrote to him in despair. Her father had left the family home. Her mother was an alcoholic. The teenager was contemplating suicide. Then Tomi came and told his story of survival and somehow inspired her to keep going. Tomi's educational role is full of little mitzvahs like



that. Good things happen when he is around.

### Screening at Stonehill

On Mon., March 28, Gregg and Reichental will be at Stonehill College for a screening of the documentary at 7 p.m. in the

Martin Institute on campus. The public is welcome to attend the presentation, which is free. For more information, call 508-565-1321 or visit [stonehill.edu/tomi.xml](http://stonehill.edu/tomi.xml)

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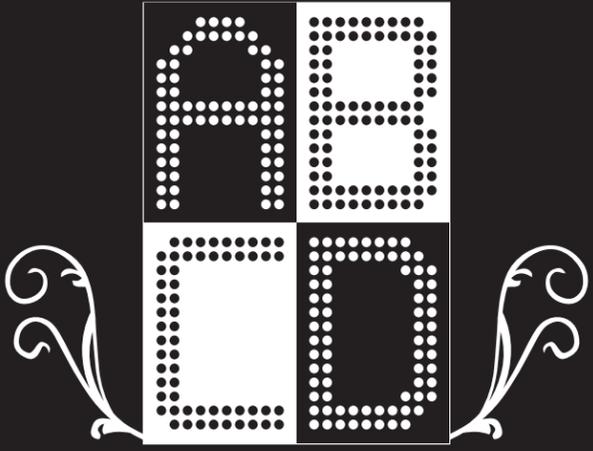
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Astronaut Coleman accepts the John F. Kennedy Award as Outstanding American of Irish Descent from retired bishop of Springfield Joseph Maguire in a 2004 ceremony.  
*Springfield Republican photo*

## Astronaut Says Space Station 'Cool' Place to Play the Flute

(Continued from page 1)

man lives with her husband, glass artist Josh Simpson, and their son in the foothills of the Berkshires. She claims strong Irish ancestral roots. In 2004, she received the John F. Kennedy Award as the "Outstanding American of Irish Descent" from retired Springfield Bishop Joseph F. Maguire in a ceremony before that year's St. Patrick's parade in Holyoke.

Coleman said she carried the flutes with her to space to reach out to the music community. "One of the things I think it's important to do is to try to share how amazing it is up here and relate to different groups of people," Coleman said in an interview on National Public Radio. "I relate to flute players, and I just wanted them to understand what a cool place it was and how many

possibilities there were to play music up here on the space station, a pretty well-rounded spectrum. I am having a great time up here with them," she added.

Coleman is the only flautist among the station's six-member crew. She prefers creating music with other people, so she puts flute music on in the background and plays whenever she has the spare time. Last month, she played a couple tunes for radio and TV interviewers.

Coleman reports that things are quite different when playing a flute in weightlessness. She finds herself bumping into objects while she plays and floats with her eyes closed. The acoustics, she says, vary from room to room. The chambers that are padded with cloth bags absorb the sound

and aren't nearly as bright sounding as in the space station's window-enclosed observation deck.

Coleman, a graduate of MIT, with a doctorate in polymer science and engineering from UMass/Amherst, says it is "pretty neat" creating her "own little world with music" in orbit. She hopes to team up with the Chieftains and Tull flautists for a space-to-ground concert before she returns to Earth in May.

The Expedition 26 mission is commanded by Scott Kelly, brother-in-law of the wounded Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. His twin brother Mark—Giffords's husband—is slated to command the space shuttle Endeavour mission in April.

*Material from AP, NASA, NPR, and the Irish Times was used in this report.*

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AP Photo/Montreal La Presse, Ivanoh Demers

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# McBride Trains Hard for April Showdown in New Jersey

BY COREY BURNS  
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER  
You've likely seen him countless times on your way to grab a coffee at Greenhills Irish Bakery or breakfast at Gerard's in Adams Corner.

He's a giant of a man — aptly nicknamed “the Clones Colossus” — and though he's a world-renowned pugilist who has competed on the world's biggest stage — Kevin McBride likes to keep things simple.

Best known to the general public for his 2005 TKO victory over “Iron” Mike Tyson, the 37 year-old is back in training these days, gearing up for an April bout against Tomasz Adamek (43-1) of Poland. The winner may get a shot at Vitali Klitschko for the heavy-weight belt.

“I'm looking forward to it, it's a big fight,” McBride told the *Reporter*. “It's probably my last chance to get in the door for my dream fight, a world title fight.”

“I have been training as hard as I was when I trained for Mike Tyson. I'm a bit heavier and a bit older but I have more experience,” McBride said. “I have an equalizer and that's what I intend to do.”

The 6-foot-six, 280-pound McBride has a stellar career record of 35-8-1. He last fought in October during the Prizefighter Tournament in England where he won a split decision against Franklin Egobi in the



Kevin McBride exulting after beating Mike Tyson in 2005. AP Photo

quarterfinals. Unfortunately, he lost the same night by unanimous decision in the semis against Matt Skelton.

“I put him down, but I didn't get the decision,” said McBride.

Since then, McBride has been back in Dorchester spending time with his wife Danielle, and their two children, Grainne and Caoimhin. He's a family man, but he still hits the gym, and now, with his upcoming fight, he's hitting it harder than ever. He is determined to keep his dream of winning championship belts for his children alive by winning in April.

He has been training

with his fitness trainer, Radovan Serbula, to get into the best shape possible and with Goodie Petronelli, who is best known for training “Marvelous” Marvin Hagler. He is also scheduled to work out with the McLoughlin brothers, Eddie and Tony, in New York.

McBride clearly has a lot of respect for his opponent. He knows the success Adamek has had in multiple weight classes and that he beat Andrew Golota, who beat McBride.

But McBride says he is ready for the challenge. “I'm up for this fight, looking forward to it. It's time to leave all the talking in the ring. This guy

is in my way to get to my dream fight.

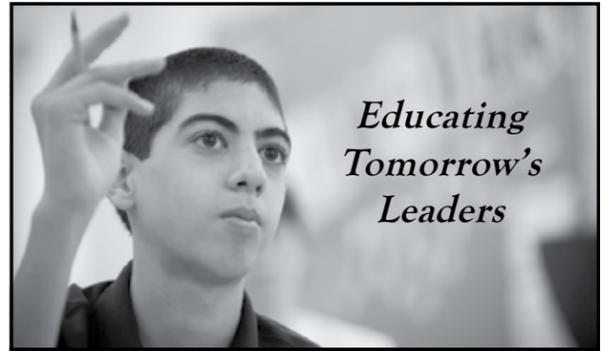
“The main goal is to beat this guy and get an opportunity to fight Klitschko, because that's what Adamek is supposed to do, beat me and [then] fight him,” McBride said. “Boxing is a beautiful sport because all it takes is one punch to change anyone's chapter. I'm going to deliver that on him that night. You can run but you can't hide from Kevin McBride.”

“You know this guy's quick, they are going to say he's too fast. But its 12 rounds and I'm going get contact eventually, and when I do, he'll think the whole of Poland hit him.”

The McBride vs. Adamek fight takes place on April 9th in New Jersey's Prudential Center. McBride has an abundance of supporters who will join him there. His mother, his sister Debbie, and his nephew are going to Newark along with close friends like Tommy White, who has been extremely important in Kevin's life. His brother, who lives in New Jersey, will also be there cheering

him on.

Kevin would not make any predictions, but he did say, “I don't think it's going the distance. I'm fit for 12 rounds, but hopefully I'll be my own judge and it won't go 12. I want to be victorious, I want to have my hand raised in the end, but if not, they are going to need a stretcher because I'm going to leave it all in the ring.”



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# Firm Offers Caskets That Come With a Touch of the Ould Sod

By Ed Forry  
BIR PUBLISHER

The first national funeral supply company in Ireland is making its initial foray into the American market by offering families dealing with the death of a loved one the opportunity to purchase a casket handmade in Ireland.

John A Finlay is president and founder of Heritage Caskets Inc., a family-owned Irish company based in Ardee, a small town near Drogheda in County Louth. Dating to 1933, the company was founded by Finlay's grandfather, Jack Finlay, who had a mill in the small town and developed a business making caskets by hand and selling them across Ireland.

"In those days everything was done by bicycle and train," John Finlay says. "They used to take orders by bike, and ship product by train" all across the country. The elder Finlay was joined in 1958 by John's father, Coleman. The father and son managed and expanded the business together, and opened a funeral home, Finlay's of Ardee, and a headstone business. Their company eventually became the only national funeral supply company in Ireland. When a new generation of the family came into the business in the late 1980s, the Finlays began looking outside the island of Ireland, developing an export business first to the UK and later to the US. Five years ago, John moved with his family to a new home in Massachusetts, and set out to offer a variety of hand-made Irish caskets to Americans. "There are ten or twelve styles of caskets, all made



A sampling of The Heritage Caskets touch.

of solid cherry or solid mahogany," he explained in an interview. One popular style has a Claddagh hand-carved into the side.

"We started selling in response to families and funeral homes contacting our Irish business eight or nine years ago," he said. The bereaved families were finding comfort in the notion that their loved ones would be buried in caskets made in Ireland.

Initially, individual pieces were shipped air express from Ireland as needed, but after opening the US sales office, the firm partnered with Matthews International, which provides a distribution network across the country. The product gained wide notice in March 2009, when actress Natasha Richardson died from head injuries sustained in a skiing accident in Quebec. Her husband, the Irish actor Liam Neeson, asked the New York funeral home to contact the company, and the actress was buried in a Claddagh casket.

"It was something very new for us," says Finlay. "Through that, a lot of people saw them for the first time. [The Claddagh on the casket] seemed to resonate with some people

as symbolic of love, loyalty, and friendship.

Finlay maintains a sales office in Scituate, and says, "We chose New England and Boston as a good place to work from. What we offer strongly connects with people's sense of heritage, their sense of identity. For some, that's a very strong and powerful connection." Dorchester funeral director Paul O'Connor is a big supporter of the product, and displays two styles in his funeral home in Adams Village. "These caskets are unique, something that's very different; they help us to create a service that's meaningful," O'Connor says. "To me a casket had no meaning, until I saw these. They are different, and they will catch your eye."

He related the story of one Boston Irish woman who was visiting his premises with a daughter to make "pre-need" arrangements recently. "She told me about her Irish heritage and when I showed her the Claddagh casket, she just loved it. I am changing everything so I can have this," she said. The whole family would have loved it. It's a touch of going home."



Dorchester funeral director Paul O'Connor and John Finlay of Heritage Caskets.

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## Butcher Shop Gets the Green Light for Sit-down Breakfasts, Lunches

By BILL FORRY  
BIR STAFF

A popular Adams Corner market that opened in November 2009 has won city approval to serve sit-down breakfasts and lunches. The Butcher Shop, which has become a destination for fine Irish and Italian meat products, debuted its 19-seat restaurant — Mrs. Murphy's Kitchen — on Feb. 21.

Owner Alan Gibson said that the business plan for The Butcher Shop always envisioned sit-down service, but first they had to

secure a common victualer license from the city — a hurdle finally cleared last month.

Owner Alan Gibson says that even before Monday's opening of the restaurant, he was fielding phone calls from customers eager for a new breakfast option in the village.

Mrs. Murphy's will feature one of the staples of any Irish eatery — a hearty Irish breakfast. They'll also churn out corned beef hash and eggs, steak and eggs, and a dish Gibson calls "the mother of all

omelettes."

The month of March, of course, will feature a heavy trade in that Irish-American holiday favorite, corned beef.

"We have 3,000 pounds of corned beef to sell and it is our own brand as well. We buy the briskets and cure it ourselves, and we also cure our own Irish boiling bacon and hams," says Gibson.

"It's been a tremendous response from the neighborhood," says the native of Co. Sligo. "And people are also traveling long dis-

tances to come here from Cape Cod and New Hampshire. We're becoming well known because 90 percent of everything we do is done in house. We specialize in fresh products. People like to watch you cut fresh meats in front of them and see the butcher doing the work as they're standing there. That's the difference with us."

The Butcher Shop will be open 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Sunday hours are 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.



The gang at The Butcher Shop. Photo by Ed Forry

## Angry Voters Push for a New Deal in Ireland

(Continued from page 1) 17 seats and this will increase; in 2007 they had seven. The Green Party was expected to suffer and it came as no surprise that it failed to have anyone elected. It won six seats in 2007.

For many voters as they worked their way down the ballot paper it was a case of anyone but Fianna Fáil. A very significant number decided to register protest votes and avoided the main political parties altogether. This has left the country with an eclectic mix of Independents and others, ranging from ultra leftists to former stockbroker Shane Ross, which I suspect will make the Dáil chamber look like a circus at times.

Enda Kenny is being hailed as something of a miracle worker by Fine Gael supporters, having brought the party from 32 seats in 2002 to 51 in 2008 and now to almost 80. Much is being said about the success of the Fine Gael vote management. Most constituencies were divided up between the candidates in an effort to ensure that they all polled similarly well in the first count. This had the effect of keeping them in the count for the long haul and often gave them an extra seat that their first preference count failed to justify. In Kenny's own constituency, the party took four out of the five seats and managed to take three in a number of others.

Labour also targeted their seats very well and their candidates picked up preferences where rival Fianna Fáil candidates remained static. With just two percentage points more than Fianna Fáil in first preference, Labour is likely to end up with twice as many seats. The party managed to get second seats in some constituencies, which is unprecedented.

Not only did the Fianna Fáil vote collapse, the party lost many of its big names, including Mary Hanafin, Mary Coughlan, Mary O'Rourke, Pat Carney, and Dick Roche. It also lost a number of its rising stars such as John Curran and Barry Andrews. The party is down to just one TD in the greater Dublin area, with Brian Lenihan surviving. Traditionally Fianna Fáil has always been the largest party and now it is down to third, and it has always had at least one TD in every constituency but on this occasion



Fine Gael's Enda Kenny, left in front, hails his party's win.

AP Photo

it has no representative in more than half the 43 constituencies.

Sinn Féin probably surprised themselves. With just 9.9 percent of the vote they have managed to win at least 13 seats. In the two Donegal constituencies and in Louth they topped the poll and are not far behind Fianna Fáil as the leading Opposition party.

The Independents and others are a strange mixture. We still have a Healy-Rae, there are two Socialist Party TDs including party leader Joe Higgins, People Before Profit have two seats including their leader, Richard Boyd Barrett, who seems to have made a career for himself as a professional protester, and Luke (Ming) Flanagan, one of whose claims to fame is as an advocate to legalize cannabis, is now a TD. A couple of former Fianna Fáil members were elected, as was one former PD. Michael Leahy, Finian McGrath, and Maureen O'Sullivan will all be back in the 31st Dáil.

It will all make for interesting times in the coming years but whether Ireland can afford such interesting times is debateable.

### NOW WHAT?

Taoiseach-in-waiting Enda Kenny said he would contact prospective government partners to arrange meetings the first thing on Feb. 28. In reality, the only prospective

partner he has is Labour and he will quickly enter negotiations with Eamon

Gilmore. The Dáil is set to resume on March 9 so they don't have much time

to hammer out an agreement, given that Labour must first get it approved

at a party conference.

Speed is also of the essence as a critical meeting of EU leaders is scheduled for a week on Friday. Kenny is still talking about renegotiating the EU/IMF loan deal and says he will not consider the already delayed recapitalization of the banks until late March after he receives details of the latest stress tests on the banks.

His most pressing problem should be in reaching a deal with Labour, if both parties cling to the manifestos that got them elected. Fine Gael agrees with the Fianna Fáil goal of reducing Exchequer borrowing to 3 percent of GDP by 2014, while Labour says 2016. Fine Gael wants to reduce the Government deficit by applying cuts and taxation in equal measure, Labour wants it weighted towards taxation. Fine Gael is against property tax, Labour in favour.

With so many left wing TDs lined up on the Opposition benches, Labour will find it very hard to make concessions in the negotiations with Fine Gael.



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March 23, 7 p.m. - Gemma Whelan reading

March 25 & 26, 8 p.m. - Screaming Orphans

March 30, 7 p.m. - Mike Farrager reading

March 11 & 19  
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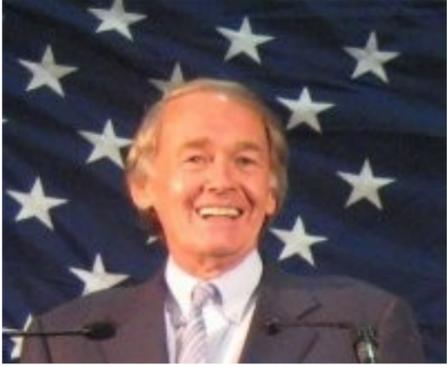
# What's Happening During the Saint's Month

## A St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn

Two Concerts: March 18, Sanders Theater in Cambridge, 8 p.m. and March 19 at Zeiterion Theatre in New Bedford, 8 p.m. Performers include: Téada, Carol Noonan, Duke Levine and Kevin Barry, Gaelic singer/accordionist Seamus Begley from Kerry, Uilleann Piper Michael Cooney and dancers from the Harney Academy. Tickets go to [wgbh.org/celtic/](http://wgbh.org/celtic/)

The 12th Annual Irish Film Festival, Boston, will take place at the Stuart Street Theater, Boston on Thursday, March 24 and at the Somerville Theater from Friday, March 25 to Sunday, March 27.

