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BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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A GREAT DAY FOR THE IRISH



Walking down the steps on Capitol Hill with President Obama after attending a Friends of Ireland luncheon with him on St. Patrick's Day were, from left: Massachusetts Democratic Congressman Richard Neal, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California, and Ireland Prime Minister Brian Cowen.

Associated Press photo by Charles Dharapak.

Next Stop: Czech Republic

Irish Studies specialist Richard Finnegan, right, of Stonehill will switch the focus of his scholarship next year to the Czech Republic where he will spend a semester teaching at Masaryk University as a Fulbright scholar.

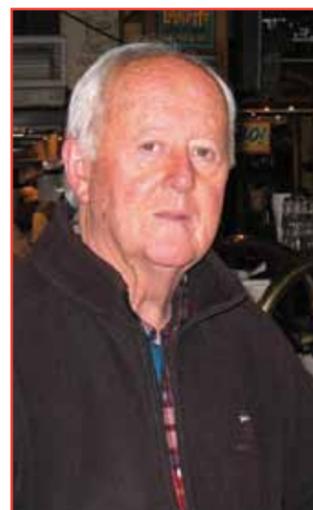
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A Fixture on the Cape

John Francis Murphy, right, is the puckish proprietor of the eclectic Land Ho! taverns on Cape Cod who cut his teeth on the restaurant business in the 1960s at Anthony's Pier 4 in Boston as an assistant to the legendary Anthony Athanas.

Profile, Page 6



The Saint's Influence

Joe Leary writes,
Page 6

Hail the Boston Comhaltas Ceili Band

Sean Smith writes,
Page 14

THE EIRE SOCIETY GOLD MEDAL DINNER AND AWARDS CEREMONY

HONORING

ED FORRY

6:00 P.M., APRIL 30, 2010

ROOF TOP BALLROOM, OMNI PARKER HOUSE, BOSTON

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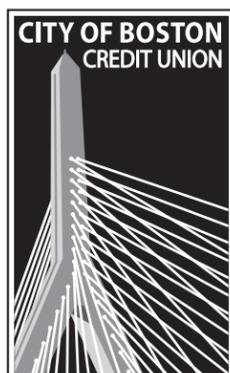


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Fulbright Award Has Irish Scholar Bound for Czech Republic

Irish Studies scholar Richard Finnegan has visited Ireland more times than he can count and most recently he spent nine days during spring break guiding 24 Stonehill students as they toured the country studying Irish history and literature.

Next year, however, he will switch the focus of his scholarship to the Czech Republic where he will spend a semester teaching at Masaryk University. There he will teach and conduct research comparing the Irish and the Czech processes of political development.

Teaching at Stonehill since 1968, Finnegan will head to central Europe as a recipient of a Fulbright Distinguished Chair. Among the most prestigious appointments within the Fulbright Scholar Program, the Distinguished Chairs are highly competitive, with only 40 Chairs out of the 800 Fulbright awards given annually. Recipients must be eminent scholars with significant publication and teaching records.

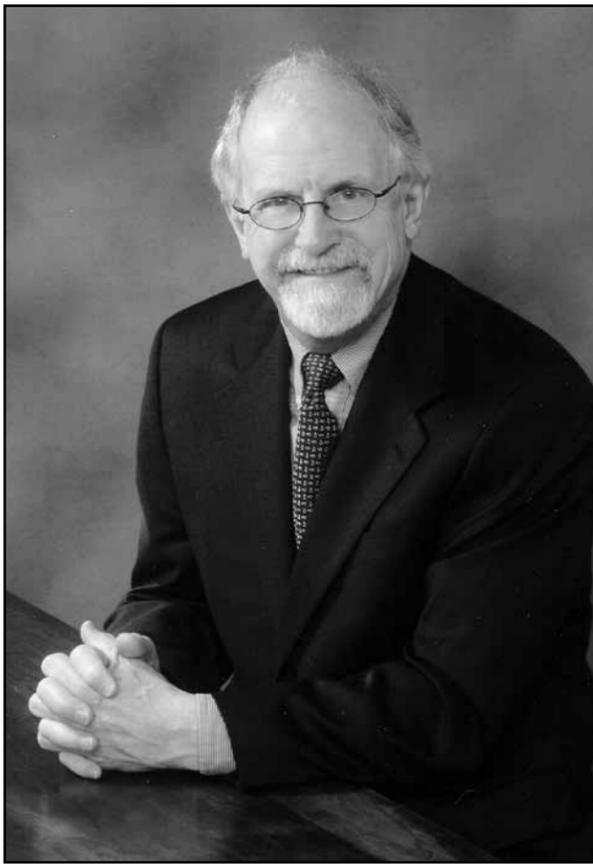
Currently the Chair of Stonehill's Political Science Department, Finnegan is the first faculty member and alumnus in the College's history to receive this honor.

At Masaryk University, he will teach courses on American Foreign Policy and on European Politics, with a focus on Irish and Czech political development. He plans to contrast the experience of the two countries in their different comparative stages of growth.

"Ireland achieved autonomy from the United Kingdom in 1922, was partitioned then, joined the European Union in 1973 and experienced the Celtic Tiger in the 90s," he explains.

"The Czech Republic, a country in many ways similar to Ireland, has compressed the experience of the "Velvet Revolution" in 1989, the separation from Slovakia in 1993, and joining the EU in 2004 into a scant two decades. It is, in effect, at the stage of adaption to the European Union that Ireland was in 1978," he adds.

While in central Europe, Finnegan will also advise graduate students, give general lectures to the broader Masaryk University community, lecture at the invitation of other universities as well as advise on curricular matters.



Richard Finnegan

"Richard Finnegan's scholarly achievement is simply staggering," said Katie Conboy, provost and vice president for academic affairs at Stonehill. "Moreover, his impact on students is both profound and sustained, and his service to Stonehill is legendary."

An international relations scholar and an authority on Irish Studies, Finnegan graduated from Stonehill in 1964. He has spent two sabbaticals in Ireland, one in Dublin as a Visiting Scholar at University College Dublin in 1976 and the other as the Irish American Cultural Institute Research Fellow at the Centre for Irish Studies, National University of Ireland, Galway in 2003.

The former Director of the College's Semester in Irish Studies, he co-founded, with Economic Professor James Wiles, the Archive of Irish Government Documents at Stonehill.

He has been a Visiting Professor of International Relations at Boston University's overseas graduate program in Germany and a visiting scholar at Harvard University, where he taught a course on Irish Politics from 2004 to 2006. From 2001 to 2005, he was a Senior Fulbright Specialist.

In 2006, Finnegan was part of a Group Fulbright Hays Award that sent eight Stonehill faculty members to China. He has also received grants from the National Science Foundation and the Department of Education (Title VIB), as well as six awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities and two from the Whiting Foundation.

At Stonehill, he has long served as Chair of the Political Science Department and Director of the Irish Studies and International Studies Programs. He has also been the Director of the Honors Program and interim Dean of the Faculty.

The author or co-author of six books on Ireland, Finnegan's research interests include the development of democracy in Ireland in the twentieth century. On the occasion of Stonehill's 50th anniversary in 1998, he was awarded the Moreau Medal for Distinguished Contribution to the College during its first half century.

Finnegan is active in the Irish American community in Boston and, in 2009, the *Irish Voice* newspaper included him in its list of the Top 100 Irish American Educators.

Around Town: The Irish Beat / Carol Beggy

Well-known on the local theater scene, **Alice Duffy** sure took her time to make her Broadway debut. The 83-year-old is just wrapping up her run in Noel Coward's "Present Laughter" at the American Airlines Theater in Boston. The child of performers, Duffy is the sister of the late **Peter Boyle**, best known to TV viewers as the ornery father on "Everybody Loves Raymond." Duffy has called Boston home for a number of years and is a favorite among local theater companies.

She recently told a network news show that she "never thought about being on Broadway, really, and then this opportunity came up." It's by chance that it started in Boston. The Huntington Theatre Company's then artistic director, **Nicholas Martin**, directed the Boston University company's production of "Present Laughter" and asked Duffy to reprise her role on Broadway. Duffy also has a few film bits to her credit, including "HouseSitter" and "School Ties," but it is on stage that she made her name.

"Yes, I waited until now to make my debut," Duffy said. "There clearly wasn't a plan."

When word spread through Boston's Irish community that bartender **Kevin A. Armitage** had died, the Friday before St. Patrick's Day took on a somber tone in the pubs in Jamaica Plain. As dozens of Irish-born and Irish-American friends gathered on the night of March 12 at the Brendan Behan Pub, the crowds spilled out into the street with people telling stories and reminiscing about the 46-year-old who always seemed to find the time to look out for someone from Ireland or make an immigrant's transition to living and working in Boston easier.

The Galway-born music lover came to Boston when he was 19 and began working in area pubs. His brother, **Rory**, who is a bartender at James's Gate in Jamaica Plain, followed him a few years later.

Armitage, who most recently held down the fort at The Littlest Bar in Boston's Financial District, previously worked at Phoenix Landing in Cambridge's Central Square and Flannery O'Brien's in Mission Hill.

But he did much more than expertly pour pints of Guinness. A music aficionado who resembled U2's Bono, Armitage often helped out up and coming Irish bands, like Snow Patrol, when they made their first



Brett family production

The food pantry at Blessed Mother Teresa Parish was dedicated in the name of longtime parishioner Mary Ann Brett at last month's St. Patrick's Day Brunch at the parish hall. On hand for the dedication were Mrs. Brett's children. From left, Bill, Peggy (McCobb), Jim, Mary (McCarthy), and Harry.

trips to Boston. After a small Boston service, Armitage's family and friends gathered in Galway for a memorial service there.

Anastasia Kelly made headlines as the chief in-house lawyer for the embattled financial giant American International Group, but that was nothing compared to the buzz she caused when she spoke out about a cap on employee compensation. Kelly spoke out to Fortune Magazine about the concerns that led her to leave AIG. "For someone to say, 'I think you're doing a great job,

Stasia, but the American people hate you and therefore we think you should make no more than \$500,000 a year' -- there's no logic to that. It wasn't something I could live with. I guess that's the Irish in me," she told the magazine.

A Boston native who attended from Trinity College before studying at George Washington University at night, Kelly worked at Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering, now Wilmer Hale before going to AIG. But don't worry about her future. She recently joined DLA Piper's Washington office.

Boston Irish Reporter's Calendar

If your club or organization has an item or event for the Boston Irish Reporter calendar, send the necessary details to calendar@BostonIrish.com and please include a daytime contact name and telephone number.

April 2 – Patsy Whelan and Paul Kenny at Mr. Dooley's Irish Pub, 77 Broad Street, Boston.

April 8 – Rambling House, a Singing Workshop at the Irish Cultural Centre, 200 New Boston Drive, Canton. 1-888-GO-IRISH or irishculture.org. Learn about Ireland's rich history through the art of song while also learning traditional Irish songs in both English and Gaelic. No registration required, just stop by! \$5 donation suggested. The 2nd Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. ... Chulrua in

Concert Paddy O'Brien, Pat Egan and Dale Russ Boston College Connolly House, 300 Hammond Street, Chestnut Hill. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Irish Traditional Music and Song (accordion, fiddle, guitar, and vocals) by Paddy O'Brien, Pat Egan, and guest fiddle player Dale Russ. Hosted by Gaelic Roots program at BC, headed by fiddle master Seamus Connolly. Call 617-552-0490.

April 9 – Devri at Mr. Dooley's Irish Pub. ... Irish Cultural Centre of New England presents an Author Reading by Kevin O'Hara at 8 p.m. featuring a reading by

the author of "A Lucky Irish Lad." Free.

April 10 – Chulrua in Concert Blackstone River Theatre

549 Broad Street, Cumberland, RI. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children. An incredible night of Irish traditional music featuring the band Chulrua whose music is the old instrumental dance melodies of Ireland: jigs, reels, hornpipes, polkas, and the occasional song. 401-725-9272. ... Irish Baking Workshop: Scones, at the Irish Cultural Centre of New England, from 3-5 p.m. \$25 ICC Members/ \$30 Non-

Members. Pre-registration is required. E-mail louiseoshea@irishculture.org or call 781-821-8291.

April 11 – Feehily Family Fund Raiser, Elks Lodge on Spring Street in West Roxbury from 3 until 8 p.m. to assist the Feehily family of West Roxbury in paying medical needs of their children. Offering their time to provide entertainment are the Noel Henry Irish Show Band, the traditional Irish music of Aidan Maher and friends, O'Dwyer School of Irish Dancing

(Continued on page 8)

Publisher's Notebook

Boston Irish Focus on Haiti

By ED FORRY

A growing committee of Boston Irish chaired by Winnie Henry of Milton and Pat "Doc" Walsh of Dorchester have gathered to raise funds to support relief efforts for orphaned children who are victims of the January 12 earthquake in Haiti.

Organizing as "Irish Hearts for Haiti Committee," a group of more than 30 Irish-born and Irish Americans have been meeting at Winnie's home to make plans for the event. Working with her family and the committee, Winnie, the widow of Irish music legend Noel Henry, plans a day of continuous Irish music and entertainment from 2 to 9 p.m., on Sun., May 2, at the Quincy Marriott Hotel. The event will feature the music of many of Boston's leading Irish musicians, including Erin's Melody with Margaret Dalton, the Andy Healy Band, Noel Henry's Irish Showband, Fintan Stanley, John Connors & the Irish Express, and Larry Reynolds and Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. There will also be a silent auction and raffle prizes.

The organizers released an open letter to the community, reading in part: "With over half of Haiti's population under the age of 18, a disproportionate number of children are exposed to disease, death, and suffering. This was the grim reality before the earthquake. Now, there are estimates that over one million children will be orphaned and without urgent healthcare.

"Supporting agencies who provide care to the children of Haiti is the aim of The 1st Annual Benefit Dance for Haiti: From the hearts of the Irish to our brothers and sisters in Haiti. With your support, financial and volunteer services will be provided to orphaned and abandoned children through the organization of Friends of the Orphans: Nos Petit Frères et Soeurs (NFPS- French for "Our Little Brothers and Sisters").

"The work of NFPF is critically important, as access to healthcare is basically non-existent. Through their pediatric hospital, St. Damien, free medical services including surgery and physical therapy will be provided in addition to other outreach programs providing food, water, education, and assistance for the disabled." Friends of the Orphans is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, Federal Tax ID# 65-1229309, that meets all 20 BBB Charity Standards. Donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

Several Irish media outlets will participate as sponsors of the event, including 950 AM WROL, The Irish Emigrant, and the Boston Irish Reporter. Other business sponsors include Marriott Boston Quincy and the Courier Corporation, and more are being added each week. Admission is just \$20, and tickets are available at most local Irish shops, pubs and restaurants, as well as at the door. More information is online at <http://tinyurl.com/yc3bwft>.

Enjoying the Kinsale Festival

One of the joys of the celebration of St. Patrick's in New England is the annual four-day "Kinsale Festival of Irish Food" in Newport RI. Each March, several chefs from Kinsale, Ireland's gourmet capitol, travel to sister city Newport and take up residence in the kitchens of some of the best restaurants in that town. Organized by the Newport Convention and Visitor's Bureau, it is the first event in that city's annual Irish Heritage month.

I was delighted to spend a warm spring-like weekend in that seaside city, enjoying some wonderful food and delightful Irish company. We met with former RTE/Irish television presenter and chef Derek Davis, and with him and Irish Consul General Michael Lonergan, we enjoyed great accommodations and a superb meal at the historic Viking Hotel. A special thanks to Newport's Kathryn Farrington, who was one of the lead organizers of the festival. I will plan to go back to Newport this summer, and for sure will reserve the dates for the 2011 festival next March.

FOR THE RECORD: Because of an editing error, the front-page photograph of St. Patrick in last month's edition was located erroneously. It showed the statue that greets pilgrims at the foot of Croagh Patrick in Mayo.



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Commentary

Color These Musings Springtime Green

By ROBERT P. CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

With spring in the air and the landscape turning green, the mind wanders across the water...

The upcoming British election means that Northern Ireland's 18 Westminster seats will be up for grabs. The Democratic Unionist Party has a lot on the line because it holds nine of those seats, but it is also important that Sinn Fein, which has five seats, do well and help party leader Gerry Adams bounce back from his *annus horribilis* of 2009.

One of the seats the DUP will be looking to defend is the seat that party founder Ian Paisley has held since 1970. Paisley, 83, recently announced that he is retiring from politics and his controversial son, Ian Paisley, Jr., will seek to hold the North Antrim constituency seat.



Robert P. Connolly

The Social Democratic and Labor Party will be looking to improve on its current three-seat status, and South Belfast physician Alasdair McDonnell is working hard to defend the seat he won in 2005, when he stunned the pundits by squeaking past two unionist candidates to take the seat in the affluent, majority-Protestant constituency.

Adams, by the way, took a bit of stick back home for speaking at Boston's all-male Clover Club dinner last month, but undoubtedly made friends here for doing so. Several newspapers in Ireland and Britain took Adams to task because of the club's all-male policy, which dovetails awkwardly with perceptions of Sinn Fein being a male bastion.

Irish politicians from North and South flocked to Boston, New York, and Washington last month for various St. Patrick's Day celebrations, and new SDLP leader Margaret Ritchie raised some eyebrows by complaining that she was not invited to President Obama's White House meeting with Northern Ireland First Minister Peter Robinson and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness. McGuinness probably had it right when he said: "It was not a good idea [for Ritchie] to come to the United States and criticize the president. It was not a good move."

Having booked a trip to Ireland, I feel certain that an Aer Lingus strike must be in the offing.

The Ulster Unionist Party, maybe looking to out-DUP the DUP, was the only Northern Ireland political party to oppose the deal that devolved police and

judiciary powers to the Northern Ireland Assembly, preserving the North's power-sharing government in the process. Lady Sylvia Hermon, the UUP's only MP in Westminster, broke with the party on the issue, saying that Northern Ireland's leaders needed to hang together and battle the paramilitary dissidents still trying to cause mayhem in the North. Seems like the UUP may want to listen a little more carefully to its MP. There may be a reason why she's in parliament and they are not.