Irish Heritage Month, Lawrence sponsored by the AOH Div 8, LAOH Div 8 and the Irish Foundation of Lawrence. A series of 16 events beginning Feb. 27 through March 27.



## Happy St. Patrick's Day to All Boston Irish Reporter Readers! - Congressman Ed Markey

Paid for by The Markey Committee

## Calendar of events

### Tuesday, March 1

Free Legal Advice, from the Irish Pastoral Center's attorneys, 6:30 p.m., Banshee Pub 934 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester.

### Friday, March 4

Saw Doctors in concert, House of Blues, 15 Lansdowne St, Tickets \$27.50, [houseofblues.com](http://houseofblues.com)

### Saturday, March 5

Vincent Crotty of Dorchester and Chuck Sullivan of Milton present a joint exhibition of paintings as the inaugural show at Studio D, located at 11 Pearl Street, Savin Hill, Dorchester. Opening reception from 3 to 6 p.m. exhibit continues through April. Info: 617-839-6734.

### Sunday, March 6

County Donegal Association St. Pat's Reunion & Banquet, 7 p.m., Florian Hall, Dorchester. Tickets \$35, 617-623-3566, 617-696-1702.

Black & Green Boston, 2-6 p.m. Irish International Immigration Center (IIIC) joins with the Montserrat Aspirers for program, "Lessons about Hope: Resilience in the Face of Disaster," Montserrat Aspirers Hall, 364 Washington St., Dorchester, MA 02124. RSVP to 617-542-7654 ext 43. [iicenter.org](http://iicenter.org) and [aspirers.org](http://aspirers.org)

County Roscommon St. Patrick's Banquet, 4 p.m.,

Elks Hall, West Roxbury, Music by Andy Healy. Tickets \$35 pp, advance sale only. Call Richie Gormley 617-327-0100.

### Thursday, March 10

The American Ireland Fund hosts annual Boston Young Leaders St. Patrick's Celebration, Wharf Room, Boston Harbor Hotel 7-10 p.m. Live Music by Boston band Devri, open bar & hors d'oeuvres. Silent auction & raffle. YL Membership & ticket is \$250 and individual tickets are \$125 each.

Irish tenor Ronan Tynan in concert, 8 p.m., Northeastern University Center for the Arts. Tickets \$30 each; Student discounts available. 617-373-4700. More info at [ronantynan.net](http://ronantynan.net)

Irish tenor John McDermott in concert, Blue Ocean Music Hall, Salisbury, MA.

### Friday, March 11

The Pogues perform in concert, House of Blues, Boston.

### Saturday, March 12

St. Patrick's Open House, Irish Cultural Centre, Canton. Irish music, dancing, food. Performances from the Andy Healey Band and a lively session band. Doors open at 5 p.m., traditional Irish Mass at 6 p.m. and entertainment at 7 p.m.

Women of Ireland concert, Lynn Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$28-\$68,

781-581-2971, [lynnauditorium.com](http://lynnauditorium.com)

### Sunday, March 13

Eire Society reception, 3 p.m., Boston Harbor Hotel 70 Rowe's Wharf, Boston. Speaker: author Kyle Darcy. \$10 members, \$15 non-members. RSVP by March 8th to Cate McGrail, 617-739-6484.

Riverdance Farewell Tour performance, 7 p.m., Providence Performing Arts Ctr. Tickets 4091-421-2787, [ppacri.org](http://ppacri.org)

Co. Sligo Assoc. 3rd annual St. Patrick's Day Banquet, 4-9 p.m., Florian Hall, Dorchester. Andy Healy MC. Honoree is New England Council President, Jim Brett. Music by the Andy Healy Band. corned beef dinner is on the menu and all raffle proceeds benefit the Irish Pastoral Centre. \$40.00 pp, tickets: 800-439-3360.

### Wednesday, March 16

Irish trad group Dervish in concert, Palace Theatre Manchester NH/ Tickets \$34.50, 603-68-5588, [palacetheatre.org](http://palacetheatre.org).

### Thursday, March 17

IN/Boston St. Patrick's reception, 6 -9 p.m., Moakley Court House, Northern Avenue on Boston Waterfront. Tickets \$25, must be purchased online by March 10 for this Irish Network Boston members-only, preticketed event. [Irishnetworkboston.org](http://Irishnetworkboston.org)

St Patrick's celebration,

Irish Cultural Centre, Canton, from 3 p.m. on. Free to ICC members, \$ 5 general admission. [Irishculture.org](http://Irishculture.org)

2011 Irish Hockey Classic, hosted by Irish American Hockey Assn, Murphy Rink, South Boston.

**274th Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner**, Charitable Irish Society, 6:30 p.m. cocktails, 7:30 p.m. dinner, Union Club of Boston. Tickets: \$135, contact Paula Carroll, 508-655-8430, or email [klkassa@yahoo.com](mailto:klkassa@yahoo.com)

### Friday, March 18

World Music presents Dervish in concert, 8 p.m., Somerville Theare. Tickets 617-876-4275, [worldmusic.org](http://worldmusic.org)

Mayo born author Aine Greaney talks on the writing process and her two upcoming books. 7 p.m., GAR Memorial Library, 490 West Main Street, West Newbury. Free. Info: 978-363-1105, [ainegreaney.com](http://ainegreaney.com).

### Saturday, March 19

The Shamrock, a benefit for BC High. Cocktails, silent auction 6-7:30 p.m.; dinner, live & silent action 7:30 p.m. McNeice Pavilion at BC High. Tickets \$125, 617-474-5030, [bchigh.edu/shamrock](http://bchigh.edu/shamrock)

### Sunday, March 27

Irish tenor Ronan Tynan in concert, Wilbur Theatre, Boston, 3 p.m., tickets \$32- \$55. [Thewilburtheatre.com](http://Thewilburtheatre.com)

## Best Wishes on

## St. Patrick's Day



## Congressman Michael Capuano 8th Congressional District

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- Rep. Nick Collins



May your blessings outnumber  
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And may trouble avoid you  
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~Irish Blessing

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"May you have the hindsight to know  
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where you're going, and the  
insight to know where you are."

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The Boston Police Gaelic Column on the march in 2007.

Photo by Chris Lovett

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### HOLYOKE

Sun., March 20, 11:50 a.m., in downtown Holyoke

### LAWRENCE

Sun., March 6 at 1 p.m. Starts at City Hall.

### SCITUATE

Sun., March 20, at 1 p.m. Starts at Gate Middle School, First Parish Road.

### WORCESTER

Sun., March 13, at noon. Starts at Park Avenue.

### MANCHESTER, NH

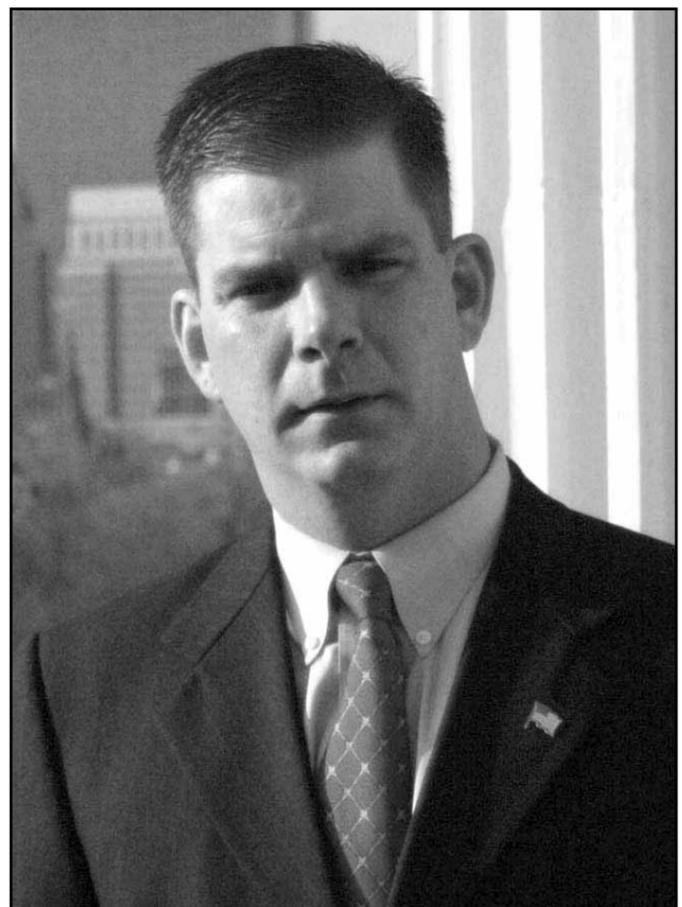
Sun., March 27, at noon. Starts at Elm Street in Downtown Manchester.

## Have a safe and happy Saint Patrick's Day



From  
Congressman Stephen Lynch

## Happy St. Patrick's Day



Rep. Marty Walsh

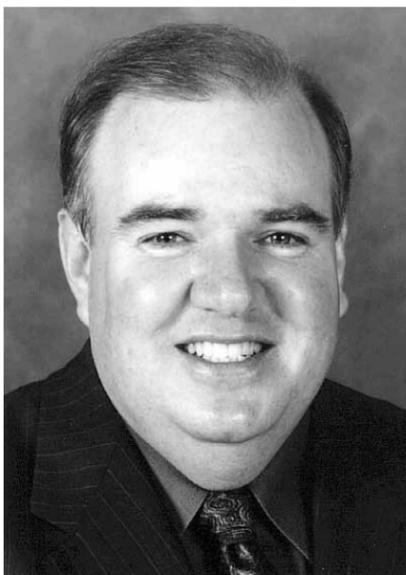
## Happy St. Patrick's Day

from

**Kevin G. Honan**  
State Representative

17th Suffolk District  
Chairman, Committee on Housing  
Room 38, State House  
Boston, MA 02133-2470

617-722-2470



[Rep.KevinHonan@hou.state.ma.us](mailto:Rep.KevinHonan@hou.state.ma.us)

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For more on Irish Studies at Stonehill, contact interim Director of Irish Studies Peter Ubertaccio at 508-565-1131.



## NOTES FROM THE IRISH IMMIGRATION CENTER

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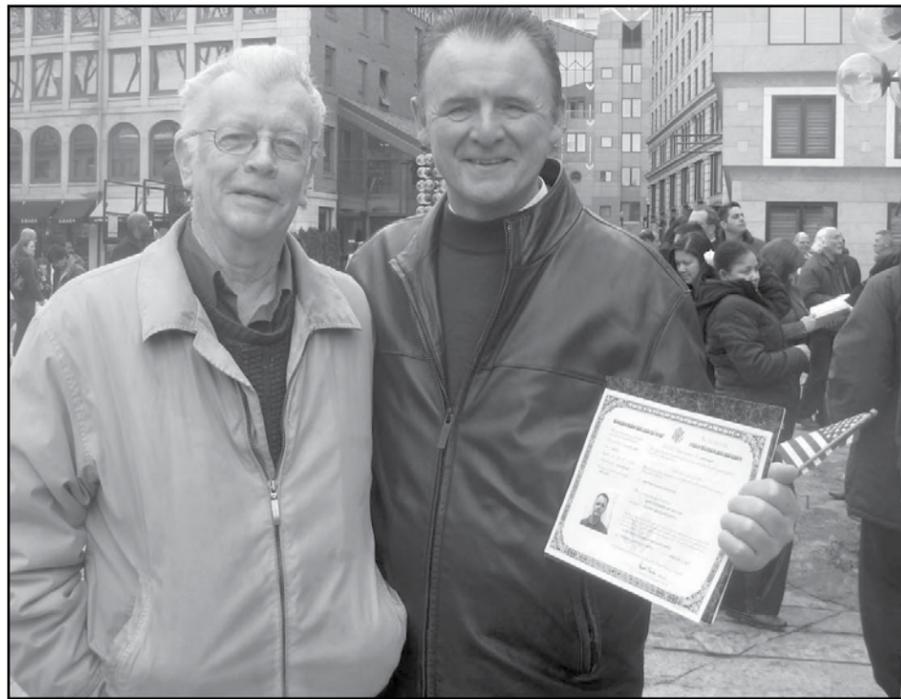
### He Stopped By, Then He Stayed

By ISAAC ROSS  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

When Peter Kelliher came to Boston eighteen years ago, he never dreamed that he'd still be here today. Being something of a world traveler, he had worked his way from job to job all around the planet. When a friend in Boston put him in touch with the Irish International Immigrant Center, he applied for working papers in the US and with some help soon found himself in Boston. Peter planned to stay a year or two, but Boston's unique charm and strong Irish community got the better of him. A year and a half after arriving in the city, he paid a social visit to the IIC to thank the organization for its help with his working papers. It didn't take long for Peter to find a group of friends at the Center and join the Cross Cultural Committee.

"The IIC was one of very few Irish organizations doing cross cultural work. I had lived in many places and understood what it was like to be a stranger in a new place," says Peter, reflecting on what first inspired him to join the IIC team.

In 2000, he decided to become a US citizen and attended one of the IIC's free legal clinics to make sure that all his paperwork was in order. "My Irish citizenship was very important to me," says Peter, who was applying



Citizenship Assistant Neil Hurley with noted Irish musician Martin McPhilemy who was sworn in as a new United States Citizen at last month's naturalization ceremony.

for dual citizenship. "John Rattigan checked over my paperwork and gave me some great advice to make sure I walked out of the Immigration Office a citizen of the United States and of Ireland." Kelliher now serves on the board of the Irish International Immigrant Center and is a proud citizen of both the United States and Ireland. On March 6, his Cross Cultural Committee at the IIC will co-host the Black and Green event to continue its work building bridges between the Irish and other ethnic communities of Boston.



IIC Board Member Peter Kelliher participates in a Cross Cultural Coffee with the Somali Development Center SDC Executive Director Abdi Yusuf.

**Editor's Note:** The IIC has changed its name to the Irish International Immigrant Center (IIC). All our contact information remains the same.

**Immigration and Citizenship Update** – The Irish International Immigrant Center provides comprehensive, professional, and confidential legal assistance on visa options, immigration, and citizenship issues. IIC operations include a mix of outreach and education to the immigrant community, specialized individual consultation, and immigration case assistance.

**Legal Clinic Schedule** – The IIC is pleased to offer free weekly legal clinics. Our friendly, dedicated, and experienced immigration attorneys will answer your questions about immigration and citizenship issues. Please call in advance, 617-542-7654. Upcoming dates for our community clinics include:

**Tues., March 1 and 15, 4-6 p.m.:** IIC Office, 100 Franklin St. in downtown Boston (Enter from the side entrance at 60 Arch Street or 201 Devonshire Street).

**Mon., March 7, 6:30p.m.:** The Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington St., Brighton.

**Wed., March 30, 6 p.m.:** St. Marks Parish Hall, 1725 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester

**Community Counseling and Education** – The IIC's Community Counseling and Education Services 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. Contact Danielle, in confidence and without judgment, at the IIC at 617-542-7654, Ext. 14. or at [dowen@iicenter.org](mailto:dowen@iicenter.org).

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## IMMIGRATION Q & A

### Have You Ever Been 'Inspected?'

**Q.** I was filling out an application form for US Citizenship and Immigration Services, and there was a question asking whether I had been "inspected" by an immigration officer when I last entered the US. Like every other time, I just got off the plane, stood in line, showed my passport and had it stamped, had my fingerprints taken, answered a few questions, received an I-94 card, etc. and was on my way. Does "inspection" mean something more elaborate than that?

**A.** You were in fact inspected by US Customs and Border Protection (CBP). The process you described is what some 98 percent of visitors to the US experience. It is officially known as "primary inspection" and is the routine treatment that visitors receive. The remaining roughly 2 percent are subjected to what is known as "secondary inspection." This is what happens when the CBP officer at the primary inspection point thinks there may be a problem with the admissibility of the visitor, based on incomplete travel documents, a name match with a government law enforcement database, or the like. In addition, a small number of visitors are selected randomly for secondary inspection. With secondary inspection, the visitor is taken to an area separate from the primary inspection area, sometimes a private room, and questioned and possibly searched. (This is probably what most people think of when they hear the word "inspection.") Usually the officers conducting the secondary inspections are more experienced than those at the primary inspection desks. After the secondary inspection, some 90 percent of those involved are, in fact, admitted to the United States.