Is it me, or does the news media think St. Patrick's Day = profligate drinking? My personal favorite was Boston.com thoughtfully offering a compendium of suggested hangover remedies on March 18, under the heading: "St. Patrick's Day Hangover?" Yes, we're all a bit under the weather today, aren't we now?

On the other hand, there is something heartening about seeing people of all colors and creeds wearing green on March 17, indicating that times are changing in Boston and that everyone now feels like they can come to the party. Drinks optional.

Colm Toibin's "Brooklyn" is a good novel, but Colum McCann's "Let the Great World Spin" is the showstopper.

Former Bostonian Frank Costello received a nod in the *Guardian* newspaper last month for his efforts to bring venture capital money to Northern Ireland, which still needs to develop a more robust home-grown business base. Costello, a former top political aide on this side of the Atlantic, continues to produce Irish histories while he works to seed the fields of economic growth.

Speaking of the North's economy, US economic envoy Declan Kelly confirms that a Northern Ireland investment conference will take place this fall in Washington.

A recent Belfast Telegraph polls shows that 85 percent of Northern Ireland's Protestants want the North to remain part of the United Kingdom, but that nearly a quarter, 24 percent, don't expect that that will be the case in 2021, which would be the centenary of the partition of Ireland. While the Catholics of the North favor Irish unification, 26 percent of Catholics say they would vote to keep Northern Ireland in the UK.

Sinn Fein continues its push to place more of a spotlight on unification, holding town meetings in Britain, Ireland, and the United States. The Republic of Ireland's economic woes will make a united Ireland an even more difficult sell to the unionists of the North, but the issue will live on as long as the now nearly invisible Border exists.

Local Weatherman Takes On Global Warming 'Alarmists'

By MICHAEL NORTON
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Invoking the claims of a MIT climatologist, a veteran Boston-area TV meteorologist has cited "alarmists" in the climate change movement and suggested responses to purported manmade global warming are a waste of time and money.

Tim Kelley, a meteorologist at New England Cable News who is married to Scituate Republican Town Committee Chair Janet Fogarty, told a crowd at a GOP St. Patrick's Day breakfast this month "the forecasts that the alarmists have made are obviously not coming true." Before a crowd of state officeholders and candidates, Kelley added, "We're wasting so much time and so much money on that issue."

"It is a little confusing," said Kelley, NECN's meteorologist since 1992. "I'll tell the truth here. The world is warmer this year than it has been in the last 20 years. But it is a natural process. It is actually warmer at the poles and we do have an El Nino. The fact is though that this cycle is a natural cycle."

Kelley acknowledges his views put him at odds with powerful forces pushing an agenda of economy-wide targets to reduce carbon emissions. Supporters of those efforts have described warming as a modern-day "defining issue" and asserted that policymakers can't ignore scientific conclusions that warming is a man-made crisis.

But Kelley says the carbon dioxide "that we emit" makes up .039 percent of the atmosphere "and of that only a small percentage is contributed by mankind." Taking note of a recent push for nuclear power, Kelley called it "so absurd" that people "are more afraid of now of this tiny amount of CO2 than we are of plutonium and uranium."

Legislators in Washington and in state capitols nationwide are pushing plans to curb manmade emissions, citing carbon dioxide as a contributor to global warming. The Massachusetts House and Senate each have their own committees on global warming and climate change and the Legislature in 2008 passed the Global Warming Solutions Act, which includes a 2050 statewide emissions limit that is at least 80 percent below the 1990 level.

After initially expressing reluctance to elaborate

on his comments at the breakfast, Kelley said in a subsequent interview that he considered himself an environmentalist - he recycles, turns out lights and endorses the idea of saving money by burning less fossil fuel, for instance. "I just hate that were so distracted by CO2," said Kelley, who identified himself as a "rational climatologist" during a February interview on NECN.

Kelley is not alone among meteorologists in his views. Results of a survey of 571 weathercasters, released on Monday by George Mason University, found 54 percent believed that global warming was happening, with 31 reporting it is mostly caused by human activities and 63 percent saying it is mostly caused by natural changes in the environment. Fifty-eight percent of respondents indicated humans could reduce global warming.

In addition to questioning the computer models and information gathering techniques used by climate change activists and scientists, Kelley accused advocates of man-made warming of trying to use every storm to prove their theories, rather than looking at weather events with a much longer view. He said solar and ocean cycles are the main drivers of weather patterns and that volcanoes "play a huge role" in atmospheric science. "The climate is constantly changing. It's a matter of perspective," said Kelley, adding that carbon dioxide is "such a small component it gets lost in the noise of natural variability." He said "there's absolutely no consensus" that manmade emissions are a major factor in climate change.

In addition to touting the research of veteran New Hampshire meteorologist Joe D'Aleo, Kelley said noted MIT climatologist Richard Lindzen had visited the South Shore recently to outline his views. Lindzen asserts scientists have overstated man's role in warming and perhaps undervalued the roles of high clouds and water vapors. He has also attempted to draw a nexus between scientists pushing global warming and research funding, pitted the debate as one of "science versus authority," and asserted that "guesses" are behind projections.

"Being skeptical about global warming does not by itself make one a good scientist nor does endorsing global warming make one per se a good scientist," Lindzen said at an International Conference on Climate Change in New York City last year.

Commentary

In Hailing St. Patrick's Day Around the World, Irish Ministers Make Ireland's Influence Clear

By JOSEPH F. LEARY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The vast influence and power of Ireland throughout the world is proven every St. Patrick's Day. And don't think it is just parties and parades; it is testimony to the robust spirit and unique character of the Irish people who vigorously celebrate their loyalty and love for their native land.

Take our own nation's capital city, Washington D.C. St. Patrick's Day this year began with an expansive Irish breakfast party at Vice President Joe Biden's residence, moved to Speaker Nancy Pelosi's private chambers in the Capitol building for an elegant luncheon party, then it was on to the White House itself where President Obama hosted hundreds of Irish and Irish Americans for cocktails, music, and, of course, a few speeches.

What other nation commands such respect and attention? Ireland is by any standard a very small country with just over six million people.

When the Irish Prime Minister, Brian Cowen, came to Boston for Ted Kennedy's funeral on that memorable pelting rainy day last summer, he agreed to meet with a few journalists. Sitting in a side room at a Boston Hotel in a very wet suit he smiled wryly when asked why so many Irish ministers came to the United States and answered, "because Ireland's reputation in the United States is the envy of the world and we want to make sure that continues."

St. Patrick's Day holidays are celebrated throughout the world, making the remembrance of Ireland's patron saint one of the most magnificent and authentic marketing tools ever devised. The Irish Tourist Board, for instance, in an effort to improve awareness, struck agreements to bathe the Sydney Australia Opera House, the London eye, Toronto's CN Tower, and New York's Empire State in green lights. The fountains on the North Lawn of the White House were colored green for the day and, of course, the central river in downtown Chicago is dyed a bright green during the day. There are certainly many more such examples.

Taoiseach Cowen is the leader of this well-choreographed world-wide effort. He travelled to Chicago, San Francisco, Silicon Valley, and finally to Washington to meet with businessmen and women. In the Valley, he met with 75 business leaders discussing Ireland's successful record and during the seven-day trip he spoke positively about Ireland's future, its welcoming attitudes,



Joe Leary

and the many tax advantages it offers.

Here in Boston this St. Patrick's Day, we received attention from Ministers from both the North and South of Ireland and from one of the country's dominant political leaders, the president of Sinn Fein, Gerry Adams. Public opinion in Boston is important to Ireland, on all sides and to all governments.

Minister of State in Northern Ireland Paul Goggins spoke at the Irish American Partnership breakfast on St. Patrick's Day morning and then went down to Washington to be with the president at the White House party. Minister Of State Dara Calleary from Mayo also spoke at the Partnership breakfast and later that day at Irish Consul General Michael Lonergan's party at Faneuil Hall. The South Boston parade attracted thousands despite the rain and Jack Hart's South Boston Breakfast was again a great hit with all who could get a ticket. Massachusetts was also blessed with several other parades and events. One of the best was on Cape Cod in Yarmouth, a relatively new parade of five years' standing.

We often hear that it is the Irish Americans who do the celebrating. Not true. Ireland itself has many parties and parades. Dublin, Belfast, Derry, Cork city, Limerick, Armagh, and Coleraine all have significant parades, frequently trying to outdo each other.

But it is the sophisticated government planning and work by so many ministers and other leaders that provides an indication of how wide and powerful Ireland's influence is today throughout the world. St. Patrick's Day is not just cocktails and speeches; it is a huge effort by the entire government, especially foreign affairs and tourism, to bring tourists and new business investment to Ireland.

During the St. Patrick's Day holidays, Irish ministers visited twenty countries and many cities to renew ties and improve contacts. In Western Europe, Rome, Milan, Munich, Berlin, Dusseldorf, Paris, London, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Belgium, and the Netherlands all received visits by Irish ministers. In Eastern Europe, it was Warsaw, Vienna, and Russia. In the Far East, Tokyo, Seoul, Beijing, and Shanghai. In Australia, Sydney, Canberra, Brisbane, Melbourne, and Perth. In India, Delhi and Mumbai. In New Zealand, Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington. And in the United States in addition to Boston and Washington, ministers visited Atlanta, Philadelphia, Houston, Dallas, New York, and Chicago.