So remember: Any travelers coming through US ports of entry in the normal way, with no problems, have in fact been "inspected" by immigration authorities. CBP has a fact sheet on the inspection process and the reasons for it. It points out that travelers who believe that they have been mistreated by CBP, or delayed or denied entry for an inappropriate reason, may file a report online at [dhs.gov/trip](http://dhs.gov/trip). We suggest that anyone contemplating filing such a report contact us first to determine whether doing so makes sense in a particular case. For a free, confidential consultation about this or any other aspect of immigration law, visit one of our legal clinics as noted each month in the *Boston Irish Reporter*.

*Disclaimer: These articles are published to inform generally, not to advise in individual 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.*

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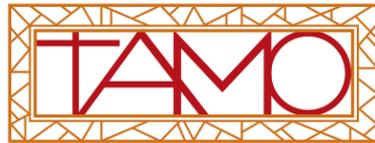
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# Happy Saint Patrick's Day!

FROM Jim Rooney AND ALL OF YOUR NEIGHBORS AT THE  
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# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

BOSTON IRISH ARTS,  
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TRAVEL & MORE

## Black 47's Kirwan talks music, strife, and civility

BY SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR  
Second of two parts

Wexford native Larry Kirwan — co-founder and guiding spirit of seminal Irish rock band Black 47, playwright, memoirist, novelist, columnist, radio show producer and host — has been one of the most visible and active figures on the Irish music scene for the past two decades, especially in New York (The Daily News once placed him ahead of Madonna in its list of the 50 most interesting New Yorkers).

Kirwan, who along with Black 47 will be playing next month (April 15) at the new Four Green Fields pub (in which he has a small role) at 1 Boston Place, talked recently with Boston Irish Reporter about his various enterprises, musical and otherwise, his favorite authors, and his views on discourse and civility.

**Q:** During the first several years of Black 47, you wrote and performed songs ["Big Fella," "Time to Go," "Bobby Sands, MP"] that dealt with the Troubles, and the Anglo-Irish conflict in general. Did the Good Friday agreement, and the easing of tensions in Northern Ireland, make that aspect of your repertoire seem less relevant, less compelling?

**Kirwan:** You have to consider the extraordinarily deep roots in that conflict, although the conflict itself might be over. The reasons for that conflict to exist were and are most interesting, and there's still a lot to learn

from all that happened. For me, the conflict was always there, going back to influences in boyhood days that I still think about. We called ourselves "Black 47" -- which, of course, refers to the worst year of the Great Famine -- for a reason. When you play to Irish-Americans, you're hitting that deep root of history; it just can't be avoided.

The thing is, Black 47 never preached. The songs that we did about The Troubles and so on were allegorical. We were saying, "Look, the story is there for those who want to learn it." And as I said, the lessons in that story don't become irrelevant.

For example, look at James Connolly, this left-wing, populist leader in the 1916 Easter Uprising. He seemed to have become less relevant during the years of the Celtic Tiger, but there's been tremendous renewed interest in his writings with what's happened to the Irish economy, and his preachings against the bosses from all countries who make financial decisions that affect the lives of Irish people.

**Q:** It's fair to say, of course, that Black 47 does other kinds of songs than those that have to do with Ireland. You've taken on issues having to do with race, social injustice, whether on a small or large scale -- and the title track of your most recent CD, "Bankers and Gangsters," was a kind of populist commentary on the financial crisis and the anger arising out of



Larry Kirwan performing with Black 47. "With Black 47, it's always 'How do you get people to think? And how do you get them to think outside their usual way?'"  
Photo by Sean Smith

it, right?

**Kirwan:** We always try to get our albums balanced. Yes, there are the sociopolitical songs, but there is humor, too, and story-telling: "Blood Wedding," "Green Suede Shoes," "Celtic Rocker," "Josie and Johnny."

Again, Black 47 is not about preaching. We're not telling people that they have to think this way, but just that they should think, period.

**Q:** The shootings in Tucson in early January seemed to foster a kind of nation-wide reflection

and assessment on the political environment in America, and perhaps more fundamentally, on the nature of our discourse with one another. As someone who thinks and expresses a lot about political issues, what's your impression of this?

**Kirwan:** I think what we've been seeing in recent years is too much anger, a rigidity in people's thinking. And this is something the band and I experienced ourselves, in the period when we recorded and released our "Iraq" CD. We came out

against the war in Iraq from the beginning, and it sparked fights in the halls where we played. The anger, the hatred that we encountered was incredible, and people were telling us "You have no right to sing this!" The thing is, many of our fans are in the armed forces, and most of the songs on "Iraq" are from the troops' point of view. We felt it was patriotic to sing against the war.

With Black 47, it's always "How do you get people to think? And how do you get them to think outside their usual way?" That's what I see as the real problem here: People have lost the ability to see others' points of view, and to engage with them meaningfully. I'm from a left-wing background, but I have conservative friends, and we have great discussions; I'm glad they believe the way they do, because how else do I get another perspective? I mean, that's what democracy is about.

Don't forget, I grew up in a country that had been divided by a civil war. My grandfather and his neighbor had probably been shooting at one another years ago, but now here they were living practically right next to one another. You have to have civility -- learn to tip your cap to one another, at least.

**Q:** I understand there's a new Black 47 CD out?

**Kirwan:** It's called "A Funky Ceili." We decided to take 18 Black 47 songs, all up-tempo, and put them on one album -- it's good for someone going on a journey or just feeling down, and looking for something to keep their energy up. There aren't any new songs, but a lot that are hard to get nowadays. One of the problems

of having been with so many different labels is some recordings just aren't available anymore.

**Q:** Albums, radio shows, plays, novels, newspaper columns -- and you also have written and produced musicals, including one you worked on with Australian author Thomas Keneally. Do you find it difficult to balance all the music and literary stuff you do?

**Kirwan:** 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. And I've generally been able to alternate between projects instead of trying to do them all at once. See, rock 'n roll has a lot of downtime, where you're traveling or taking a break before the next bunch of gigs, which I've been able to utilize for these other pursuits. I mean, if you're not playing music you can get caught up in things that may not be very good for your health, so in a way it's self-preservation.

**Q:** We've talked about your writing. Who do you like to read?

**Kirwan:** I've got pretty eclectic tastes. I just finished a book by Anthony Burgess -- I like him because he makes you appreciate language -- and I find myself going back to Graham Greene a lot, because of the moral code he deals with in his books. And I really liked Colm Toibin's *Brooklyn*: It's a simple story of immigration, and the language is just so clear, yet a very powerful read.

(Continued on page 23)

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# BIR Music CD REVIEWS

By SEAN SMITH

Review CD mailings are, for the reviewer, a random event: You get them whenever the record company opts to send them to you. So last month saw a nice little bit of symmetry when, in a matter of days, I received one CD by a quartet of Irish women, and another by a quartet of Irish men:

**Triona Ni Dhomhnaill, Mairead Ni Mhaonaigh, Moya Brennan, and Maighread Ni Dhomhnaill: "T with the Maggies"** – These four Irish women are not just any Irish women. They have been associated with some of the most prominent bands in the late-20th century Irish music revival: Skara Brae (Triona and Maighread Ni Dhomhnaill), The Bothy Band and



Relativity (Triona Ni Dhomhnaill), Clannad (Brennan) and Altan (Ni Mhaonaigh). As part of these distinguished ensembles, they fused traditional music with contemporary styles and influences -- rock, jazz and world music -- and along the

way, helped bring the Gaelic of their native Donegal to the attention of a new generation of listeners, in Ireland and elsewhere.

On "T with the Maggies," the four put forth that shared legacy of innovation, experimentation, and respect for tradition, demonstrating that their creative capacities are as strong as ever. The quality of the vocals — harmony or unison, ethereal or earthy, Gaelic or English — alone makes this one of the best albums of the past couple of years. They sound suitably Appalachian on the traditional "Wedding Dress" (you can almost picture them on a front porch somewhere in Tennessee), for example, but ably blend with the West African-flavored arrangement for "Cuach Mo

Lundubh Bui."

But that's not to overlook their instrumental abilities, notably Triona Ni Dhomhnaill's keyboards, Brennan's harp and djembe, and Ni Mhaonaigh's fiddle and hardanger fiddle. They employ these selectively and shrewdly, creating a lovely framework for, among others, "Thugamar Fhein an Samradh Linn" and "Biodh Orm Anocht." A delicate harp-accordion-and-piano motif gently guides their rendition of Richard Thompson's "Farewell Farewell," on which Brennan takes the lead vocal, and the result rivals the legendary Fairport Convention/Sandy Denny standard.

One track of particular note is the group original "Mother Song," a lament for the children who have left Ireland in search of better prospects — it's the kind of song the Maggies' antecedents have been singing for way too many years, and sadly, the refrain doesn't seem to end.

**The High Kings, "Memory Lane"** – On this, their second CD, the High Kings continue their effort to link the full-throated, full-throttle Irish ballad song idiom (a la the Clancy Brothers et al) with a 21st-century pop-rock sensibility and style. And as was the case with the first album, they take a good chunk of their repertoire from the ballad song genre, with old reliables like "Whiskey in the Jar," "Leaving of Liverpool," "Star of the County Down" and "The Rising of the Moon."

In most any overview of the High Kings, right about here it's useful to point out that their ranks include Finbarr Clancy, who as the son of Bobby Clancy has blood ties to the ballad-group era; Martin Furey, son of Finbar Furey, no small figure himself in the Irish music revival; Brian Dunphy, one of the Three Irish Tenors, and off-spring of 1960s showband star Sean Dunphy; and Darren Holden, whose stage credits include "Riverdance."

Compared to the first CD, "Memory Lane" has a some-

what toned-down, even nuanced feel to it. To be sure, there's plenty of the up-tempo, hoot-and-holler showmanship, but the album plays more like an album rather than a soundtrack from a PBS special. The instrumental prowess — especially that of Clancy and Furey — is more prominent, such as on "Step It Out Mary" and "The Rising of the Moon," and the arrangements are occasionally inspired or diverting, such as the shifting between 6/8 and 4/4 time on "Star of the County Down." Their vocals are as impressive as ever, certainly, with an out-of-left-field yet inventive digression on "Step It Out Mary," and a straight-out lovely a cappella rendition of "Red Is the Rose."

The album's ear wig (i.e., the song you keep hearing in your head) may well be "On the One Road," a collaboration with the Wolfe Tones that was co-authored by the Tones' Derek Warfield. It's a song of optimistic reconciliation after so many years of conflict ("Night is darkest just before the dawn/from dissension Ireland is reborn/soon we'll all be united Irishmen/make our land a nation once again"), and is almost enough to make you forget about Ireland's new source of misery, its economic morass. Almost.

(The High Kings will perform at Boston's Paradise Club on St. Patrick's Day.)



## Kirwan talks music, strife, civility

(Continued from page 22)

**Q:** What about music? What do you like to listen to?

**Kirwan:** I have to listen to a lot of Irish music for my radio show. There's one great album I heard recently by Kevin Burke and Cal Scott, "Suite," mixing classical influences in with the Irish tra-

dition — really gorgeous. Beyond Irish music, well, I don't actually listen to much rock 'n roll because it's so self-referential, even the Irish/Celtic rock. But there's a band from London called Bible Code Sunday who I think are pretty good.

I'm always looking for good songwriters. Dylan

still knocks the socks off, and I enjoy Pierce Turner. Shane McGowan was tremendous, but he's kind of stopped writing. Still, he captured a certain gestalt of the Irish, and the Irish in America.

**Q:** Any change in your status as one of the "most interesting New Yorkers"? Do you still outrank

Madonna?

**Kirwan:** I'm afraid I have been well and truly trounced by Madonna over the years. I don't seem to make those lists anymore. Perhaps, just as well. Or maybe the *Daily News* has become more conservative.



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# New Film Gets to the Heart of Childsplay

By SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

What can you say about a film in which Liz Carroll -- one of the most influential Irish fiddlers of our time -- appears as an interviewer, rather than a performer?

That's one of the many charms of "Fiddles, Fiddlers and a Fiddlemaker: Childsplay," a new documentary about the fiddle ensemble Childsplay and its artistic director and guiding spirit, Cambridge violin-maker Bob Childs. The film, which has been released on DVD, combines footage of the group's 2009 performance at Somerville Theater and Carroll's interviews with several members, who offer their insights on Childsplay's inner workings and share tidbits about its repertoire and arrangements of tunes and songs from Irish, Scottish, American, and other traditions, as well as contemporary works.

Childsplay has ample ties to the Greater Boston area, not least which is Childs himself, whose creations have become the gold standard for many violinists. For 25 years, satisfied customers of Childs have gathered every year to stage concerts in Greater Boston and elsewhere in New England; the confluence of so many fiddles with an identical point of origin, say Childs and Childsplay members, makes these



The Childsplay ensemble in concert back in 2009. Bob Childs is at far right.

Photo by Arthur Ferguson

concerts almost more of a family reunion than a musical event.

The roster of Childsplay -- which includes other instrumentalists as well as fiddlers -- is never exactly the same from year

to year but draws heavily from Boston and New England, as is the case for this film: Along with Childs, those with local or regional connections include Hanneke Cassel, Sheila Falls, Amanda

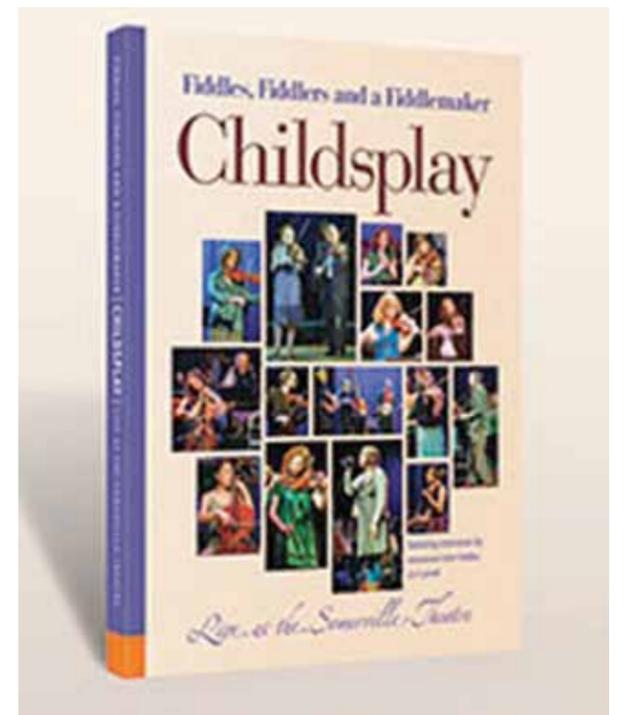
Cavanaugh, Katie McNally, Bonnie Bewick, Lissa Schneckenburger, vocalist Aoife O'Donovan, flutist Shannon Heaton, harpist Kathleen Guilday, guitarist/pianist Keith Murphy and cellist Ariel Friedman. (Carroll, a Chicago native, also has performed with Childsplay.)

Interviewed recently, Childs said the idea of a Childsplay concert film seemed both straightforward and appealing. "We wanted to capture the Childsplay experience, so we brought in five cameras to film the show at Somerville Theater. But we realized how much better it would be to tell the larger story of the group, to give a sense of how we come together and make this happen each year."

Although she's not a journalist, Carroll proved to be the perfect choice to conduct the interviews, says Childs ("She wants to be ready for when Oprah Winfrey retires," he quips).

"Liz had never done this sort of thing before, but she is so knowledgeable about music and what it means to develop your sound," he explained. "She just has a very down-to-earth manner, and knows what questions to ask and how to ask them, and that's crucial to drawing people out."

An engaging presence, Carroll helps make the interviews entertaining and enlightening, whether about the group in general -- Childs says its strength derives in part from the musicians' willingness "to be a little out of their comfort zone" and learn from one another -- or focusing on specific tunes or songs it performs. For example, Carroll gets Falls to dissect the first three notes of the first three notes of the Falls' air "Queen Maeve's Slumber" in a way that doesn't scare off the mu-



sically illiterate. Similarly, Murphy explains his composition "Sam Sam Amidon" as having been inspired by the "angular" playing style of his long-time bandmate Amidon, who also was in the 2009 Childsplay lineup. Bewick, a classical violinist, talks about her solo on John Corigliano's "Theme for Anna" and the challenge its distinctively non-traditional structure poses: "It sits on a note that's uncomfortable; if you try to feel it, it wouldn't feel good."

Ultimately, of course, it's the music itself which makes the film worth viewing. The ensemble's command of the range of material, including traditional (such as O'Donovan's masterful rendition of "I'm a Youth That's Inclined to Ramble") as well as original and contemporary pieces -- even "Love Me Tender" -- is impressive (the group also does a medley of three Carroll compositions). The sound is high quality, and the concert footage affirms the rapport between

the group's members -- communicated through subtle nods and knowing smiles -- as well as their individual virtuosity.

Even Childs himself experienced a revelation or two from watching the finished product. "I feel I have an even deeper appreciation of the creative personalities in the group. Obviously, I'm involved with this every year, shaping the ideas collectively and then performing them. But to hear Keith, Sheila, Hanneke and others talk about what happens, and then to see what fun everyone is having -- it's exciting to see that all captured."

A special premiere of "Fiddles, Fiddlers and a Fiddlemaker" will take place March 13 at Brattle Theater in Harvard Square at 3 p.m., followed by a wine and cheese reception at which some of the band members will be present. Tickets are \$31, with proceeds benefiting Childsplay. See [childsplay.org](http://childsplay.org) for information.

The University of  
Massachusetts Boston  
wishes you a  
happy St. Patrick's Day.

# Enter, Singers, Dancers and Heavenly Harpists

(Continued from page 1)

The members of the Harp Ensemble are a loyal bunch. Very few years to become musicians professionally as most have other career aspirations ("I just lost one to premed," Ross says). They perform for the sheer joy of the experience, and no one enjoys it more than Ross herself. "I mean how often do you get to play the harp in a group," she says. "Violin, any other instruments, you do all the time. But the harp, you never do. So this is really fun."

With so many heavy harps to arrange, from concert grands with pedals to the more manageable Irish and folk harps, the moments leading up to the Ensemble's performance near the end of the show's first act are tinged with a little controlled chaos in the wings.

"They call us when the comedian [Jerry Walker] goes on and we line up in the corridor," Ross says. "When they signal us to come on, there's a million stage hands, the parents of the young students, the husbands of players -- they all come in and we wheel our harps on stage on dollies." In absolute silence, they only have a matter of minutes to get everyone in position. "We hear the last of Jerry's jokes, the audience claps and claps and we get our fingers on the strings."

Their program this year is a combination of old and new. "Our first piece

is sort of our signature theme," Ross explains. "It's called 'Carolán's Concerto.' (Turlough Carolan) lived in the 1700s and went blind from smallpox when he was 18, but he'd written thousands and thousands of compositions. . . . and Irish harpists love to play his things." Next comes a medley of "Black Velvet Band" and a piece called "Rosin The Bow." Then Sarah Pfisterer and the chorus will join them for "Ireland, Mother Ireland." They'll end the show's first act with "St. Patrick's Day Parade." Ross added, "Then some of us play at the very end of the show. We do the old 'Irish Blessing' and 'It's A Great Day For The Irish.'"

A musical dynamo, Ross not only organizes the group, auditions new players, and writes all their arrangements, but she also conducts all rehearsals in her home, which, based on the bulky instruments, provides both a logistical and spatial challenge. "I had an addition built onto the house" she says. "I used to have harpists, six in the living room and six in the kitchen. And I'd stand in the doorway and talk left and right. But now we can fit more."

Although no longer with the Longy School, Ross continues to provide private instruction, teaching both music and music theory. "I start kids at five years old on the harp. My oldest was an 88-year-old dentist who's no longer with us. But they're all

ages. I love the variety of ages and the variety of subjects. I'll come in and one girl will be playing on the small harp and the next person might be doing a theory lesson. Then I have two little Russian kids taking piano lessons . . . and I have a little 12-year-old girl who's playing concertos with orchestras."

Ross says two of her Ensemble players -- Sarah Clarke and Deanna Cirielli -- are essential to the smooth operation of the group. "They learn all the parts just in case somebody has to miss (a performance). I can say 'Deanna, play Harp 3 at the concert tonight,' or 'Sarah, play 2A,' and they can do it because they've got everything memorized. We all memorize our music, but these girls memorize *all* the parts. I call them my two right arms. I can't get along without them. . . . Sarah, who's 24 now, has been with me every single year since the beginning."

With pride, Ross says, "Many people in the audience have come backstage and told me they thought they were in heaven when we played."

**Reagle Music Theatre's "A Little Bit of Ireland"** - March 11 - 13, at Robinson Theatre, 617 Lexington Street in Waltham. Tickets: 781-891-5600 or [reaglemusictheatre.org](http://reaglemusictheatre.org).

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



A lead soloist of the Massachusetts Harp Ensemble applies a heavenly touch to an ancient Irish folk tune during "A Little Bit of Ireland" at the Reagle Music Theatre. Photo by Herb Philpott

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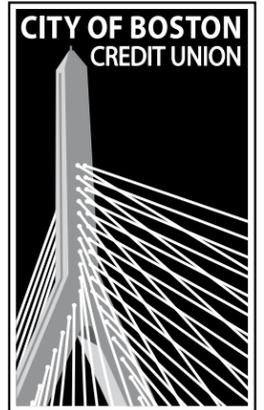
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# Irish Heritage Month

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The Men and Woman of the Reverend James T. O'Reilly Division 8 Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Irish Foundation of Lawrence have joined forces to present a series of cultural programs for Irish Heritage Month in the City of Lawrence and other venues throughout the Merrimack Valley. These events are the largest celebration of its kind north of Boston. All are welcome. You don't have to be Irish or a Hibernian to come and enjoy these events. They include special exhibits, lectures and presentations, concerts and other musical events, food, children's programs and for the sports minded a Four Mile Road Race. And last but not least the Lawrence St Patrick's Day Parade.

### **Sunday, February 27, 2011**

**LECTURE** by MICHAEL QUINLIN OF THE BOSTON IRISH TOURISM ASSOCIATION on *"How the Irish Imagined the Civil War"* - 2 p.m. Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St. Lawrence. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH and the Irish Foundation **(FREE) – Handicap Accessible**

### **Tuesday, March 1, 2011**

**IRISH FLAG RAISING** Across from City Hall – Common Street at 11:00 a.m. **All are Welcome**

### **Wednesday, March 2, 2011**

**OPEN HOUSE – THE HIBERNIAN COLLECTION - LAWRENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY**, South Lawrence Branch, 135 Parker Street, Lawrence. Showcase of Irish Books, CD's and DVD's – All Month (Monday, Wednesday, Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) Sponsored by Division 8 AOH and LAOH and the Irish Foundation - **Handicap Accessible**

### **March 3 – 31, 2011**

**EXHIBIT ON "HOMETOWN HEROES: THE LAWRENCE IRISH AND THE CIVIL WAR"** - Daily 10 – 4 Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St. Lawrence. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH & the Irish Foundation. **(FREE) – Handicap Accessible**

### **Saturday, March 5, 2011**

**BOOK LECTURE AND SIGNING:** by Author Thomas Rice, who will discuss his book, *Far from the Land* – 1 p.m. Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St. Lawrence. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH and the Irish Foundation **(FREE) – Handicap Accessible**

### **Sunday, March 6, 2011**

**THE WILD ROVER RACING SERIES: THE CLADDAGH PUB FOUR MILER RACING SERIES**– 11 a.m. at the Claddagh Pub & Restaurant, 399 Canal Street, Lawrence. For more information please contact [www.coolrunning.com](http://www.coolrunning.com)

### **Sunday, March 6, 2011**

**OPENING RECEPTION FOR THE EXHIBIT ON "HOMETOWN HEROES: THE LAWRENCE IRISH AND THE CIVIL WAR" AND LECTURE** by *Dr. John Condon* on *"Lincoln's Reaction to the Events in Baltimore"* - 2 p.m. at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson Street, Lawrence. 2:00 – 4:00 pm Sponsored by Division 8 AOH & the Irish Foundation. **(FREE) – Handicap Accessible**

### **Friday, March 11, 2010**

**42<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL SAINT PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON** at the Claddagh Pub and Restaurant, 399 Canal Street, Lawrence. Traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner with entertainment by the Silver Spears @ NOON. Awarding of the Honorable John E. Fenton Citizenship Award - For more information please contact Jack Lahey at 603 898 7766. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH

### **Friday, March 11, 2011**

**ANNUAL IRISH ART EXHIBIT** (March 11 – April 10) at Lorica Artworks, 96 Main Street, Andover. For information call 978 470-1829. Sponsored by the Irish Foundation – **Handicap Accessible**

### **Saturday, March 12, 2011**

**THE 140<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SAINT PATRICK'S DAY BANQUET AND DANCE** at the Claddagh Pub and Restaurant, 399 Canal Street, Lawrence. Traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner with dancing to the Andy Healy Band 6:00 p.m. - For more information please contact Robert Gauthier at 978 686-2786. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH

### **Sunday, March 13, 2011**

**A CELTIC CELEBRATION** – a fun filled day of Irish music, fun and laughter with the *McTeggarts* at the Claddagh Pub & Restaurant, 399 Canal Street, Lawrence. 2 - 6 p.m. For more information please call 978 390 3400. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH, Division 8 LAOH and the Claddagh Pub & Restaurant

### **Wednesday, March 17, 2011**

**HAPPY SAINT PATRICKS DAY** – Irish Music all day at the Claddagh Pub and Restaurant, 300 Canal Street, Lawrence. For further information please call 978 688-8337.

### **Saturday, March 19, 2011**

**IRISH FILM FESTIVAL** at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson Street, Lawrence. 11:00 a.m. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH. For further information please call 978 794-1655. **(FREE) - Handicap Accessible**

### **Sunday, March 20, 2011**

**WHITE FUND LECTURE** featuring Robert Bateman, who will speak on *"Captain Timothy Deasy, Patriot Irish/American"* at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson Street, Lawrence. 2:00 p.m. Sponsored by the White Fund. **(FREE) – Handicap Accessible**

### **Saturday, March 26, 2011**

**BOOK LECTURE & SIGNING:** by Gemma Welan who will discuss her book, *Fiona: Stolen Child* – 1 p.m. Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St. Lawrence Sponsored by Division 8 AOH and the Irish Foundation **(FREE) – Handicap Accessible**

### **Sunday, March 27, 2011**

**CELTIC CELEBRATION - IRELAND IN SONG - CELTIC MELODIES FOR VOICE AND PIANO** performed by Terri and George Kelley at the Lawrence Public Library, Sargent Auditorium, 51 Lawrence Street, Lawrence. 2:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Friends of the Lawrence Public Library. **(FREE) – Handicap Accessible**

**IRISH HERITAGE MONTH IS SPONSORED BY THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS DIVISION 8, LAOH DIVISION 8, and THE IRISH FOUNDATION of LAWRENCE**

*Irish Heritage Month is supported in part by a grant from the Lawrence Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.*





A column of news and updates of the Boston Celtic Music Fest (BCMFest), which celebrates the Boston area's rich heritage of Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton music and dance with a grassroots, musician-run winter music festival and other events during the year. The eighth annual BCMFest is January 7 and 8.

- Sean Smith

**The basics:** When it comes to traditional Irish music in Boston, excellence knows no gender.

That's largely the idea behind "Basic Instinct," the March 14 edition of BCMFest's Celtic Music Monday series at Club Passim in Harvard Square, which will showcase a pair of trios -- one male, one female -- comprising some of the area's foremost Irish/Celtic musicians.

Accordionist Dan Gurney will join forces with flute and whistle player Jimmy Noonan and guitarist-fiddler Danny Noveck for one half of the evening, while the other half will feature fiddler Cara Frankowicz, harpist Maeve Gilchrist, and flutist Nicole Rabata. And, yes, there's a good chance of all six musicians teaming up for a grand finale.



Maeve Gilchrist will be among the featured performers at this month's BCMFest Celtic Music Monday concert, March 14 at Club Passim. Photo by Sean Smith

While it may be tempting to depict "Basic Instinct" as a battle of the sexes -- especially since it shares the title of a certain notorious film -- Gurney says the reality is quite different.

"For me, this whole concert is a great opportunity to play a few tunes with friends who might not usually play together," says Gurney, who is the concert's lead organizer. "I asked Jimmy and Danny if they could do

it, and then asked Maeve to organize the other half. When she got Cara and Nicole, we knew what the title had to be. "The whole point of the night is to enjoy ourselves, and we hope the audience will too."

Gurney, who has won honors in both US and Irish fleadh cheoils, is an active member of the Boston music scene. He often plays a weekly session at The Haven in Jamaica Plain with Scottish-born Gilchrist, whose harp-playing and singing styles include contemporary, jazz and world music influences.

Noonan, who teaches flute and whistle at Boston College, has performed at the Kent State, Wolftrap, and National Folk festivals, as well as other prominent folk music festivals in the US. Noveck's eclectic musical endeavors include playing with Irish musicians such as Liz Carroll, John Whelan and Randal Bays, and contra dance bands Wild Asparagus and Fresh Fish, as well as the genre-busting American Cafe Orchestra. Gurney, Noonan and Noveck recently performed together at the newly opened Four Green Fields pub in downtown Boston.

Frankowicz is one of the mainstays of Boston's Irish music scene, co-hosting the weekly session at The Brendan Behan Pub in Jamaica Plain. Maine resident Rabata, who performs as part of The Milliners, Naia, and the World Flute Trio, has appeared at festivals in the UK, Ireland, and France, and last year released her first CD, "Armorica."

"This concert should be a good time - we all love playing at Passim and there will be a lot of tunes that people won't have heard before. And if you thought 'Basic Instinct' was in bad taste, we'll be announcing band names at the show!"

Tickets for the concert, which starts at 8 p.m., are \$12, \$6 for members of Club Passim, WGBH and WUMB. For reservations and other information, see [clubpassim.org](http://clubpassim.org).

For more information on BCMFest, see [bcmfest.com](http://bcmfest.com); you can also sign up for the BCMFest e-mail list via the website.

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# JFK Library feature Lets You Work at The President's Desk

As a little girl, Caroline Kennedy hung out at her father's desk while he worked in the country's most famous office. Now the library she works with to preserve her father's memory has introduced a way anyone can sit — virtually — at John F. Kennedy's desk and learn more about his life and administration.

On Feb. 21, the Museum at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Dorchester unveiled a new online feature, The President's Desk.

The interactive desktop has numerous objects Web visitors can click — a telephone, a campaign button, a secret recording

audio and text from JFK's era.

"I hope users will feel they are sitting at the president's desk themselves and will be excited to bring history to life in this dynamic setting," said Caroline Kennedy, president of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation. "My parents shared a love of history, and I know they would have enjoyed this exhibit themselves."

The online feature was introduced in front of a replica of the desk.

The original desk was made from the timbers of the British ship the HMS Resolute and was given to President Rutherford B. Hayes by Queen Victoria in 1878. Still used by

President Barack Obama, the original desk was in the White House broadcast room until JFK's wife, Jacqueline Kennedy, discovered it and had it installed in the Oval Office in February 1961.

The virtual version has seven clickable objects, each of which holds various layers of information.

Clicking the telephone, for instance, pulls up a list of recorded conversations, and a user can listen to the president talk to his brothers Robert Kennedy and Edward Kennedy.

The campaign button reveals a picture of his campaign headquarters and video from his run for office.

Hitting the secret re-



Caroline Kennedy and her father in the Oval Office, May 16 1962. Photo by Robert Knudsen/John F. Kennedy Presidential Library.

cording button gives access to transcripts and sound from high-level discussions on the Cuban missile crisis and Viet-

nam.

Other objects hold information about Kennedy's family, his military service and his love of the sea.

The President's Desk can be found at [JFKLibrary.org](http://JFKLibrary.org).

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRISH CULTURAL CENTRE

## The 17 Days of March 2011

**Genealogy Lecture** Friday, March 4, 2011

A genealogy case of a WWII phenomenon. The lecture begins at 8pm and is \$10 for ICC Members & \$15 General Admission. Please call the ICC to purchase tickets at 781-821-8291.

**St. Patrick's Kids Event** Saturday, March 5, 2011

An afternoon full of kids activities to celebrate Ireland. The two performances will take place from 1-3pm and 3-5pm. Showtime's approximately 90 minutes long. \$5 Admission for children & adults, children under 3 yrs are free. TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE. Please call the ICC to purchase tickets at 781-821-8291.

**Noel V. Ginnity's Irish Cabaret** Tues/Wed, March 8 & 9th, 2011

This wonderful show straight from Ireland features Ireland's funniest comedian Noel V Ginnity, Irish Tenor Paul Hennessey, Soprano Emer Hartnett, the Dublin Traditional dancers and so many more! Tickets are \$25 for ICC Members & \$30 General Admission. Show begins at 7:30, doors opening at 6pm. Buffet dinner available at 6pm for additional charge. Please purchase your tickets in advance by calling ICC at 781-821-8291.

**St. Patrick's Open House** Saturday, March 12, 2011

The ICC annual community open house welcomes all. Featuring lively Irish music, dancing, plenty of great Irish food, great "craic" and more! Performances by Andy Healey and a lively session band. Doors open at 5pm. Traditional Irish Mass at 6pm, entertainment at 7pm. FREE for ICC Members\*/\$5 General Admission. Separate cost for food.

**St. Patrick's Day Celebrations** Thursday, March 17, 2011

Come and celebrate your heritage at the most authentic place around. The Centre will be open at 3pm and will feature live Irish music, full food menu, cheapest pints around and great "craic". The pub is open to both members and non-members, all are welcome. FREE for ICC Members\*/\$5 General Admission at the door. Separate cost for food.