Each minister talked with business people and potential tourists to help make them aware of Ireland's advantages. This is an enormous effort on behalf of St. Patrick's Day and one that will pay great dividends for Ireland in the long term. Congratulations to everyone involved.

At Last, Health Care Relief is Ours

By ED FORRY
BIR PUBLISHER

\$88,200.

How many of you earn that amount in a year?

Not I, says the teacher. Nor I, says the letter carrier. Nor I, says the clerk at the corner store. Certainly not I, says the senior citizen living on Social Security.

\$88,200. That's 1,700 bucks a week in your paycheck. If yours is a family of four, and you make less than that, some relief is here, at last.

It comes in the form of the sweeping health care reform signed into law by our president last month.

It is the biggest and best legislation to help America's middle class since the introduction of Medicare in 1965. If you and your family are members of the middle class or the working poor, you should be celebrating this amazing piece of legislation. It carries the promise to make life better for you, for your children, for your grandparents- and for the future of this country.

I wrote a similar analysis in our weekly newspaper the week it became the law of the land, and there came the usual negative reactions. I was "delusional," one person said. A "majority" of Americans oppose it, wrote another. A close friend told me that I suffer from an "Obama addiction," and teasingly suggested that I rush to "the nearest Tea Party detox center" for help.

All clever talking points, those. Except this: one week after it became law, the polls showed that in fact a majority of Americans- 50% to 47%- support the new law. And that margin will certainly increase as the law is fully implemented.

Now that the opponent's distortions and untruths have been defeated by Congressional vote, individual Americans can learn what this new law will do, and just how they will gain from it. Here are a few of the immediate benefits:

- A reduction in the cost of health care for families and small businesses.
- Adults uninsured because of pre-existing conditions will have access to affordable insurance through a temporary high-risk pool.
- Senior Medicare recipients will receive a \$250 rebate to help cover any gap in prescription drug coverage; next year, the law institutes a 50 percent discount on prescription drugs in the "donut hole."
- New private health insurance plans will be required to provide free preventive care, with no co-payments and

no deductibles for preventive services. And next January, Medicare will do the same.

- Children with pre-existing conditions can no longer be denied health insurance coverage; that heinous insurance company practice is now against the law. Now no insurance company can deny coverage to a child based on his or her health.

- Young people may remain on their parents' insurance policy until their 26th birthday.

- Insurance companies cannot drop people from coverage when they get sick, and they may no longer impose lifetime caps on coverage; restrictive annual limits on coverage also will be banned.

Among other positive benefits: funding for community health centers will double by the year 2014; the number of primary care providers - doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants - will increase; and discrimination based on salary is now outlawed.

In short, 32 million more Americans- ourselves, our neighbors!- now will have insurance to protect against the ravages of sickness and poor health.

Reasonable people can disagree about parts of the new law, but the Republican attacks were based on political distortions, even outright lies. To their discredit, Republicans sat out the debate, and never offered their own provisions that might have crafted changes to suit their own agenda.

The GOP chose instead to be the "Party of No," their cry of Armageddon based solely on their lust for a political win over Barack Obama. As one conservative analyst wrote, they hoped for a Waterloo moment for the Democrats, but instead lost all, sort of their own Waterloo.

The opponents say they speak "for the American People," but their rhetoric is based on that simple falsehood. In the election just 16 months ago between McCain/Palin and Obama/Biden, 70 million American people voted for President Obama, while less than 60 million voted for McCain. Now who speaks for "the American People?"

To his credit, during the campaign Barack Obama made public his political agenda, and he pledged to deliver health care reform. When they voted, the American people said yes, that's what they wanted.

So pay no attention to the overheated rhetoric of the opponents. They had the controls of the country for eight years, and they are embittered by their loss of power.

Barack Obama delivered on his promise on health care reform, and the country is all the better for it.

Commentary

A WALK WITH JESUS

By REV. ARTHUR LAVOIE
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

There is an interesting story told in the Gospel of Luke that many Biblical scholars think may be one of the first attempts among Jesus's followers to come to terms with his death. In the story, two travelers are walking home from Jerusalem to a village called Emmaus after the Passover weekend in which Jesus was executed. One is a man and is given a name, Cleopas. His companion is probably a woman. They are heartbroken and devastated.

Jesus, their spiritual teacher, the one they believed was leading them to a deeper understanding of God and the meaning of their lives had suddenly been arrested, tried, convicted, and executed as an enemy of the state. In the space of a few days all of their hopes for the future had been shattered. On the road they meet a stranger. At first they do not recognize him. Before that awareness can happen, they have to invite him into their home and offer him a meal.

This, first of all, is a story about hospitality. You see, Jesus lived in a society that was rigidly structured and there were very strict rules about who could associate with whom, and where and when and how that could happen. There were also laws about purity and cleanliness that further dictated social interactions. In the earlier Gospel stories it is always Jesus who invites people to eat with him, or invites himself into people's homes. In so doing he taught that hospitality and openness to others were essential elements in his vision of the Kingdom of God or Beloved Community. After his death it is up to us to invite people in, to offer the open invitation. It is only after these travelers open themselves to the stranger that they are able to recognize him. He begins the meal and then vanishes. The completion of this practice of hospitality is theirs, is ours, to accomplish.

What is it like for us to have so many blinders on, to have so much structure in our lives and ways of thinking that we do not recognize the presence of the holy among us? As in this story, when that recognition happens and we realize the revelation, the Easter moment that is upon us.

And then we are like the two heartbroken travelers who meet a stranger on the road who reminds them of Jesus, whose openness, whose way of sharing a meal gives them a feeling of *deja-vu*, of having had this experience before. It is a mystical moment, as the sacred once again intersects with their lives, giving them renewed hope and meaning.

How many times has this happened to each of us? We notice someone walking down the street and we think we see someone else. We recognize in someone's movement or voice an old friend or a cherished loved one. We begin a conversation with a stranger and the connection is so powerful, so real, that we think that we must have met before. We meet someone at a very sad and painful time in our lives, and we are somehow transformed by that interaction. They have known the right thing to say to move us out of our misery, to give us a sense of healing, and of wholeness once again. These are moments that are filled with the sacred, filled with the presence of God. These are times when the spirit and the human in each of us are merged, as in the person of Jesus.

Jesus is a metaphor for all of us. The story of Jesus is the story of the best of who we can be. It is the story of healing and compassion, the story of standing up to oppression, and the story of forgiveness and hospitality and hope. It is the story of building connection and community without regard for the things that usually separate us from each other. The story of Jesus is the story of what is most sacred and most precious in the human experience becoming embodied in one person, in any person. It is the story of the divine in each one of us, accompanying us, walking with us on whatever is our life's journey.

Many Biblical scholars remind us that the point of this story may be more metaphorical than real. This story of two people encountering a live Jesus on the road to Emmaus may never have actually happened. Because the essential thing for us to know deep in our souls is that the story of any weary and heartbroken travelers being touched by God, encountering something of the sacred, finding hope and a renewal of meaning; *this* walk with Jesus, my friends, happens each and every day.

Happy Easter

Rev. Arthur Lavoie is the Minister at First Parish Church in Dorchester, Unitarian Universalist, and can be reached at minister@firstparishdorchester.org

BIR Profile

Restaurateur, Artist, Storyteller, and Family Man: That's John Francis Murphy, a Cape Cod Fixture

BY GREG O'BRIEN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

John Francis Murphy wears the weathered face of County Cork. Plant him in Blarney in this "Rebel County," celebrated for its prominent role in the Irish War for Independence, and he's as eloquent a poet as William Butler Yeats, with the story-telling knack of a James Joyce, and the looks of a rural denizen from "Waking Ned Devine."

The puckish proprietor of the eclectic Land Ho! taverns on Cape Cod and the pastoral Hotel Villa Serena at Playa Junquillal, Costa Rica, cut his teeth on the restaurant business in the 1960s at Anthony's Pier 4 in Boston as an assistant to the legendary Anthony Athanas, a surrogate father type and a longtime mentor. The late Athanas, one of the most notable business personalities in the history of Boston and a national role model in the restaurant industry, taught Murphy skills that eventually took root on Cape Cod, and helped Murphy define this sandy spit of land within the ornate walls, oak floors, and polished brass fixtures of his taverns in Orleans and Harwich Port. The canvas here is rich in texture and local color—a mottled palette that includes a reviving mix of fishermen, tradesmen, bank presidents, physicians, stockbrokers, artists, writers, politicians, and Hollywood celebrities, all of whom check their personas at the door. The marvel of the Land Ho is that it's a catch basin for folks who share a common thread—an abiding attachment to a slender, mystical land that is larger in soul than any of them, and has humbled individuals from Henry David Thoreau to John F. Kennedy.

This all didn't happen by chance.

Still multi-tasking at 69, Murphy's left brain and right brain are revving at full throttle. An accomplished artist, who attended the Butera School of Art in Boston, a raconteur, who works a room like a diplomat, treating patrons as if they were on a short list of private dinner guests, a savvy businessman with a persevering passion, vision, and execution all in sync, Murphy sets the bar for longevity and achievement in these parts. "I think it's working out," he says with characteristic diffidence and after 41 years at the helm of the Ho.