**Joshua Tree, Live in Concert** Friday, March 18, 2011

Come and get your Irish celebrations on early at the ICC with a performance by the best U2 cover band around. Doors and ICC Pub open at 6pm. Show starts at 8pm. Tickets are \$12 ICC Members and \$15 General Admission. Call ICC at 781-821-8291 to purchase our tickets in advance.

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[www.irishculture.org](http://www.irishculture.org) \*These programs are supported in part by a grant from the Canton Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.  
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See The Gobshites

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 Sunday, March 6th - The Claddagh Pub - Lawrence, MA  
 Sunday, March 20th - Southie Saint Patrick's Parade  
 See [www.gobshites.com](http://www.gobshites.com) for more dates and details

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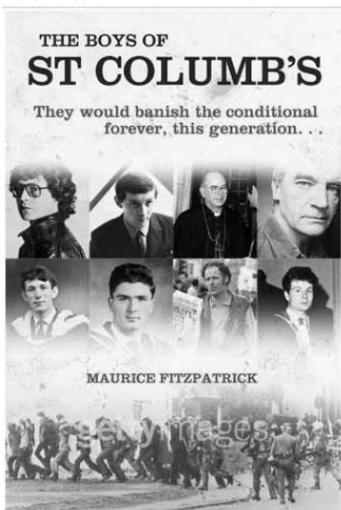
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# DEEP IN THE HEART OF DERRY

By THOMAS O'GRADY  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

"The schoolmen were schoolboys first." So James Joyce has Stephen Dedalus muse in the "Scylla and Charybdis" episode of *Ulysses*. These words would have made an apt epigraph for *The Boys of St. Columb's* (The Liffey Press, 2010), Maurice Fitzpatrick's book of commentary and interviews published as a companion piece to the film of the same name that he co-wrote and co-produced: both book and film focus on one of the most momentous events in the history of modern Northern Ireland. Generally overshadowed by the outbreak of sectarian violence in the late 1960s that defined the last three decades of the twentieth century in the North, this event is the passage, in 1947, of the Education Act which made secondary education free for any student who passed the auxiliary test

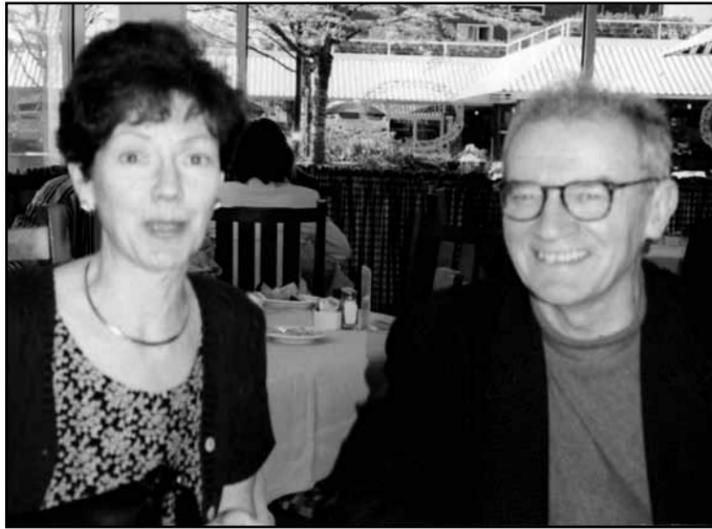


known as Eleven Plus. Essentially, in the film and the book, Fitzpatrick sets out to prove a thesis: that the implementation of this act gave rise in a single generation to a professional class of Catholics who would provide visionary leadership in reshaping the social and political culture of Northern Ireland in the last half of the century. His testing ground for this thesis is very specific: St. Columb's College, a diocesan-run Catholic boys school in the heart of the city of Derry.

For some readers of the book and viewers of the film (available on DVD), the first attraction may be the new insight that Fitzpatrick's focus offers into two of the best-known and

most distinguished alumni of St. Columb's—Nobel Prize-winning poet Seamus Heaney and scholar, critic, and novelist Seamus Deane. Indeed, these two writers—and the relationship between those two "schoolmen" who were once schoolboys together—figure prominently in Fitzpatrick's project. Yet they are still just part of a larger ensemble comprising a cross-section of graduates from diverse backgrounds and with diverse interests and talents who went on to become household names in one field or another: musicians Paul Brady and Phil Coulter; politician and Nobel Peace Prize recipient John Hume; well-traveled ambassador James Sharkey; political activist Eamonn McCann, one of the founders of the civil rights movement in Northern Ireland in the late 1960s; and Edward Daly, Bishop of Derry from 1974 to 1993 (the heart of the so-called "Troubles") who as Father Daly had become known worldwide through the image of him waving a blood-stained white handkerchief while ministering to a mortally wounded victim of the Bloody Sunday massacre in 1972.

While some of these men knew each other during their years at St. Columb's (mostly during the late 1940s and the 1950s) and while most have in later life crossed orbital paths with each other, what they really have as their first common denominator is the experience of attending St. Columb's. That in itself proves fascinating for the viewer of the film and the reader of the book, as each of the eight men featured has a unique recollection of and a unique set of reflections on that experience. For instance, the experience of attending the school was vastly different—in some cases for better, in some cases for worse—for boarders and for day students. It was also vastly different depending on personal domestic circumstances and individual sensibility. For some of Fitzpatrick's subjects, their time at the college was transformative in a mostly affirming way. Phil Coulter, for example, asserts: "I would have no doubt that whatever combination of talent, tenacity, temperament and work ethic I have, I would owe that to St. Columb's." Likewise, James Sharkey remembers his final two years as "really a preparation for something



The late Boston Irish Reporter Publisher Mary Casey Forry interviewed "St. Columb's Boy" Seamus Deane during a book-tour visit to Boston years ago by the Derry poet, critic, and novelist. Reporter file photo

extraordinary": "No matter how much you were a rebel and rejected education, you were always aware that there were teachers of a certain sophistication with whom you empathised. . . . I owe those people a special debt of gratitude."

For others, however, the St. Columb's experience was utterly traumatic. A day student from the lower-class Bogside area of Derry, Eamonn McCann remembers being treated as "an interloper" and remembers also that "The regime at St. Columb's was quite brutal and was run by fear": "It was run by a lot of brutality—not just slaps but the use of fists. I was knocked unconscious in an Irish class once for something very, very trivial." Paul Brady is even more emphatic as he summons up his earliest memories of the school as experienced by a sensitive bespectacled boy from the town of Strabane, Co. Tyrone: "Shock, horror, awe, shock. I had no experience that was going to prepare me for going into a boarding school. Being in a monocultural, monosex kind of atmosphere was quite a shock to me, and it took me a long time to get accustomed to it. I didn't have any experience of other parts of Northern Ireland, say east of the Sperrin Mountains which is a whole different vibe altogether, with strange accents, which now I know to be only south Derry accents and Antrim accents. But at the time they might have been from Timbuktu to me." Of the eight

alumni of St. Columb's interviewed by Maurice Fitzpatrick, Brady seems to have suffered the most from the concomitant cultures of violence and of conformity imposed equally by the priests and the lay teachers at the school and either resigned to or absorbed as the norm by the vast majority of the students. His interview is particularly poignant.

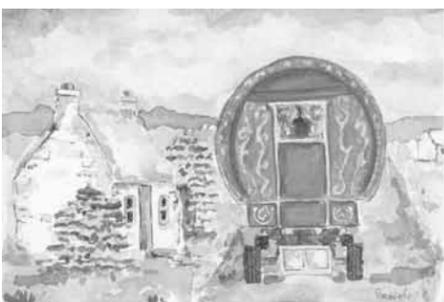
Not surprisingly, not one of Fitzpatrick's subjects is unequivocally nostalgic about his experience at St. Columb's. But of all the interviewees, Seamus Deane is most detailed—and uncompromisingly so—in his analysis of the ministry of fear (as it were) that defined life at the college. Perceiving the institution of the Catholic Church as "a system of authority that was changing itself into a system of power, and doing that mistakenly under the aegis of the Socialist Government's Education Act," Deane parses with riveting rigor the complex implications of the dynamic that played out at St. Columb's: "They couldn't handle the effect of that legislation. The Roman Catholic Church couldn't remain what it had been: once they had to teach the working classes, their class prejudice revealed itself. Every one of them was anxious nevertheless to exert authority, reproducing the structures of domination that the state had used; mass education exposed a church that had won respect from being oppressed. The myth of the priest could not

survive his becoming a teacher in a strenuous situation. So it was sort of a melancholy place in that respect, made the more so by the excellence of some of the very good teachers."

Yet the prevailing theme of *The Boys of St. Columb's* remains that articulated by Seamus Heaney in response to Maurice Fitzpatrick's question about the enduring "impact" of the 1947 Education Act. Appreciating how "people with merit, with intelligence, were given the scholarship, so that talent brought forward a whole new set of people," Heaney elaborates: "That arrival into the adult population, eventually, of educated people from the working class, from farming backgrounds, brought a new kind of critical intelligence, a new kind of appetite for excellence into play. They had a sense of adventure, a sense of themselves as a generation with some sense of possibility and advantage and renewal. They were aware of the people who hadn't got the advantages in their family and among their neighbours. They were political in that they had a strong sense of being responsible."

And in that regard the resonance—and thus the importance—of *The Boys of St. Columb's* as a documentary record extends far beyond even the engaging "tales told out of school," about school, by an octet of men as candid as they are articulate. One way in which their personal stories resonates is as evidence of the value of education in the particular context of Northern Ireland: as Fitzpatrick asserts in his Introduction to the book, behind the stock images of the Northern predicament and the sectarian conflict—first the media shots of posturing politicians and then the literal shots and explosions heard 'round the world—there was "history to be understood." Perhaps just as important is the broader message that the film sends out about education as the great liberator because it is first the great equalizer. *The Boys of St. Columb's* is thus a sort of parable for how education—not arms or armies—can be the vehicle for change not just in one particular context but globally.

Thomas O'Grady is Director of Irish Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston.



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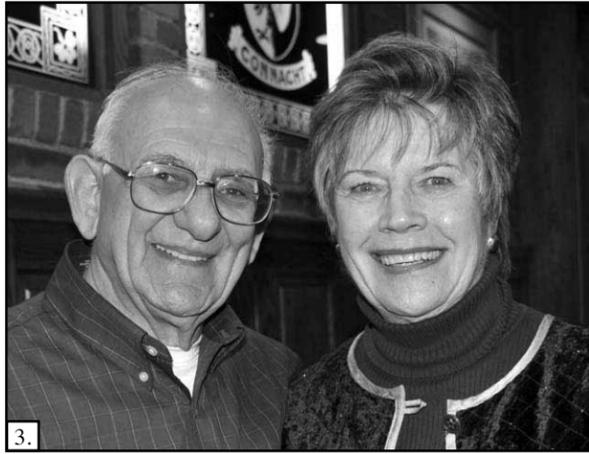
# BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett

Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

Friends of Sheila Gleeson gathered last month for a "Thank You" party, as she steps down from a role as director of the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers (CIIC) after five years. The Feb. 14 evening reception was co-sponsored by the Irish International Immigration Center and the Irish Pastoral Centre. "Sheila raised awareness with the Irish government, our primary funder of some of the brutal underlying difficulties our undocumented Irish continue to face in deportation proceedings, and developed tools for staff in all of our immigration centers to deal more expediently with these tough cases," the CIIC's Siobhan Dennehy said. "Her professionalism, passion, genuine empathy, and deep understanding of the goals we all work daily to attain at our centers was refreshing and will be hard to replicate."

1.) Fr. John McCarthy, Irish Pastoral Centre; Ita Bridges, Brighton; Cyril and Criston McArdle, Brighton; 2.) Sheila Gleeson and Kevin Cullen; 3.) Peter and Connie Koutoujian, Waltham; 4.) Donnie Carr, Milton; Gerry Kelly, Boston; 5.) Kathleen Rohan, Quincy; Sr. Marguerite Kelly, Irish Pastoral Centre; 6.) Vice Consul Deirdre Ni Fhalluin; Sheila Gleeson; 7.) John Cunningham, Brighton; Paul Brandon, Cambridge; 8.) Sinead Keegan and Andrew Pakulis, Newton; 9.) Sr. Lena Deevy; Danielle Owen, Cambridge; 10.) Fr. John McCarthy, Irish Pastoral Centre; 11.) Anne Auerback, Brookline; 12.) Kieran O'Sullivan, Reading, Irish Pastoral Centre; Sheila Gleeson, Irish Pastoral Centre; Neil Hurley, Somerville, Irish Pastoral Centre; 13.) Josephine Lacey, Quincy; Pat Moran, Dorchester; 14.) Olive Scanlon, Dorchester; 15.) Cora Flood and Killian Crosse with their children Brian and Orla Crosse.



# Taking Stock of Ireland: Some Top Tens

## TOP 10 LARGEST LAKES

Lake	County	Area
1 Lough Neagh	Antrim, Armagh, Derry and Tyrone	383 sq km (148 sq miles)
2 Lough Corrib	Galway	175 sq km (67 sq miles)
3 Lough Derg	Tipperary, Galway, Clare	118 sq km (46 sq miles)
4 Lough Erne Lower	Fermanagh	111 sq km (43 sq miles)
5 Lough Ree	Longford, Westmeath, Roscommon	105 sq km (41 sq miles)
6 Lough Mask	Mayo	89 sq km (34 sq miles)
7 Lough Conn	Mayo	57 sq km (22 sq miles)
8 Lough Allen	Leitrim	35 sq km (14 sq miles)
9 Lough Erne Upper	Fermanagh	34.5 sq km (13 sq miles)
10 Poulaphouca	Kerry	12 sq km (5 sq miles)

Poulaphouca is Ireland's largest man-made lake.

## LARGEST COUNTIES

County	Area
1 Cork	7,459 sq km (2,880 sq miles)
2 Galway	5,939 sq km (2,293 sq miles)
3 Mayo	5,398 sq km (2,084 sq miles)
4 Donegal	4,830 sq km (1,865 sq miles)
5 Kerry	4,701 sq km (1,815 sq miles)
6 Tipperary	4,255 sq km (1,643 sq miles)
7 Tyrone	3,263 sq km (1,220 sq miles)
8 Clare	3,188 sq km (1,231 sq miles)
9 Antrim	2,838 sq km (1,092 sq miles)
10 Limerick	2,686 sq km (1,038 sq miles)

## TALLEST BUILDINGS

Building/location	Height	Opened
1 Obel Tower, Belfast	85 m (279 ft)	2010
2 Windsor House, Belfast	80 m (262 ft)	1975
3 Belfast City Hospital Tower, Belfast	74 m (243 ft)	1986
4 The Elysian, Cork	71 m (233 ft)	2008
5 County Hall, Cork	67 m (220 ft)	1968
6 Hilton Hotel, Belfast	63 m (207 ft)	1998
= Millennium Tower, Dublin	63 m (207 ft)	1998
8 BT Riverside Tower, Belfast	62 m (203 ft)	1997
9 Divis Tower, Belfast	61 m (200 ft)	1966
10 Liberty Hall, Dublin	59.4 m (195 ft)	1965

## LONGEST RIVERS

- 1 Shannon 386 km (240 miles)  
Path: near Dowra in Cavan through Lough Allen, Lough Ree and Lough Derg to tidal waters at Limerick. It is an important artery for river traffic and power supply.
- 2 Barrow 192 km (120 miles)  
Path: Glenbarrow in the Slieve Bloom Mountains, Co. Laois, to tidal waters near New Ross.
- 3 Suir 184 km (114 miles)  
Path: Devil's Bit Mountain, Co. Tipperary, to Waterford City.
- 4 Munster Blackwater 168 km (104 miles)  
Path: Mullaghareirk Mountains, Co. Kerry, through north Cork to Youghal.
- 5 Nore 140 km (87 miles)  
Path: Devil's Bit Mountain, Co. Tipperary, through Kilkenny to Waterford City.
- 6 Bann 129 km (80 miles)  
Path: Slieve Muck in the Mourne Mountains through Lough Neagh to Portstewart.
- 7 Liffey 125 km (78 miles)  
Path: Kippure, Co. Wicklow, in a semicircle through Co. Kildare and through Dublin City.
- 8 Slaney 117 km (73 miles)  
Path: Lugnaquilla, Co. Wicklow, to Wexford Town.
- 9 Boyne 112 km (70 miles)  
Path: Carbury, Co. Kildare, past the heritage sites of Co. Meath to Drogheda.
- 10 Erne 105 km (64 miles)  
Path: Beaghy Lough, near Stradone, Co. Cavan, through Lough Gowna, Lough Oughter and Upper and Lower Lough Erne in Co. Fermanagh to Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal.