And that's just what Athanas told a young Murphy after he was hired to help oversee a sprawling kitchen and dining area overlooking Boston's historic waterfront that became in its day the highest grossing restaurant in the United States. Over the years, Pier 4 hosted heads of government, U.S. presidents, religious leaders, and a plethora of prominent athletes and creative talents. An ambassador for Athanas, Murphy early on became the cultural attaché of the Boston elite, among them Tip O'Neill and Richard Cardinal Cushing.

When Murphy first met the congressman, O'Neill asked him, "What the hell is an Irishman like you doing in a Greek restaurant?" Replied the self-assured Murphy: "Well, first of all, Mr. Athanas is Albanian, and secondly, this is all about survival." The two would become close friends, with O'Neill in later years a regular patron at the Land Ho with his own table and quarter board sign above it, declaring, "Mr. Speaker."

At Pier 4, the ubiquitous Murphy often poured Cardinal Cushing an after-dinner pony of Courvoisier, as the prelate sat in a comfortable sofa chair overlooking the city, holding court with Murphy about Boston history and politics. Always keen to make a point, Cushing once used Murphy as a prop from central casting to send a blunt message to then Boston Police Commissioner Edmund McNamara. As Murphy tells the story, Cushing grabbed Murphy by the shoulder when speaking to McNamara at a Pier 4 function, and promptly told the commissioner, "The boys in Southie are telling me you're giving them a hard time with the after-hours joints. These guys are really hurting, and they drop a lot in the basket at church. So lay off!"

Message received.

While Murphy, raised in rustic North Adams, is a fountain of insight from counselors like Cushing, O'Neill, Athanas, and others, he is a penetrating reflection of his parents. His father, Joseph Michael Murphy, a maintenance painter for Williams College and a quiet, forceful man who could burn a retina with a cold stare, taught him the value of firm conviction. His mother, Helen Kennedy, a homemaker, passed down grace, wit, and a dash of lace curtain. Her father, Francis Kennedy, was a second cousin to Joseph Kennedy, Sr. From Camelot to corned beef, Murphy gristles with chutzpah, a carrying beam on the family tree and passed down to sons John Jr., 35, Treavor, 33, and Dillon, 31, all of whom are intimately involved in the family business, along with Murphy's remarkable wife of 37 years, "OJ." The name is a derivative of Olive Jean Ellis, a descendant from the Mayflower and from kin who initially settled the Cape. It is difficult to profile Murphy without a broad stroke of the brush. The family, in closeness, zeal for life, and in spirit, has morphed into one.

The morphing had its roots in County Cork where the families of both of Murphy's parents hailed, and in the foothills of the Berkshires. Life in North Adams was simple and uncomplicated to the point of blissful. The middle child of three siblings, Murphy as a youth was a journeyman athlete. What distinguished him at a young age was his bent for art.



John Francis Murphy pours a tall one for a patron at his Land Ho! tavern on Cape Cod.

"I was self-taught," Murphy says, sitting behind an oak table at the Orleans Land Ho in the Captain Abbott Walker function room. "I decided I had talent in the fourth grade when I drew a cave man with a hammer, chiseling on the wall. The reinforcement of my teacher sparked an interest." So much so that when Murphy was in eighth grade, he received an award personally from Norman Rockwell for winning a local painting contest.

Then at nearby St. Joseph's high school, he stunned his sophomore geometry teacher. "We have to talk," the nun told his mother at a parent-teacher conference. Blessing herself, the woman pulled out Murphy's geometry exam and exclaimed, "My heart was pounding when I saw this; I thought I would be seeing God." Instead the nun saw a penciled drawing of a drunk hanging on a telephone poll with a bottle in his hand.

Murphy's mother was aghast. The nun interrupted. "I took another close look at the sketch and the first question was: what is a right angle?" the teacher said. "There was a number one scribbled at the elbow, a 90-degree angle, the correct answer. There was a number two noted at the neck, a 180-degree angle, the answer to the second question."

After discussing all the body parts, the nun said to Murphy's mother, "While your son didn't get all the answers right, he got enough to pass!"

Go with what you know, so Murphy then used his art skill to design sets for school plays and caught the attention of local merchants who hired him to design store window sets with an artful classmate. "We got fifty bucks for a window display," recalls Murphy. "That was as much as my dad made in a week."

After high school, Murphy, who concedes he was no academic, joined the Navy for a tour, then attended North Adams State College and art school in Boston, his first formal art training. After working summers on the Cape at the old Southward Inn in Orleans and the Land Ho, Murphy joined the staff at Pier 4 to pay for art school, and was quickly consumed with the restaurant business, a latent obsession from his younger days in North Adams making Dagwood sandwiches at a small Jewish grocery store. Art took a back seat for 20 years.

Murphy's appetite for the restaurant business, his drive for independence, and his zest for the secluded beauty of Cape Cod beckoned him across the bridge. In 1969, he bought the Ho, then housed in a barn-like, timbered building in the center of town with a feeble client base but potential for a lifetime. Customer by customer, the gregarious Murphy built the business on an English/Irish model that has survived for centuries: "a corner pub, good drink, good meal, reasonable prices, and hospitality with the personality of an inn keeper."

Murphy met OJ while checking IDs at the door. "Anyone with the name Olive Jean couldn't have a phony ID," he told her. She wasn't impressed; her father, captain of the Orleans Rescue Squad, had warned her to stay afield from dodgy places like the Ho. Later that evening, she walked to the bar to order a pizza; her boyfriend at the time was on crutches and remained at the table. Murphy made his move. "Do you want that pizza cut in six or eight slices?" he asked.

OJ appeared perplexed. "Ok, I'll cut the pizza in six slices," the droll Murphy said. "I don't think you can eat eight." OJ was sold, and never looked back.

In 1973, Murphy's dreams appeared to go up in smoke with a raging fire that destroyed a corner block of wooden buildings. The old Land Ho didn't burn, but smoke and water severely damaged the bar, and it had to be rebuilt. "Everyone theorized there was too much spilled beer for the place to burn," he says.

It is difficult to resurrect a dream, but Murphy restored the template and expanded its horizon. In yet another moment of genius, he installed a four-foot high wooden drink rail, separating the bar from the dining area and encouraging older, more genteel patrons to drink in local color from a safe distance with lunch and dinner served from a varied menu that features the catch of the day and a range of provisions for the carnivores.

Soon the place was a field of dreams. If you build it, they will come. And they did. Among the many pols and locals, celebrities like Paul Newman, Dustin Hoffman, Eli Wallach, Kevin McCarthy, Harry Connick Jr., Christian Slater, and the football coach Pete Carroll. The newly opened Land Ho in Harwich Port, with the trademark quarter boards and red-checked table cloths, is expected to draw a similar clientele at the site of the old 400 Club on Route 28. Coincidentally, it was acquired from a set of owners that included Tip's son, Tom O'Neill.

In 1998, after several family trips to Costa Rica and jaunts throughout Europe in the off-season, Murphy acquired the Hotel Villa Serena at Playa Junquillal on the Pacific in Costa Rica—a favorite of many Cape Codders. "It's like having a big house on the beach," Murphy jokes, "and all your friends come to visit and give you money when they leave."

Murphy has turned much of his energies in recent years to his art—mentored by the classical realist Robert Douglas Hunter and master painter Neil Drevitson. Murphy's paintings have been shown in Paris and throughout Cape Cod. Locally, his work shows at Addison Art Gallery in Orleans near the Ho.

Encouraging their dad to follow his art passion, Murphy's sons now hold sway in the business. John Jr., a history and economics major at Connecticut College, runs the Orleans Ho; Dillon, who attended St. George's Prep and Rollins College as a psychology major, oversees Harwich Port; and Treavor, a graduate of the Le Cordon Bleu in Paris, supervises the Hotel Villa Serena. OJ, with the maternal instincts of a dotting grandmother, keeps it all together, the litmus test for course correction. She has her hands full: John Jr. and his wife, Tracy (O'Neil-Holleran) have two young children—William and Kieran; Dillon and his wife, Kerrin (Ryan), have a son, Dillon Jr, with another child on the way.

As for the patriarchal Murphy himself, Irish Catholic to the core, he's staying put after four decades here, ever pursuing his paintbrush and corner pub vision. Without a vision, he has taught his family, one will perish. "I could never walk out the door," he observes with conviction, "I could never say, 'I won't be back.'"

Greg O'Brien is editor and president of Stony Brook Group, a political/communications strategy company based in Brewster. The author/editor of several books, O'Brien has contributed to various regional and national publications. It was 38 years ago that he had his ID checked at the door by John Murphy.

Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

BY BILL O'DONNELL

Tiger Woods Spurns Irish Bookie Offer – Paddy Power, the best known and most profitable bookmaker in Ireland, wanted to a land a big one to help promote the Power profile at home and abroad. The bookie figured that with



Bill O'Donnell

Tiger Woods losing some major American sponsors, it might be the ideal time to make a tempting offer to the world's best golfer. And tempting it was to the tune of \$75 million, but it wasn't enough for Tiger, who will be back on the tour at the Masters on April 8.

The Paddy Power offer to the legend would cover five years with multi-million dollar payouts for wins in the British Open and huge chunks of cash for Tiger victories in the majors. The offer to Woods would have covered Europe, Asia, and Australia, but not the United States. The PGA has a longstanding ban on professional golfers getting too chummy with gambling interests or entering into business agreements with casinos or endorsements involving gaming enterprises.