## BOYS' NAMES in the Republic of Ireland\*

- 1 Jack
- 2 Sean
- 3 Conor
- 4 Daniel
- 5 James
- 6 Ryan
- 7 Adam
- 8 Dylan
- 9 Luke
- 10 Alex

\* In 2008

Source: Central Statistics Office Ireland



## GREAT BATTLES

- 1 1014 Clontarf  
Brian Bóruma's Munster and Galwaymen faced Máel Mórda of Leinster, Sitric of Dublin, Sigurd from the Orkneys and Brodar from the Isle of Man on a site east of the Tolka. Brian's forces won, led by his son Murchad, but Brian's death destabilized the high kingship.
- 2 1171 Dublin  
The Normans defeated Haskulf of Dublin twice in eight months. Their 200 knights, 400 other horsemen and 1,500 archers then crossed the bridge and routed the Irish high king's army at Castleknock, allegedly catching the king himself in his bath.
- 3 1504 Knockdoe  
Garret Óg FitzGerald and his army of 6,000 defeated his son-in-law, Ulick de Burgh with 4,000 men, in the first Irish battle in which firearms were used.
- 4 1598 The Yellow Ford  
Hugh O'Donnell and Hugh Maguire attacked Henry Bagenal's crown forces on the march with his 4,000 men and wiped out half his army.
- 5 1601 Kinsale  
Aguila and 3,500 Spaniards arrived at Kinsale and were besieged by Charles Mountjoy and 6,900 men, while Hugh O'Neill, with 5,000 foot soldiers and 400 horsemen, marched the length of the country. The Irish withdrew to improve their position and then deployed before their main force had arrived. Aguila took no part in the battle and surrendered to Mountjoy nine days later.
- 6 1646 Benburb  
Owen Roe O'Neill's army of 6,000 forced Robert Munro's army of the same strength back to the Blackwater River and wiped out half of Munro's force.
- 7 1649 Rathmines  
After taking seven hours to march one mile, James Butler fell asleep. He awoke to find his army defeated, without having deployed the main body of his forces. Michael Jones had secured Dublin for the arrival of Oliver Cromwell.

## Traveling People

## A Guide to All Things Patrick in Ireland This Month

By JUDY ENRIGHT  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Ah, St. Patrick, that elusive, mystery man who surfaces once a year, on March 17, empowering everyone to flaunt their Irishness, whether or not they have even one drop of Irish blood.

Would you believe—and you can pull this tidbit out at your next Trivia session—that this year marks the 1,550th anniversary of the Holy Man's death? Well, 2011 marks the death of one St. Patrick anyway. Whether there was more than one is the stuff of legend and ongoing controversy.

If there was only one, he was very well-traveled and, like St. Bridgid, managed to get around the country exceedingly well in an era without cars, trains, and such.

The St. Patrick whose memory is celebrated this month, as our readers probably know, was actually born in Britain around 400 AD, captured by Irish outlaws, and taken to Ireland as a slave when he was 15. He escaped but ultimately returned to convert the Irish pagans to Christianity.

He died on March 17 and was buried in the graveyard beside Down Cathedral in Downpatrick, Northern Ireland. Although Patrick is credited with driving snakes from Ireland while fasting atop Croagh Patrick in Co. Mayo, it is said that there never were any snakes in Ireland, that they were simply used as a metaphor for the conversion of pagans and expulsion of Satan from the country.

Want to learn more about St. Patrick? If so, there is an excellent starting place in Downpatrick called the St. Patrick Centre, billed as “the only permanent exhibition in the world which tells the story of Ireland's patron saint.” The centre is two hours north of Dublin and about half an hour from Belfast. For details, visit [saintpatrickcentre.com](http://saintpatrickcentre.com)

The Centre features an interpretive exhibition, an art gallery, restaurant, and a great craft and gift shop where I've found different and unusual Irish-made gifts to bring home. The Centre also has an extensive outreach program—Friends of St. Patrick—with chapters all over, including in Pittsburgh, Arizona, and Milwaukee.

## ST. PATRICK'S TRAIL



Croagh Patrick, in Co. Mayo, is seen across Clew Bay from Mulranny in the early morning light. Saint Patrick reportedly fasted on the summit for 40 days in the 5th century. Legend has it that he built a church there and that, at the end of the 40-day fast, he threw a silver bell down the mountain, knocking the she-demon Corra from the sky and banishing snakes from the Emerald Isle. *Judy Enright photo*

Northern Ireland is really a beautiful and friendly spot and what better time to travel there than now to follow St. Patrick's Trail?

You can start in Armagh and follow the 92-mile sign-posted driving route all the way to Bangor. There are many places of interest along the way such as St. Patrick's Cathedral, the Armagh County Museum and public library and St. Patrick's Triam Visitor Centre, which incorporates three major exhibits including The Land of Lilliput based on Jonathan Swift's Gulliver's Travels, all in Armagh; the Cistercian Monastery (Bagenal's Castle) in Newry and other attractions nearby including the Dromore High Cross and Cathedral; Bangor Abbey, and North Down Museum in Bangor.

To learn more, visit: [discovernorthernireland.com/stpatrick](http://discovernorthernireland.com/stpatrick).

## ST. PATRICK'S FESTIVAL

Heading south to the Republic, Dublin celebrates March 17 in fine fashion with its annual St. Patrick's Festival, which runs from March 16 to 20 this year.

There was a time when St. Patrick's observances elsewhere—where rivers were dyed green and such—far out-festiveled anything the staid Irish did on that special day.

In Ireland, March 17 was a family day for the most part—church, perhaps a parade, lunch with family in a local hotel or pub and home. The most we saw the Irish do to display their heritage was pin a live shamrock to their coats.

But now, Dublin goes all out to celebrate every year and, according to the website ([stpatricksfestival.ie](http://stpatricksfestival.ie)), “This year, Dublin City is going green for St. Patrick's Festival! To celebrate Ireland's national holiday, Festival organizers have launched an initiative called ‘Greening the City,’ asking all businesses and venues to turn their lights green to create a city-wide illumination for the duration of the event (16th-20th March).” All kinds of events are planned for all ages and, if you'll be in Dublin, you'll surely have a St. Patrick's Day to remember.

Cork, Limerick, and Sligo also have St. Patrick's Festivals and on March 19 Wexford will host the National Lottery Skyfest fireworks spectacle. Websites include: (Cork): [corkstpatricksfestival.ie](http://corkstpatricksfestival.ie); (Sligo): [sosligo.com](http://sosligo.com). Wherever you go in Ireland this month, you'll find St. Patrick recognized and honored.

## SHEEP IN THE ROAD

A friend, knowing my fondness for photographing Irish sheep, recently

gave me a brochure from a South Shore company called “Sheep in the Road.” It seems that some years ago, artist Elaine Hailer photographed a lone sheep on an Irish road while visiting her Cork birthplace. Later, she did a series of paintings and once even painted a surfing sheep as a wedding present. Elaine's husband Mike, inspired by the surfer sheep, began sketching sheep engaged in other human activities and the seeds of a company were sown.

The Hailers collaborated with Steve Rocha and his wife, Klyn, and the two families now work together selling fun T-shirts featuring sheep in many original poses.

The brochure says “After all is said and done, Sheep in the Road is the story of two families working in concert to spread the infectious enjoyment brought forth by simple yet clever images and concepts presented on high-quality, made-in-the-USA merchandise and apparel designed to make you smile.”

Take a look at their great website at [sheepintheroad.com](http://sheepintheroad.com).

## LEENANE

## FESTIVALS

Save the date if you're a walker and plan to travel near beautiful Leenane, Co. Galway, on the N59 at the head of Killary Harbor between April 29 and May 1.

The 4th Annual Leenane Mountain Walking Festival will be held on those dates and it sounds fascinating—especially the special Herb Walk along the Famine Trail on Sat., April 30, led by Dr. Dilis Clare from Galway. A GP & Herbalist, Dr. Clare will point out what grows on the waysides and the herbs people would have used during famine times to survive.

There are lots of great places to stay in that area, great places to eat—Blackberry Café is one of my favorites and I make a point to stop there every year—and there will be lots of post-walk activities too, like an arts and crafts exhibition in the village hall, a mussel fair in nearby Tully Cross, various seisiuns and sean-nos dancing, a barbecue, and hooli.

While you're in Leen-

ane, be sure to take note of the food festival slated for Sept. 24 and 25. And, stop by the Sheep and Wool Museum, an interesting place with a good gift shop and homemade luncheon fare like quiche, soups and yummy desserts. For more information, visit [leenanevillage.com](http://leenanevillage.com)

## CASTLES

Hankering for a royal stay prior to the royal wedding?? Well, take a look at the websites for five-star Ashford Castle ([ashford.ie](http://ashford.ie)) in Co. Mayo or Dromoland Castle ([dromoland.ie](http://dromoland.ie)) in Co. Clare for special offers that have been extended through April—for 97.50 euro per person, you can stay for two nights and get either a third night free or a complimentary meal one night. Both castles offer falconry programs and many other activities and are spectacularly beautiful and well worth a visit even if it's just for lunch, a cocktail or tea and scones, and a walk around the grounds.

## TRAVEL PLANS

We saw a photo on Facebook in mid-February showing blooms starting to burst forth on trees and bushes in an Irish garden. A friend of the woman who posted the photo said Snowdrops were blooming in his yard. Ireland's spring is well ahead of ours and April and May are my favorite times to visit there.

Enjoy your trip to Ireland whenever you go and don't forget to check with your travel agent or on the internet for the latest travel specials. Tourism Ireland's website—[discoverireland.com](http://discoverireland.com)—is a great source for travelers and has a wealth of information about different areas and activities, festivals and more.

When you're in Ireland, be sure to stop by the Failte Ireland tourist board offices (marked with a big green shamrock) for details about happenings, to secure accommodation, and learn about the area where you're traveling.

Check out the Aer Lingus website and other international carriers, too, for air and ground deals. And, have a very happy St. Patrick's Day wherever you choose to celebrate.

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President Kathleen Callahan, 617-623-3566 or  
Chairman Michael McCarron, 617-696-1702  
Or any member of the County Donegal Association

# Thirty-Two Counties

**Antrim:** Named after the famous Harland and Wolff cranes, two horses being used to drag logs have become an attraction at the Minnowburn property in south Belfast, owned by the National Trust. Noel Donaghy purchased the two Jutland horses in Denmark along with the necessary rig, and the National Trust hired him to bring thinned larch logs to the roadside. The horses cause far less damage to the environment than would the heavy machinery previously used, and they also mean that the usual mechanical sounds associated with logging are no longer heard.

**Armagh:** The work on a piece of Armagh marble by artist in residence Richard Perry was open to public view last month at Armagh Marble Natural Stone Company's premises. The company has designed the five-metre high piece and Richard is carving the surface of sixteen facets. He has been working on the StarStone sculpture since December and it is due to be installed in the city's Market Square in the spring, between two sets of steps in front of the Market Place Theatre. The Armagh Marble company was set up thirteen years ago by Roy Reaney.

**Carlow:** A challenge day for children and adults was held at the end of the month in the Kilkenny Ormond Hotel and Leisure Club to raise funds for the Sive McDonald Neonatal Fund. Sive, the daughter of Bagenalstown native John McDonald and his wife Aisling, was born in June last year weighing less than one pound and became the country's smallest surviving baby. Now her parents, in gratitude for the care she received at Waterford Regional Hospital, are raising money to provide a new incubator for the hospital's Neo-natal unit.

**Cavan:** Leona Maguire, who with her twin sister Lisa made sporting history when they became the youngest players to represent Great Britain and Ireland at the Curtis Cup in America, has won a Sports title. The sixteen-year-old was named as the Irish Times/Irish Sports Council Sports Woman of the Month for January after winning the Portuguese Ladies Amateur Championship by 15 strokes. Winning the award for the third time, Leona will now go forward for the title of 2011 Sports Woman of the Year.

**Clare:** An appeal by Joseph, Daniel and Martin O'Gorman has been turned down by An Bord Pleanála and they will not be given leave to carry out fifteen blasts each year at their quarry at Aylevarroo, Ballynote West, Kilrush. Reasons given for the refusal included the fact that the public road is a designated scenic route in the County Development Plan 2005, and the presence in the nearby Shannon Estuary of a population of bottlenose dolphins. The O'Gormans had claimed that the county council had themselves used blasting to remove stone from the quarry in recent years.

**Cork:** Lord Mayor of Cork Michael O'Connell is offering one lucky couple the opportunity to become the first to be married in a civil ceremony at City Hall. The City Council approved its use two years ago but so far no one has availed of the facility. Those selected in the 'Win a Wedding' competition will be provided with lunch for up to fifty people in the Ambassador Hotel, a free limousine, a 500-euro voucher for Brown Thomas, and 200 euro vouchers for the Moderne, Keane's Jewellers, and Bernard Hayes Travel.

**Derry:** During the recent

cold weather over the Christmas period hundreds of the residents of Banagher were left without water due to frozen pipes. However work has now been carried out to ensure this doesn't happen again. It was discovered that the problem lay with the pipes that run under Tireighter Bridge, which had frozen solid due to the extremely low temperatures, and workers from NI Water have been busy lagging the pipes to reduce the chance of the same problem arising in the future.

**Donegal:** Eunan Devenney from Ballebofoey/Stranorlar set a record ten years ago for hitting a punch bag continuously for twenty-four hours and sixteen minutes, thereby earning a place in The Guinness Book of Records. However his total was beaten in 2004 in California, with a new record of thirty-six hours and three minutes. Now the forty-two-year-old has begun training with the aim of beating that time on May 20. A coach at Twin Towns Amateur Boxing Club, Eunan is hoping to raise money for the club and for Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children in Dublin.

**Down:** Work began in mid-January on the construction of twenty-one new trails for the Castle Ward Demesne on the shores of Strangford Lough. The new trails will facilitate mountain bikers and horse riders as well as walkers, and an all-ability path will also be provided along the shores of the lough for use by those with buggies, prams or in wheelchairs. The work, which is to include the refurbishment of the Wildlife Centre building and the installation of a bike wash, is expected to be completed by June of this year.

**Dublin:** The Assemblies of God Christian organization, which has some twenty bases in the South and ten in the North, has had their application to operate from a disused factory in Crumlin turned down. Although initially granted planning permission by the city council for the unit in Stannaway Drive, the group were disappointed to learn that An Bord Pleanála had upheld two appeals, one from local man Martin Byrne. He claimed that the worship centre would devalue property in the vicinity and the noise generated would make it difficult for him to let his nearby rental property.

**Fermanagh:** Damien Dempster, the head of physical education at Portora Royal in Enniskillen, is to set off in June to cycle from the west to the east coast of America, to raise funds for The Alzheimer's Society. Damien's father has the condition and Damien will be joining thirty-five other cyclists on the forty-day journey. The challenge is to be launched at the Killyhevlin Hotel on March 1, and Lakeland Cycles of Enniskillen are sponsoring a lightweight Cervelo bike and other equipment.

**Galway:** Rush hour on the Headford Road leading out of Galway usually means drivers having to show great patience at the slowness of the traffic, but on one day last month there was something of a diversion. A black and white sow managed to escape from an adjacent farm and make her leisurely way on to the traffic lanes. One attempt to herd her to the side of the road was quickly abandoned when she turned to charge the motorist. Eventually the sow's owner turned up with a car and trailer and motorists reverted to their uneventful journeys.

**Kerry:** Darts players of all ages are testing their skills in order to win a chance to play



against a leading British darts champion. On two dates at the end of March and the beginning of April Dean 'Over the Top' Winstanley will be in Browne's Bar in Castleisland and the Three Counties Bar in Brosna to play the top six youth players and the top ten senior players. The events have been organized by Patrick Leahy of the Three Counties Bar who is encouraging the revival of darts in pubs as a way of meeting the challenge of the recession.

**Kilkenny:** It will be nearly the end of February before it takes place, but the senior citizens' Christmas party for The Rower, Inistioge, Skeough, and Graignamanagh areas will take place on the last Sunday of the month. The original date had to be postponed due to the bad weather, but the Springhill Court Hotel will host the event, organized by senior hurling team kit manager Denis Cody. Michael Kilbride of The Rower is sponsoring the buses to carry people to the function, while the wine has been sponsored by car dealer John O'Neill.

**Laois:** Following their being named as the Athletics Ireland Club of the Year for 2010, members of St. Abbans Athletic Club were accorded a civic reception by Laois County Council last month. Among those welcoming the club members was Councillor Ben Brennan, himself a club member. Those attending included Sinead O'Gorman, Brian Kelly, Barry Pender, Francis Egan, Liam Kelly, and Jimmy Whelan and they were presented with a framed Certificate of Achievement by the Council. Another club member honored this year is Conor Daly, who was named as the recipient of the Tipperary Crystal Laois star award for 2010.

**Leitrim:** The latest development in the Pride in Drumshanbo project features an invitation to local residents or those who have moved far from home to plant a tree close to the three-arched bridge known as the Tram Bridge. The bridge has already been restored by the group and seating is to be provided to provide a peaceful area for those visiting the adjacent graveyard. The idea is for more than 25 trees to be planted, with the names of those initiating the planting being recorded on a plaque, together with the

occasion or loved one to whom the tree is dedicated.