It was recently reported that Tiger Woods is the first professional sports figure in history to amass a billion dollars in earnings from endorsements and his sport. So maybe a more basic reason for refusing the offers is that Tiger simply doesn't need the money.

Boston Figure A Key Player in North's Future—The Guardian newspaper in Britain had a breakthrough story during St. Patrick's week reporting that Boston's own **Francis "Frank" Costello** and a major ventures capitalist had joined forces in a revolutionary initiative to pump millions into homegrown Northern Irish businesses. Costello, a chief of staff to former Congressman **Joe Kennedy** and press secretary to **Ray Flynn** when he was mayor of Boston, is a historian and author with a Boston College PhD who has become a respected business entrepreneur operating between Belfast and the United States.

(Full disclosure: Costello & O'Donnell have been close friends & colleagues for years)

The idea developed by Costello and **Colin Walsh**, founder and managing director of Crescent Capital, is to move the North away from its traditional dependence on private sector funding and the often fragile, unreliable foreign investment. It would do this by diverting tens of millions of dollars into homegrown Northern Irish companies that would form the nucleus of a business base to underpin the Northern economy for generations. Currently the Northern economy heavily relies on the UK government, with 32 percent of the indigenous workforce employed by the state and the remainder of the industrial and service base dependent on outside foreign investment.

Walsh, from his Belfast headquarters, summed up the advantages of investing in locally grown, export-led businesses, saying, "The problem of concentrating all your private sector foreign direct investment is summed up in one word—mobility. At any given time these foreign companies could pull the stakes and move their tent away to somewhere in eastern Europe or the Far East. To rely on it solely in terms of export-led growth would be foolish."

Crescent Capital and its offshoot, Hambro Northern Ireland Ventures, have raised venture capital of \$55 million in the past six years. These funds, targeted for investment in homegrown businesses have come from a wide range of investors such as a New York State Retirement Fund and private investors worldwide.

General Alexander Haig's Famous Few Words—When **Alexander Haig**, four-star general and close aide to three American presidents, died six weeks ago at 85, his obituary in newspapers and TV news programs highlighted the now famous four words, "I'm in control here." The setting was the White House following the assassination attempt in 1981 on **President Reagan**, when Haig, as Secretary of State, announced at a hastily-called emergency meeting that he was in charge. Haig was clearly the senior official at the time inside the

White House; however vice president George H.W. Bush, on a plane flying back to Washington, was the senior official of the US government.

Whatever the accuracy of Haig's comment under the stress of the moment, it became clear with the passage of time the general and those four words would be immutably linked. And so they have been.

But for myself, I have been destined all these years to remember General Haig for the few different words he uttered following the tragic deaths in December 1980 of four women doing God's work far from home in El Salvador. The four women were two Maryknoll nuns, **Ita Ford** and **Maura Clarke**, an Ursuline sister, **Dorothy Kazel**, and a laywoman, **Jean Donovan**. The four missionaries were returning from the international airport outside San Salvador at night in a white mini-van when they were stopped by a squad of government soldiers and taken into custody. They were raped and executed with high-powered rifles.

They were found and their bodies were shown to the distraught American Ambassador to El Salvador, **Robert White**, who was clearly devastated by the human carnage. He would later report to the State Department that the four innocent women had been shot by a military death squad.

Some weeks later, General Haig, speaking at a televised Congressional hearing, lied against the evidence known to him directly from Ambassador White, asserting that the four women had likely brought upon their own deaths, saying "There may have been an exchange of fire." How morally bankrupt! In an effort to validate and paper over Reagan administration support for the right-wing military dictatorship and its notorious death squads, the political general Haig lied and publicly blackened the careers and reputations of four, peace-loving dedicated Catholic women who sought only to do good in a land far from friends and family.

And, yes, those words of General Alexander Haig I still remember today, thirty years later. Pardon me if I don't think of General Haig in heroic terms.

Derry By Any Other Name -- And the beat goes on a little longer. The Derry City Council has been trying to use the council's official designation of "Derry" as a launching pad to also change the city name to Derry instead of Londonderry, a linguistic bone in the nationalist throat. The council was reprimanded by the Equality Commission when they last officially sought to change the city's name, and, thus rejected, the council decided to try and resolve it internally, and quickly.

A week before St. Patrick's Day the Council met to thrash out, among other agenda items, the name that would be Derry. The result was chaos and the filing of three motions relative to the name change. The three were unceremoniously voted down. They included a motion by Sinn Fein to just go ahead and remove the London prefix from the city's name. No. The second motion to go down to defeat was an SDLP move to set up a steering group on the issue. No again. The third and final motion of the evening was another SDLP move, this time to convene a meeting of political party heads. Nothing doing. The votes weren't there.

The next step for the City Council is a petition to the Queen's Privy Council. The chances of finding relief with that body are equally unpromising.

Hunger Strike Remembered — It was 29 years ago last month when **Bobby Sands**, 26 and in the Maze Prison, began refusing food in an attempt to change prison regulations that did not allow Nationalist prisoners to have political status and conditions. When the hunger strike ended seven months later, on October 3, ten men, including Bobby Sands, an elected member of the British Parliament, were dead. The oldest, **Joe McDonnell**, was thirty, the youngest, **Patsy O'Hara** and **Thomas McElwee**, were 23.

Three days after the end of the Hunger Strike, **James Prior**, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, announced a number of changes in prison policy. Most of the sought-changes in prison policy with the exception of the issue of prison work, were resolved and the prisoners were allowed to wear civilian clothes and freely associate with other Nationalist prisoners. That was not the end of the Troubles but it was the beginning of the end and nothing would ever be quite the same.

NOTABLE QUOTES

"I grew up a Catholic, went to Catholic

schools, was a member of the Christian Service Club, and the list goes on. I was baptized. Had my Holy First Communion. Went through Confirmation. And returned many years later to get married in the same parish. I sometimes attend noon Mass. Church is still a place of solace for me, but it has become harder and harder for me to walk through those doors."

— **Jennifer Delaney**, Huffington Post, as quoted in the Boston Globe "Washington isn't delivering, and I want to go down there and jolt the system."

— **Joe Malone**, State Treasurer during the 1990s when the treasury was looted of everything but the state seal and Malone's desk by Treasurer Malone's top aide & friend. Joe Malone would like to succeed Congressman **Bill Delahunt**, who is retiring.

"The UUP is on record as stating that they will not support the election of a local minister ... of policing and justice until there is agreement to test 10- and 11-year-old children to determine which school they will attend. I have to say that these are the most dysfunctional political positions I have ever come across."

— Deputy First Minister **Martin McGuinness**

"Calling me the least liberal member from Massachusetts is like calling me the slowest Kenyan in the Boston Marathon. It's all relative."

— Congressman **Stephen Lynch**, as quoted in the Boston Globe

"These are dangerous situations. We saw the threat when the device went off in Newry. It could have done a lot of damage and killed people in the area... If the PSNI [police] is unable to adequately respond to these incidents, then it is worth considering looking at a specific unit or specially trained officers to deal with such issues..."

— Sinn Fein Police Board Member **Daithi McKay** about the threat of the dissidents republicans

"I will never directly or indirectly, by means of a nod, or of a word, by writing, or in any other way, and under whatever type of pretext, even for the most urgent and most serious cause [even] for the purpose of a greater good, commit anything against this fidelity to the secret, unless a... dispensation has been expressly given to me by the Supreme Pontiff."

— Secrecy oath that child victims of **Father Brendan Smyth** were told to sign during their meeting with now Cardinal **Sean Brady** thirty-five years ago.

"So now is the time to buy Toyota, bully a salesman, and get the bargain of a lifetime. And better still, if your wife's private eye tracks you down to Las Vegas and finds you romping with a couple of tasty Estonian blonds, you can always blame the Japanese car for kidnaping you. And then of course you sue Toyota. Why not? Everyone else is."

— **Kevin Myers**, Irish Independent columnist on the piling on of the Japanese car maker.

The Forgotten Many In Church Abuse Scandal—While the raging storm of clerical abuse imperils the highest levels of Catholicism, and as one Catholic woman is quoted today in this space as saying "it has become harder and harder for me to walk through those [church] doors," I want to take an inadequate few paragraphs to restate one of the dominant truths of this miserable, shameful period we Catholics are going through:

There are thousands of good, God-fearing, celibate and caring priests who live their callings with good will, constancy, commitment, and a knee bent to God's will and mission. That must never be forgotten.

They are punished every day in and out of their ministry for their association with a church and a hierarchy that has lost its way. They, too, are the innocents. I think back to my early years in a Catholic school and the good nuns, and in different Catholic churches as I interacted with men of the cloth. I remember always with a smile **Father Jerome Gill**, a combat chaplain of the Second World War, who, they said, raced through Mass as he reportedly did when the enemy was shelling his open air Mass site, and **Monsignor Barry** who was well connected, kind, and always found a few dollars to get one of the poorer kids decked out in full regalia, and **Father Ford**, quiet, serious but always there for you in a good way, and **Fr. Tom Trepanier**, who was a Vatican scholar between parishes, who at the end of Mass always called up the

little ones too young for Communion, to laugh and bring the celebrant down to a child's earth, to show the human face of the Church to awed wee ones, and to my high school friend, **Father Jim**, good, solid, faithful and rounding out, despite the ills, a half-century of comforting the sick and dying and encouraging the rest of us through silent deed, no lectures, and for sure, the good Jesuit, **Father Gerry**, our friend in service, escaping academia for a parish to bookend a fruitful and caring life and all done with good humor and grace, and **Father Brian Finerty**, who baptized our grandson **Aidan** and had a much needed food pantry named for him when he left after rounding out decades of work in Africa and beyond where there were no soft sinecures or soft landings. He knew hunger and poverty, and he knew that humanity had no color, no single language. All are special and seek His grace.

So many, so much given.

We remember those and so many, many others. These most recent times since the bomb exploded in Boston have been cruel, hardscrabble years for the straight shooters, the majority, the thousands of priests who played by the rules and never complained about the hands they were dealt. They and we are the Church triumphant.

The Brothers Murphy tell a Cape Tale—They are **Ted and Seton Murphy**, sons of **Jim and Margaret**, who both wield a sharp narrative and who have been caregivers and cheerleaders to a life-full of competing characters. But today I want to talk about the two mentioned above, Ted, 40, and Seton, 34, who have collaborated on a Cape Cod book with an edge. Due out at the end of May, "The Running Waves" is set on the Cape's Silver Shores (not unlike Falmouth, their home town) and concerns a time in the lives of two young brothers who were dealing, ready or not, with real life, loss, relationships, the inevitable missteps and triumphs, and tragedy of a high order.

Co-author Ted, a published solo author and creative writing teacher at Boston College and on Cape Cod, calls the book "A wake up call to young people, who struggle with loss but find a way to follow their dreams." And as Seton, the younger partner in this enterprise, might say "We're storytellers, a couple of Irish guys," who went through a hellish time and can laugh at it now -- and write about it.

In "The Running Waves" the fictional (but not that much) Colin and Dermot Brennan work their way through stumble and strife but with an Irishness leavening the grief and working its way into humor and resolution. It's a grand read with familiar Cape landmarks and locales and a strong story line with a "Go for It" philosophy

In pre-publication blurbs, Michael Palmer, New York Times bestseller author of "The Last Surgeon," says "It's a wonderful period piece and skillfully drawn drama featuring brothers whom I quickly grew to care about." I could smell the salt air of "my" Cape Cod on every page."

Casey Sherman, bestselling author of "Bad Blood" and "The Finest Hours," calls "The Running Waves" "a novel that captures the tone and tenor of the place where I grew up. The Murphy Brothers have found a fan in me."

No Going Quietly For This Lady—**Margaret Ritchie**, the new leader of the Social Democratic Labour Party in the North, beat my friend and hard working former Deputy Leader, **Alasdair McDonnell**, for the top spot guiding the SDLP into the future. That said I like her spunk when she was in Washington for the St. Patrick festivities. The two leaders of the Democratic Unionist Party and Sinn Fein ruling coalition, **Peter Robinson** and **Martin McGuinness**, had invitations to meet **President Obama** in a private setting. But nothing there for the party of **John Hume**, the constitutional nationalists who kept the faith and helped shape today's face of Ireland. No room at the Pennsylvania Avenue Inn for the peacekeepers who eschewed violence every solitary, steadfast day throughout the Troubles?

Well, shame on the protocol people in the Obama White House. The SDLP deserved to be there and with a bit of lady-like but well-targeted noisy complaints, Margaret Ritchie got in to see the president. Good for her and for peacekeepers everywhere.

Church in Ireland Remains Under Pressure on Abuse; Brady Backers React; Bishop of Cloyne Resigns Seat

THE IRISH EMIGRANT

GALWAY— The Irish Roman Catholic hierarchy continues to deal with allegations that there had been a cover-up when priests were accused of sexually abusing children. A number of bishops also apologized for the manner in which they dealt with sex abusers in the past.

The solicitor for a man who claims to have been abused by Father Brendan Smyth in the 1970s called for Cardinal Seán Brady to withdraw his defense in a case taken by his client. The man alleges he was abused as an altar boy on three occasions and has claimed that, following an ecclesiastical court called to deal with the allegations, he and his father were assured that Father Smyth would not be allowed to abuse children again.

Cardinal Brady's lawyers have responded by saying that the cardinal did not convene an ecclesiastical court, did not give the alleged assurances, and was not the legal head of the Catholic Church in Ireland.

Within hours of this story making the headlines during the week of March 22, the cardinal issued a

statement in which he said that he had instructed his solicitor to seek to bring a just resolution to the case, while being conscious of the rights of all concerned. The legal proceedings, which were initiated in 1997, were taken against the cardinal as archbishop of Armagh rather than in response to his own actions or inaction.

The story that received most coverage was probably the news that Pope Benedict XVI had accepted the resignation of the Bishop of Cloyne, Dr John Magee. The bishop submitted his resignation letter a year ago after he was criticized by a Church-sponsored monitoring group for not doing enough to respond to complaints of clerical sex abuse. Much of what was written this week was a repeat of what was reported a year ago.

Among the bishops reviewing how they responded to sex abuse allegations in the past was Bishop of Clogher Joseph Duffy. He revealed that he was aware of abuse allegations against a priest in his diocese in 1989 and did not inform the RUC. However, when he was told that a young boy had been abused by Enniskillen-based Fr John McCabe, he was also, according to a diocesan spokesman, "bound to secrecy by the victim's parents."

Some six years later McCabe was jailed for 20 months for abusing the boy between 1979 and 1985. He had left the priesthood by that stage.

Bishop of Waterford and Lismore Dr. William Lee apologized for a two-year delay in the mid-1990s in informing gardaí about a priest in his diocese who had been accused of child sexual abuse. The complaints against the priest were made in late 1993 by adults who alleged they had been abused by him in their childhood. After his superiors received psychiatric advice that the priest could safely work with children he was allowed to continue in his ministry. Dr Lee describes his response as "seriously inadequate."

In October 1995, as the hierarchy was finalizing its guidelines on child protection, the bishop realized that he should have gone to the gardaí in the first instance. With the approval of the complainants the gardaí were informed and a second psychiatric assessment of the priest was also sought. This resulted in him being removed from his ministry. The complainants decided that they did not want the matter to go to court and no charges were brought.

Boston Irish Reporter's Calendar

(Continued from page 3)

from Hyde Park and DJ Dan Hallissey who will also serve as MC. For ticket information including ticket purchase, or offers of goods or services, please call Mary Devlin at 781-405-0932 or Catherine Corkery at 781-381-0210. Donations can also be made directly to The Feehily Family Fund and mailed to Peoples Federal Savings Bank, 1905 Centre Street, West Roxbury, MA 02132.

April 12 – Irish Writers Series: Conor O'Callaghan at Boston College. Conor O'Callaghan is currently the poet-in-residence at Wake Forest University and also teaches at Sheffield Hallam University in England. Winner of the Patrick Kavanagh Award, the Rooney Prize Special Award, and the Times Educational Fellowship, O'Callaghan has published several collections of poems including, *Fiction*, which was short-listed for the Irish Times Poetry Now Prize in 2005. He will give a reading of his work. Contact is the Boston College

Irish Studies Program at 617-552-3938 or irish@bc.edu

April 16 – Sundays Well at Mr. Dooley's Irish Pub. ... Irish Cultural Centre of New England's Irish Film Series- "In the Name of the Father." 7:30 p.m. \$2 ICC Members, \$4 Non-Members. ... Tempest - Celtic Rock Blackstone River Theatre

549 Broad Street, Cumberland, RI, 8 p.m. Tickets from \$12. Tempest delivers a hybrid of high-energy folk rock fusing Irish reels, Scottish ballads, Norwegian influences, and world music elements. 401-725-9272.

April 18 – Friends of the Boston Beara Society annual dinner at Florian Hall, Hallet St. Dorchester. 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Guest speaker is John Curran of Sound of Erin Radio.com. Dance music by the Andy Healy Band. Tickets; \$50. Call Pat Dwyer at 617-328-6690 or check with Mikedwyer-inc@comcast.net.

April 22 – Gaelic Storm at Showcase Live 23 Patriot Place, Foxborough. 6 p.m.

Doors (Dinner & Best Seating). 8 p.m. \$20 (limited seating). 508-543-5640.

April 25 – Irish Fashion Show and Afternoon Tea at the Irish Cultural Centre of New England at 2 p.m. Enjoy Irish Fashions by Claddagh Connection. Tickets \$20 ICC Members/ \$25 Non-Members. Call 781-821-8291 for tickets.

April 29 – Boston College Arts Festival. Main Tent, O'Neill Plaza, Chestnut Hill. Noon - 10 p.m. 617-552-0490. Every year, the BC Arts Festival brings the community together to celebrate the arts. Irish Music, Song & Dance, Seamus Connolly, and students, faculty and staff

April 30 – Eire Society's 73rd Annual Gold Medal Dinner honoring Boston Irish Reporter publisher Ed Forry. The dinner will be at the RoofTop Ballroom of the Omni Parker House in Boston. A reception will begin at 6 p.m. through 7:30 p.m., followed by dinner. Tickets are \$100.