**Limerick:** The black swan that was given the name of Oz to reflect its Australian origins has returned to Limerick. Oz arrived at Castleconnell last September and after disappearing for three days he turned up with another black swan. They then disappeared but it is believed they spent the winter in Galway before returning to the city last month. It was amateur photographer Kevin O'Dwyer from Clare Street who noted the return of Oz, whom he discovered on the water beside St Michael's rowing club, but as yet there is no sign of his mate.

**Longford:** Alice Whyte from Ardagh, a fifth-year student at Scoil Mhuire in Longford town, is to travel to Prague in April to represent Ireland at the ninth annual European Science Olympiad. The sixteen year old is one of just six students selected, all of whom gained the maximum mark in either science or maths in their Junior Certificate. Although Alice immediately phoned her mother with the good news, she didn't tell any of her fellow students of her achievement, and even her teacher, Edel Rowley, was unaware until relatively recently that her student had been selected for such a prestigious event.

**Louth:** Colin O'Donoghue from Dundalk had a very special birthday this year as he celebrated it at Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood where he was attending the premiere of "The Rite." In the film the thirty year old shares the billing with the noted actor Anthony Hopkins, who has described O'Donoghue as 'extraordinary.' Colin recorded a video of himself in a friend's garden and sent it to the film's director, Michael Hafstrom, who was so impressed he immediately arranged for the Dundalk man to be flown to Los Angeles. The film is already being shown in America and was due for release in Ireland at the end of January.

**Mayo:** The sale of a portrait at a Dublin auctioneers has resulted in contact being established between the subject of the portrait and the woman who looked after her. Liv Hempel, the daughter of the German envoy to Ireland, was painted by

Irish artist Patrick Hennessy in 1939 and the sale received some publicity. It brought to attention Elizabeth Sweeney, the German woman who looked after the young Liv and who went on to marry Achill native Niall Sweeney. The article about Elizabeth was seen by Liv Hempel, living in New York, and she decided to call the now ninety-six-year-old Elizabeth, who still lives on Achill. Both were delighted to re-establish contact after so many years.

**Meath:** Johnny Finnegan from Navan, who was one of the two winners of the RTE series "Do the Right Thing," has set off for Ghana to begin his year-long volunteering stint. In Ghana he and Carol Leonard from Offaly will be building and advising on the use of sanitary facilities, before they move on to India to work with homeless children who are victims of child labor. The last task for the pair will take place in Thailand, where they will attempt to educate island fishermen on the importance of protecting the endangered turtle population.

**Monaghan:** Darren Geary, a member of the Monaghan Fire Service, is part of a team of five who are travelling to the city of Gaya in Niger to deliver a refurbished fire engine to the community. The engine has been donated by Dublin Fire Brigade and left Cork by boat on Christmas Day. The five firefighters will take the engine on the seven-hundred kilometre road journey to Gaya where they will ensure it is in full working order. During their ten-day stay they will also instruct local firefighters in its operation.

**Offaly:** The nine-year-old from Walsh Island who took up Irish dancing just two years ago has had a slight setback on her journey to stardom. On Jan. 14, Siobhan Phelan opened the show at the live semi-final of Sky One programme "Got to Dance," in front of an audience of more than one million viewers. She had heard of her success in reaching the semi-finals when one of the judges, Adam Garcia, came to her primary school in Geashill to give her the good news. The judges had already pronounced her routine, Damhsa Dreams, as absolutely outstanding but unfortunately she didn't make it through to the finals. However it is certainly not the end of Siobhan's ambition to become a professional dancer.

**Roscommon:** President Mary McAleese paid a visit to the county recently when she performed the official opening of two community centres. The president's first port of call was to Kiltveevan Community Centre where the event was hosted by the Kiltveevan Community Development Group. Her second visit was to the Loughglenn Community Centre where she was given a short tour around the centre after the official opening, before addressing the local community in the main hall. The president also unveiled a plaque in the centre to mark the occasion.

**Sligo:** At an event held in the Radisson Hotel in Rosses Point recently Sarah Flynn was crowned the Warriors' Queen for 2011. Sarah, who was representing Fiddler's Creek, was one of fifteen entrants to the competition and she will lead the parade before the Warriors Run to be held in Strandhill in August. The evening was organized by Deirdre Healy-McGowan to raise funds for Special Olympics Connaught and the two Sligo representatives on the team for the World Games in Athens in

(Continued on page 35)

# NEWS DIRECT FROM IRELAND

**Green is the color worldwide** – A Tourism Ireland project will see iconic landmarks around the world turn green for St Patrick's Day. Included in the "greening," the first part of a 28-million euro promotional drive, are Table Mountain in South Africa, the London Eye, the Empire State Building, and the Mannekin Pis in Brussels. Tourism Ireland is targeting in particular the British market, which fell by 18 percent last year, with a television advertising campaign beginning this month and continuing until October.

**Fidelity creating jobs for Galway and Dublin** – The financial services group Fidelity Investments has announced that it will add 100 new positions at its offices in Galway and Dublin. Fidelity plans to hire 100 highly-skilled technology professionals to focus on investment management and corporate enterprise technology solutions for the US multinational's global operations. The initiative, which represents an investment of 11-million euro by Fidelity over three years, is supported by IDA Ireland.

**Brendan Hughes Memorial vandalized in Louth** – A memorial to the late Brendan "The Dark" Hughes, erected by his family in the Cooley Mountains in Co. Louth, was almost totally destroyed in the days following its official unveiling. Brendan Hughes, a member of the IRA and a former hunger striker, had been a close friend of Gerry Adams but became an opponent of the policies being pursued by Sinn Féin. Prior to his death he had given an extensive interview to researchers from Boston College and this later provided material for Ed Moloney's book "Voices from the Grave." The unveiling of the granite memorial, a seat, on Feb. 13 marked the third anniversary of his death.

**Stardust tragedy recalled** – Feb. 14 was the 30th anniversary of the Stardust disaster in which 48 young people died when fire swept through the Stardust night club in the Artane area of Dublin. Relatives and friends of those who died attended a memorial Mass in Coolock and later visited the Stardust Memorial Park for a wreath-laying ceremony. A candle light vigil took place at the site of the tragedy that evening.

**Prison officers avoid prosecution** – The Irish Times

## Ireland Today: Nuns Press Suit

The Sisters of Charity have won the right to have a case they are taking against Dublin City Council fast-tracked through the Commercial Court (a division of the High Court). The nuns are trying to establish the rationale behind the rezoning of all the community's 18 properties, involving 108 acres, as Z15. This category places severe restrictions on what the land can be used for in future, and rules out housing development. The nuns are claiming that by applying the Z15 category almost exclusively to religious-owned property, the council is in reality transferring private property into public ownership without compensating the owners. Apparently the nuns at times use their properties to raise loans to support their work, but this option is virtually closed as the properties now have little commercial value.

reports that the DPP has decided not to press criminal charges against prison officers who were referred to in 44 files that were prepared after gardai were brought in to investigate prisoners' assault allegations. A total of 67 allegations had been recorded when a special team was asked to investigate, but they found that many of the complaints were not properly recorded, often with the name of the accused prison officer missing.

**Doubts cast as to the reliability of the 1641 'massacre' witnesses** – Research at the University of Aberdeen involving computer specialists, language specialists and historians has cast doubt on the reports of the 1641 Rebellion in which thousands of Protestants were said to have been killed. IBM software applied to The 1641 Depositions have found multiple use of words such as 'believeth', 'thinketh' and 'hath credibly heard'. These appear far more frequently than the more direct 'saw' or 'witnessed', thus casting doubt on the veracity of reports of the massacre. It was these reports in the London media that gave justification to Cromwell's later actions in Ireland.

**RTE radio remains dominant** – Radio listenership figures published last month prompted all broadcasters to add their own spin to them. At first and second glance RTE looked to be ruling the roost. Morning Ireland remains the country's most popular radio program and, in fact, had added 23,000 listeners over the past year. Marian Finucane's Saturday and Joe Duffy's Liveline comfortably held on to second and third spots although both lost some listeners. RTE again filled

all the top ten slots but TodayFM would have felt good about Ray D'Arcy edging ahead of Ryan Tubridy, with both on air at the same time in the morning. The latter, of course, took over from the late Gerry Ryan, who had seemed unassailable. It is also interesting that, while RTE's Drivetime remains the most popular evening news magazine program, it is far behind its sister programs in the morning and at lunchtime. The combined audience for Drivetime's rival programmes, Matt Cooper on TodayFM and George Hook on Newstalk, is some 39,000 ahead of Mary Wilson. She will not be too concerned, however, as this gap stood at 50,000 a year ago.

**Belfast to get 146 new software jobs** – The German-owned Software Quality Systems, which currently has almost 20 staff working in its offices in the Titanic quarter, has announced that it plans to recruit a further 37. The company, which claims to be the largest provider of software testing services in the EU, will expand its range of responsibilities to include security and performance testing. US software firm Kana Software is to bring 109 jobs to Belfast over the next three years when it begins to operate from the east Belfast facility of Lagan Technologies, which it took over in November 2010. Belfast will also be a development hub for the company for consulting services and technical support for its clients.

**Civil marriage ceremony for Derry priest** – Seán McKenna, 52, who announced his resignation as a priest at Mass in the Derry parish of Holy Family, last month married Elaine Hepburn, a divorced mother-of-two, in a civil ceremony at the

Ballygally Castle hotel in Larnet days ago. A priest for 24 years, Mr McKenna's resignation came as a complete surprise to both his fellow-priests and his parishioners. The native of Gortin, Co. Tyrone, had been parish priest at the Holy Family church. He still lives in the Derry area and works as a researcher.

**Leading medical device company to locate in Athlone** – American Medical Systems Holdings, a leading supplier of medical devices to treat urological and pelvic health conditions, has announced that it is to establish a manufacturing operation in Athlone with the creation of 50 new jobs and plans for future expansion. The new operation will involve an investment of 4.6-million euro, and is supported by IDA Ireland. This is the first time that AMS has established a manufacturing operation outside the US and the Athlone plant will have full responsibility for all stages in the manufacturing of a number of key products. These include sourcing and procuring raw materials, production planning and manufacturing, quality control, sterilisation, final packaging and shipping to AMS distribution centres in Belgium and the United States.

**Nurses continue to protest over students' pay** – A rally took place in Dublin last month with up to 3,000 student nurses and midwives protesting at Government plans to phase out their internship pay over a four-year period. As part of their degree program, student nurses must undertake a 36-week placement in a hospital. For this they are currently paid 80 percent of the salary given to qualified nurses but this is to be pared down over the next few years and eliminated by 2015. The students were urged by their unions to make their feelings plain at the ballot box on Feb. 25.

**'Morning-after pill' available without prescription** – Just over a month after pharmacy chain Boots started selling the so called "morning-after pill" without prescription, the Irish Medicines Board has approved a specific brand for sale without a prescription. When Boots made its announcement it claimed that the actual requirement was approval by a medical professional. It intended to meet that requirement by having a pharmacist interview all women requesting the pill before actually selling it. The reaction of the IMB to the Boots announcement was to claim that

the British pharmacy chain was breaking the law as the pill can only be prescribed by a doctor. A rival pill manufacturer immediately applied to have its product approved for over-the-counter sale and this was readily granted by the IMB. The situation now is that the IMB still considers Boots's action illegal as it is not supplying the brand approved for over-the-counter sale.

**2.4m euro in damages for former opera singer** – Former opera singer and psychologist Elaine Lennon, 36, who now uses a wheelchair and can only speak in a whisper, is to receive damages of 2.4-million euro from Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Drogheda and a north Dublin GP. The failure to carry out a CT scan on Lennon resulted in her not receiving the necessary treatment for an abscess on her brain. The singer, from Balbriggan, was 39 weeks pregnant when she first presented to the Drogheda hospital's A&E unit in February 2007, complaining of a severe headache. Over the course of the next 11 days she was told she had a urinary tract infection, her baby was born by caesarean section, she was given antibiotics, had an injection, and was told she was suffering from post-natal depression. The headache didn't go away and she collapsed at home and was taken by ambulance to hospital where a CT scan revealed that she had an abscess on her brain that had burst. Had this been diagnosed on time it could have been treated effectively. With the compensation, Lennon hopes to leave the nursing home that has been caring for her, and move into a specially adapted home with her partner and their four-year-old daughter.

**Irishman hoping for a first in the Himalayas** – Anselm Murphy, 27, already the youngest (at 24) Irish person to climb Everest, plans to become the first to reach the top of Kanchenjunga (8,586m), the world's third highest peak. The mountain, on the India-Nepalese border, is considered to be more technically difficult than Everest and has only been climbed 242 times while more than 4,000 have reached the top of Everest. Although London born, Anselm carries an Irish passport as his father is from Rosslare, Co. Wexford. He sets out at the end of this month with five other Europeans in a team led by Mingma Sherpa, who hopes to become the first person to have climbed all 14 peaks above 8,000 meters.

## THIRTY-TWO COUNTIES

(Continued from page 34)

June, Joseph Cullen and Adrian Cornwall, chaperoned the girls onto the stage.

**Tipperary:** Isaac Kumari-Doyle, the son of Michael and Surjet Doyle of Drombane, has achieved the Professional Jeweller's Diploma from the National Association of Goldsmiths in London. Isaac, who attended St Joseph's College in Borrisoleigh, is one of only two Irish students to receive the diploma, having achieved A+ in both parts of the examination. Three days after completing his Leaving Certificate the twenty-year-old began working for the late Matty Ryan, whose jeweller's shop was based in Liberty Square in Thurles.

**Tyrone:** A Strabane couple who first met when they completed a diploma course in science in 1989 have just graduated together after attending a course at North West Regional College. Joanne Annesley works as a biology lab technician at the college while her husband Stephen works for the Northern

Ireland Environment Agency. It was Joanne who found the two-year National Certificate Countryside & Fisheries Management course that she thought would benefit them both, and as well as graduating, Stephen received a special award from his employers.

**Waterford:** The official opening and dedication of the new home for the Little Sisters of the Poor took place last month when Bishop of Ossory Dr. Seamus Freeman blessed the new building. The new St. Joseph's complex on Abbey Road in Ferrybank, which has been in use since last November, has living accommodation for the eighteen sisters on the top floor, while the remaining floors will have residential accommodation, a library, kitchen, chapel, medical centre, craft room, and a shop. The sisters had been based at Manor Hill for the past one hundred and fifty years.

**Westmeath:** In order to raise funds for Midlands Simon and Athlone Community Radio, five men are to attempt to break

the present record of thirty-three hours spent continuously playing a video game. Tony Flynn, Mark Gethings, Lorcan McKenna, Pierce McKenna, and Stephen O'Connor, known collectively as Guna Screach, will play the Xbox 360 game Halo: Reach at the Golden Island Shopping Centre in Athlone, which is sponsoring the record attempt. All five men are volunteers with Athlone Community Radio.

**Wexford:** It seems that the committee members of Ennis-corthy Athenaeum Ltd, under chairman Tony McLean, are on their way to fulfilling their ambition to restore the Athenaeum building on Castle Street. Permission has been granted for the group to lease the building from the Diocese of Ferns and work is expected to begin soon on the restoration. Starting life as a theatre at the end of the nineteenth century, the Athenaeum will serve the community with a drop-in centre, a café, and a small performance area with associated seating.

## From Tyrone to Wicklow

**Wicklow:** Wicklow Sailing Club, based on the South Quay of Wicklow Harbour, has elected its first woman president. Sadie Phelan, who is a long-time resident of the town, has been involved with the club for many years and has held the position of honorary secretary. She is

also the club's representative on the committee of the Irish Sea Offshore Racing Association and has managed to ensure that Wicklow hosts a race each year. Her contribution to ISORA was recognized when she was presented with an award at their recent Annual General Meeting.



## IRELAND'S WEATHER

REPORTED MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2011

The sun shone for much of what was a very mild week for the time of year. Daytime temperatures remained in double figures. We did have rain at times on a number of days although some of the showers were very brief.

The coming week, up to and including next weekend, is expected to be mainly dry with long sunny spells. Some light rain is possible late on Monday and again late on Wednesday. It will, however, be a cool week with frosts expected on a couple of nights.

**Latest Temperatures:**  
Day 10C (50F) Night 1C (34F)

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## The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

### Beannachtí Lá Naomh Phádraig duit.

In February we had a conversation on a street in front of a clothing store. Can you remember the meanings?

**Eilís: Dia duit, a Cháit.**

**Cáit: Dia's Muire duit, a Eilís.**

**Eilís: Cén ait tusa ag dul go luath?**

**Cáit: Tá sé an-fhuar inniú.**

**Tá cóta ur uaim.**

**Eilís: Cén uair osclóidh an siopa?**

**Cáit: Naoi a chlog.**

**Cén t-am é anois?**

**Eilís: Tá sé beagnach chun a naoi.**

**Cáit: Buíochas. Tá mé síochta.**

Recall that we reviewed the “intensifiers”, **go** for **adverbs** and **an-** prefixed to **adjectives**. These are the English equivalents of “so” and “very”. Then we studied the idiom, **Tá cóta uaim**, “I need a coat”. You can put any form of the verb **Tá** followed by any **noun** plus a **prepositional pronoun** made from **ó** – in this case **uaim** (“from me”).

**An bhfuil cóta uaim?**

“Do I need (a) coat?”

**Nach mbeidh háta uaithí.**

“She will not need (a) hat.”

**An raibh airgead uait?**

“Didn't you need (some) money?”

**Nach raibh Euroí uainn.**

“We didn't need (any) Euros.”

Irish has no equivalent of the “indefinite articles, “a” and the negative “any”. These words are simply understood as we pointed out early in this series.

We left off last month when Eilís asked, **Cén uair osclóidh an siopa?**

“What time will the shop open?” In **oscloidh** we have the **future tense** of two syllable **verbs**. You have already learned the future tense of one syllable “regular” verbs. They are made from the base form of the verb – the singular command that you give a child. “Shut the door!” If the verb ends in a “slender” vowel (**e, i**) then add **-fidh**; if the verb ends in a “broad” vowel (**a, o, u**) then add **-faidh**. Both of these are pronounced /uh/, as in English “the”.

Naturally, this must be followed by a subject, either a pronoun **mé, tú, sé, sí, sibh**, or **said**, or a **noun** – **siopa, Nóra**, etc. This rule applies to all subjects except “we”, **muid**, where it is incorporated into the verb and becomes **-fimid** or **-faimid**, pronounced /uhmij/.

**Cuirfiadh sé prátaí.**

“He will plant potatoes.”

**Cuirfimid prátaí**

“We will plant potatoes.”

**Glanfaidh Eilís an urlár.**

“Eilís will clean the floor.”

**Glanfaimid an urlár.**

“We will clean the floor.”

In the case of two syllable verbs, drop the second syllable and add **-oidh** if the first syllable ends in a “broad” vowel (**a, o, u**) or if in a “slender” vowel (**e, i**) then **-eoidh**, both pronounced /oh/.

**Tumáil** “drive” will become

**tumóidh** /TUM-oh/ “will drive”

**Coinnigh** “keep” becomes

**coinneoidh** /KOHN-oh/ “will keep”

With words in which the second syllable ends in **l** or **r**, just drop the vowels of the second syllable and slide the **l** or **r** on to the first syllable.

**Oscail an dorus!**

“Open the door”

**Osclóidh sí an dorus.**

“She will open the door.”

**Imir an cluiche!**

“Play the game.”

**Imreoidh muid cluiche.**

“We will play a game.”

With two syllable verbs there is no special form for “we”. **Muid** must follow the **verb**.

**Imreoidh muid cluiche.** “We will play a game.”

Cáit answers. “Nine o’ clock” and then asks a question of her own. The reply from Eilís has a new word, **beagnach**.

**Cáit: Naoi a chlog. Cén t-am é anois?**

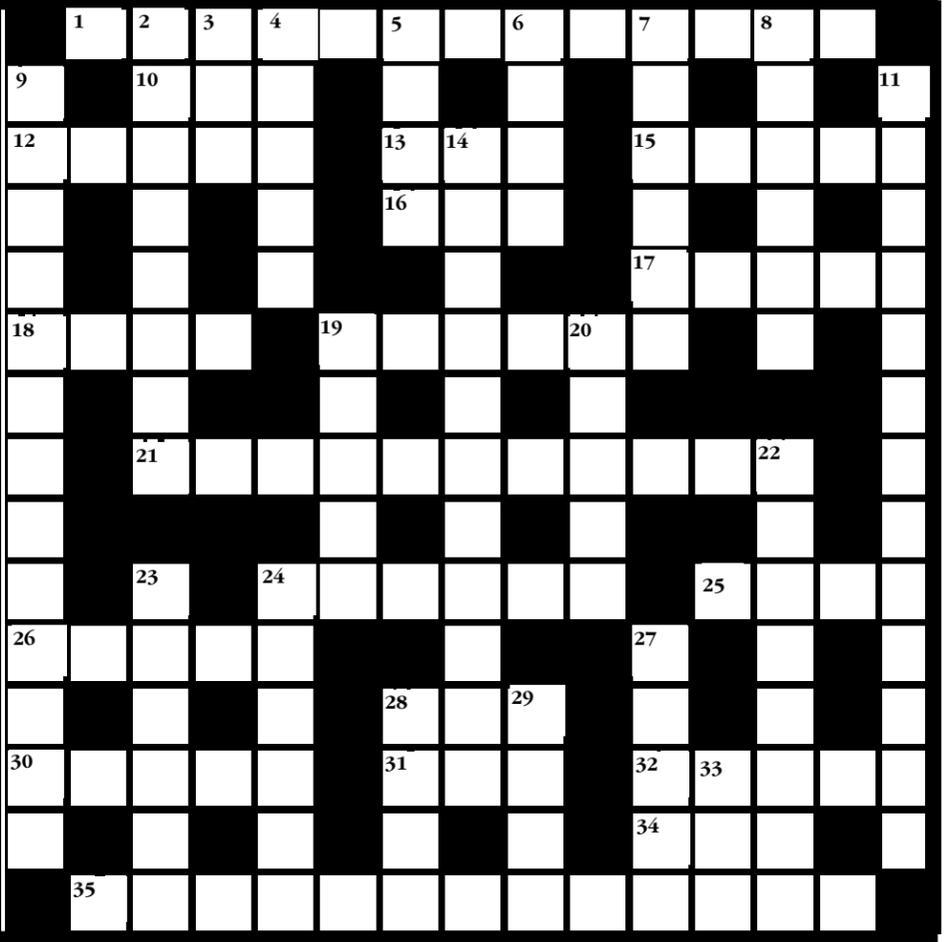
**Eilís: Tá sé beagnach chun a naoi.**

You know the word **beag**, “little” pronounced as the English word “bake”/behk/. **Beagnach**/BEHK-nahk/ means “almost” or “a little bit”. So Eilís’ answer is “almost before nine” or “almost nine.” Cáit is thankful – she is freezing.

You also had some new words in the examples above, **prátaí**, the plural of **práta**, “potatoes”. This is why “potatoes” are called “praties” in Ireland. You also had **síochta** “frozen”. We will discuss this form in next month’s column.

## 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](http://www.bigwood.com/heraldry)



## IRELAND IN CROSSWORDS ©-bigwood.com

### ACROSS

- Melon clan's joy. (anag.) Scottish leader of the Irish Citizen Army during the Easter Rising of 1916. (5,8)
- “Surely mortal – is a broomstick!” Swift (3)
- Ed, she is confused, but pays attention. (5)
- On edge right before 999. (3)
- Wear this in the kitchen or pan will tip over. (5)
- Poetic before being included in Clogher edition. (3)
- Having had an inclination in a Rathkeale ante-chamber. (5)
- By all means sway about. (3)
- Nice P.R. about the heir to the throne. (6)
- He gets skill to turn to the Kerry rocky islands 9 miles off Valentia with an old monastic settlement. (3,8)
- These boxes would be for Plato's mentor if so prefixed. (6)
- Golfer's shout in secluded Westmeath village near Castlepollard, with numerous ancient crosses. (4)
- Second class stream yields a first rate sea fish! (5)
- “Satire is a sort of glass, wherein beholders do generally discover everybody's face but their –.” Swift. (3)
- Get a tender back in Thurles running. (5)
- Large ox-antelope appears when gun is broken. (3)
- Is pan enough to take to the country? (5)
- Old hated irregular in Ireland got his out in the sun. (3)
- Seal led saints over to the offshore Wexford bird sanctuary where Bagenal Harvey was captured. (6,7)

### DOWN

- Purple quartz found in mast they dismantled. (8)
- “We are all born –. Some remain so.” Beckett. (3)
- “Eschew evil and do good: seek peace and – – it.” Psalm 34 verse 13 (5)
- See you apparently in the matter of the way to treat bacon. (4)
- “Yet malice never was his aim; He lashed the vice but spared the – –.” Swift (his own epitaph) (4)
- Guru seen in Kincora clearly. (6)
- Run lag out of large Armagh linen town near Lough

- Neagh where George Russell, (AE), was born. (6)
- We've lent Beth's version to Connemara's high dozen. (3,6,4)
- Lad ride in tune about the Republican aspiration for 32 altogether. (6,7)
- Wives torn in bits in Fermanagh agricultural centre where Necarne castle is. (11)
- Question: did the ropes get tangled back in Killure so perfectly? (5)
- “Better build schoolrooms for the boy than – – and gibbets for the man.” Eliza Cook. (5)
- Lots dance out east about Ireland's nearest neighbour. (8)
- I.e. lark about in Derry angling centre in the Bann valley. (6)
- Customer puts in fifty one to an American penny. (6)
- Pat's a mess when it comes to foreign food. (5)
- Fierce man-eating giant, therefore Roman retreats from Mayo green environment. (4)
- Apparently, colonels give a clue to what General McAuliffe said in reply to the Germans who demanded his surrender in 1944. (4)

### CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 31

## Irish Sayings

- “Youth does not mind where it sets its foot.”  
 “Both your friend and your enemy think you will never die.”  
 “The well fed does not understand the lean.”  
 “He who comes with a story to you brings two away from you”  
 “Quiet people are well able to look after themselves.”  
 “A friend's eye is a good mirror.”  
 “It is the good horse that draws its own cart.”  
 “A lock is better than suspicion.”  
 “Two thirds of the work is the semblance.”  
 “He who gets a name for early rising can stay in bed until midday.”

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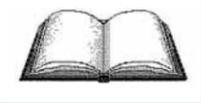
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REVIEWS OF BOOKS RECENTLY PUBLISHED IN IRELAND, COURTESY OF READIRELAND.COM

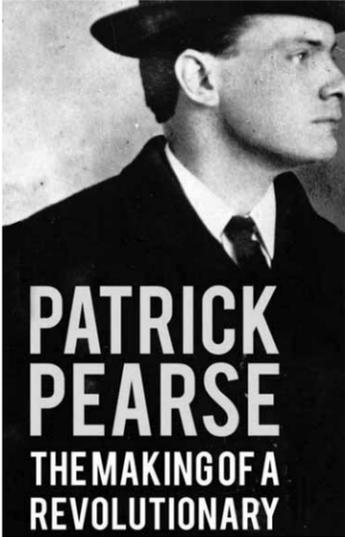
## News from a New Republic By Tom Garvin

The 1950s was a decade of international economic recovery after the disasters of World War II. There was just one exception. The Irish economy actually contracted in those years, and over 400,000 people emigrated. Tom Garvin's survey of the 1950s is an interpretative narrative, based largely on a close reading of contemporary newspaper reports and analyses. He identifies the primary causes of the calamity as a revolutionary gerontocracy that overstayed its welcome; the blocking power of special interest groups who alone benefited from economic protection; and an ideology of rural frugality, buttressed by an under-developed educational system and supported by the moral monopoly of the Catholic Church. Garvin also traces the rise of the generation that broke this consensus and carried Ireland into the free-trade boom of the 1960s. Their reform prescription was born not just of despair but also of a series of social changes among the Irish middle-class elite that were to prove decisive over time.



## Patrick Pearse: The Making of a Revolutionary By Joost Augusteijn

Patrick Pearse was not only the leader of the 1916 Easter Rising but also one of the main ideologues of physical-force nationalism in Ireland. For a long time, his ideas have either



been dismissed or portrayed as dubious because of his association with the use of violence in Northern Ireland. However, the recent Peace Process and the modernization of Irish society have made it possible to now take a fresh look at this founding father of the Irish state. Based on a wealth of new material on his childhood and underground activities, this first full biography in more than thirty years provides an intimate and revealing account of Pearse's life, and of the development of his ideas on Irish culture, education, and politics. The integrated approach reveals how Pearse gave his own interpretation of ideas that were current in European society at the time, while Augusteijn also offers the first comprehensive analysis of his impact on Ireland after his death.

## War and Peace: Ireland Since the 1960s By Christine Kinealy

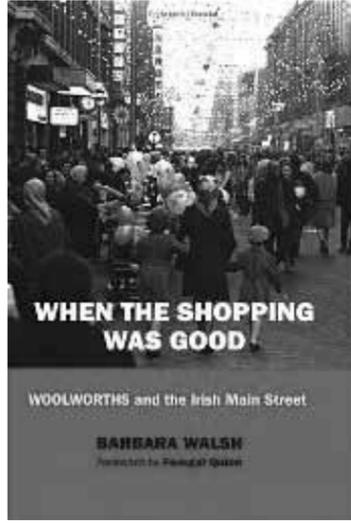
Over the past fifty years Ireland has been through a period of intense change, and has experienced both challenges and successes. In *War and Peace: Ireland since the 1960s*, historian Christine Kinealy explores the political triumphs and travails in Ireland over this period. Kinealy provides a thorough and up-to-date account of the unfolding of The Troubles, the three decades of violence and social unrest between Catholic nationalists and Protestant

unionists. She explores the Republic of Ireland's entry into the European Union in 1973, its often contentious relationship with Britain, and the changes in rates of emigration to the USA and the rest of the world. The women's movement in the 1970s and the successive election of two female presidents proved the Republic's ability to accept and internalize social change, and despite Catholic Church scandals and Northern Ireland's turbulence, this partitioned island has remained a significant presence on the world stage. Ireland's economy has also transformed over the last fifty years: the phenomenon of the Celtic Tiger, the introduction of the euro, and Ireland's current struggle with the global recession brings the story up to date. This book presents a comprehensive panorama of the events that have shaped Ireland's social and political landscape over the last fifty years. It will be essential reading for anyone interested in Ireland's recent past, and how it will continue to develop in the future.



## When the Shopping Was Good: Woolworth's and the Irish Main Street By Barbara Walsh

For generations of Irish shoppers a visit to their nearest Woolworth's store was regarded as an essential part of a day's outing. Barbara Walsh presents a lively and entertaining account of this distinctive chain



s retailing style in Ireland. F.W. Woolworth & Co. Ltd opened their first Irish outlet in Grafton Street in 1914. Twelve months later, a second branch was launched in Belfast's High Street. In the ensuing decades, almost forty more stores were established. The Woolworth's story reflects the social changes that were taking place in the lives of ordinary people. New shopping habits, new career and employment opportunities, and life-long friendships for the staff. Taking each decade in turn, the narrative examines the lives of the people who worked for Woolworth's, the products they sold, and the competition they faced. Turbulent times in the 1920s and 1930s, the domestic political situation, two world wars, and subsequent shaking up of the retail scene in the 1960s and 1970s provide the backdrop to a world now gone.

## Bertram Windle: The Honan Bequest and the Modernisation of University College Cork, 1904-1919 By Ann Keogh and Dermot Keogh

Bertram Windle was a doctor, a scientist, an archaeologist, an anthropologist, a writer on English literature and evolution, and President of Queen's/University College Cork. During his time in Ireland between 1904 and 1919, he had a major impact on the development of higher education and the development of the National University of

Ireland. Windle was a privileged participant in Irish public affairs with friends in the British Government, Dublin Castle, the Irish Parliamentary Party, the Gaelic League and the Catholic Church. The son of a Church of Ireland rector, he studied medicine at Trinity College Dublin. A convert to Catholicism in the early 1880s, he became a Professor of Anatomy in Birmingham, helping to found Birmingham University. He took up his post as President of Queen's College Cork in 1904, transforming the university during the following decade and a half into a modern institution with an enhanced curriculum, more staff, a growing student body and new buildings and facilities. He was responsible for the building of the Honan Hostel and Honan chapel. Windle viewed with great concern the rise of radical nationalism and the growth of Sinn Fein. He was a strong supporter of the British government's participation in World War 1, a critic of the 1916 rising, and a member of the Irish Convention that sought to resolve the "Irish question" in 1917/1918. Windle had no sympathy for the new radical nationalist coalition that contested the general election of 1918. In the context of the decline of the Irish Parliamentary Party and the rise of Sinn Fein led by Eamon de Valera, he launched his second unsuccessful bid to establish an autonomous University of Munster. Thwarted by a combination of nationalist intransigence and the weakness of the British government, he left Ireland for Canada in 1919 thoroughly disillusioned by the politics of UCC, the Irish Catholic Church, and the emerging independent Irish state. Students of Irish history, politics, culture, society and education will find the work of interest together with those who wish to see Windle in his role as a scientist and commentator on evolution and on religious matters. Windle, given his background and formation, provides a unique view of Irish politics, history and education. The work is all the more important because of the richness of the primary sources on which it is based.

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