May 2 – The 1st Annual Benefit Dance for Haiti: From the hearts of the Irish to

our brothers and sisters in Haiti, 2 to 8 p.m. at Marriott Boston Quincy, 1000 Marriott Drive, Quincy.

May 15 – The Saw Doctors at House of Blues Boston, 15 Lansdowne Street, Boston. 7 p.m. 1-888-693-2583 or livenation.com.

May 18-22 – The Dream Lives On: A Portrait of the Kennedy Brothers. Boston Pops Boston Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave, Boston. Tickets: \$20 - \$89. 8 p.m. 1-866-266-1200. Hear the world premiere of "The Dream Lives On: A Portrait of the Kennedy Brothers" by Peter Boyer (Ellis Island) and Lynn Ahrens (Ragtime), honoring the legacy of Massachusetts native sons John, Robert, and Edward Kennedy. "America's Orchestra" and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus perform patriotic tunes and give an uplifting performance.

May 22 – Irish Cultural Centre's 20th Anniversary Gala.

Sponsorships are available; for more information please call 781-821-8291.

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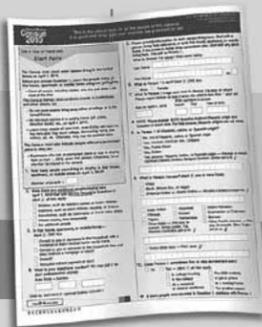
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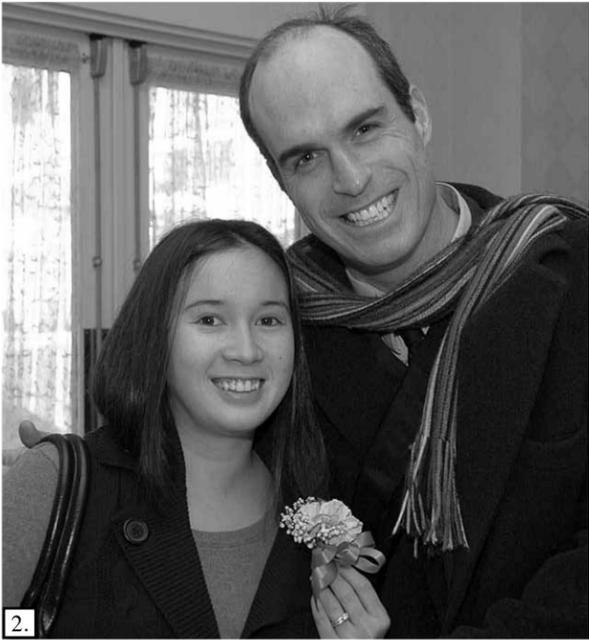
By Margaret Brett Hastings
Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

A large group of Bostonians gathered on Wednesday morning, March 17 for the annual St. Patrick's breakfast hosted by the Irish American Partnership. IAP president Joe Leary and vice president Mary McAleer made brief presentations about the non-profits accomplishments in Ireland, and Leary paid tribute to longtime friend and IAP supporter, the late Father Tom McDonnell by reading an opening prayer Fr. Tom had delivered at a previous breakfast. The appreciative audience heard remarks by two visiting political ministers, Northern Ireland's Paul Goggins and the Republic of Ireland's Minister of State Dara Calleary, TD. The event featured a performance by a chorale group of children from Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy of Dorchester. (Photos by Margaret Brett Hastings.)

1.) Joe Leary; Bill Reilly, Marblehead; Sybil Gallagher, Brookline; Colleen Reilly, Brookline; Chad Urmston, Brookline; 2.) Sarah and Tim Leary, Boston; 3.) Mary Beth Pemberton, Cambridge; Mary Conroy Henderson, Westwood; 4.) Bob Maloney, Newton; Tom MacKinnon, Marshfield; 5.) Joe Leary; Therese Murray; 6.) Brian Danielecki, Dorchester; John Monahan, Dorchester; 7.) Mary Kelleher, Boston; Kevin J. Leary, Milton; 8.) Richard Coughlin, Dorchester; Anne Kroger, Dedham; Andrew Hill, Dracut; 9.) Cheryl Kane, Milton; Linda O'Connor, W. Roxbury; Bridget Hester, Jamaica Plain; Sr. Marguerite Kelly, Irish Pastoral Center.



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A MAN WHO MINCES NO WORDS

Formidable Fintan O'Toole Lashes the *Ship of Fools* That Sank the Celtic Tiger

BY PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

When it comes to words, Fintan O'Toole does not hold back. A superb stylist and craftsman, he has established himself in his Irish Times columns and in his books as that all-too-rare entity in the media – a writer unafraid to assail any topic, whether it's the arts, society at large, history, politics, religion, or the economy. All infuse his work, and he's a historian, critic, and columnist who not only engages and often infuriates readers, but also stands up for his incisive and oft-cutting takes on any subject. In short, O'Toole is unafraid and unapologetic about standing convention on its head and about speaking truth to power.

He is well known and well read in Boston and environs, and some in these parts remember his edgy piece on Boston's Irish Famine Memorial. If anyone used that episode as a basis to stop reading him, that was and is their loss. A writer who makes one *think* and reconsider long-held precepts is a writer always worth reading. Fintan O'Toole is such a man. His latest book, *Ship of Fools: How Stupidity and Corruption Sank the Celtic Tiger* is, as O'Toole writes, "a good old-fashioned jeremiad about the bastards who got us into this mess." For readers in America, however, the book offers far more than just a hard-hitting look at Ireland's economic mess. Low taxes, little or no regulation on banks and developers, easy-come, easy-go loans and mortgages, inflated and unsustainable property values – sound familiar? Look into the smaller Irish economic mirror and then into the larger American one, and the parallels materialize.

Ship of Fools is an illuminating, impossible-to-put-down dissection of the corruption, short-sightedness, foolishness, and self-delusion that brought up and brought down the Celtic Tiger.

In Boston last month, O'Toole sat down with the BIR to discuss *Ship of Fools*.

BIR: Do you see any quick way out of the economic mess for Ireland?

O'Toole: I don't see any short-term fix. The depth of the crisis in Ireland is profound, and I can't see it taking less than a decade to get better. We have to face up to it. Still, if you know that, you know that you can make the tough decisions.

BIR: Do you see an eventual return of the so-called Celtic Tiger or anything akin to it?

O'Toole: My own belief is that there is *no* going back to the Celtic Tiger. Its collapse is half poor economic choices, but also half the nature of Ireland's own political and social institutions – their insularity. You have bankers and politicians who literally went to school together, and they're going to go after each other when they're in mess together? The corrupt political system and its ties to the banks and investors was and is tighter because of their shared culpability and of our small population. In some ways, everyone knows everyone, and that's not the case in the States.

BIR: Was Ireland's bailout of its biggest banks a wise choice?

O'Toole: We simply could not let our biggest two banks



Fintan O'Toole pictured at the Irish Famine Memorial in downtown Boston.

Peter Stevens photo.

go down even though they misled shareholders, hid the staggering losses for so long, and operated in a Wild West sort of economy where there was no accountability from the political and legal ends. There were no checks on the wild speculation in property and loose lending from top to bottom.

In my view the bailout of "zombie banks" – the smaller ones that had everything tied up in property and development and served no other purpose – was crazy.

Again, the fact that there was no real accountability combined with Ireland's corrupt politics disastrously but predictably. No one wanted to be the one to say the party's over, the Tiger's dead. Over 300,000 people in Ireland are now carrying negative equity, and what's the government's response? To hold up the banks and the very people who got us into this mess and tell the rest that they have to endure cuts in wages, public spending, and there's little help for anything except the banks and the government's deficit. Endless amounts of money for the bankers, none for the rest. The Brits did a little better by attaching some severe strings to the bank bailouts there. Not the case in Ireland.

BIR: When do you think the "freak-out" moment came for Ireland?

O'Toole: We were in dire trouble from early 2008, but the signs were there as early as 2003. The Tammany Hall-style quality between the Irish government and the banks skewed all sense of right and wrong and all ethical lines. Our system was going down, and there was no anchor. No one wanted to take a hard look, to believe that the boom times were on the way down. Ireland experienced a moral vacuum – few could answer the question, "What do you believe in?"

Much of this came about because of our country's struggle with old and new, traditional Ireland versus the Celtic Tiger and globalization. The Irish have long had an international outlook, but the unprecedented explosion of the economy was a new collective experience. In many ways, those who had emigrated in the years before the Celtic Tiger saw these changes and problems clearer than those who stayed. The emigrants could literally see how fast and how drastic the changes were.

BIR: Sudden success can cloud anyone's perceptions, as with the real-estate boom and bust in the U.S.

O'Toole: Prosperity does have an insidious side, especially for those who suddenly have it for the first time. People go way beyond their means on the false premise that it won't end. We lose a certain sense of

reality. In Ireland, we didn't look hard enough at what was happening. Too many people kept their heads down. Still, a huge amount of blame goes to the lack of responsibility by politicians as much as bankers and investors.

BIR: What can be done to effect changes in the Irish political system to break the corrupt bond between politicians and business but ensure that business won't be choked?

O'Toole: We have to first ask how do we give this a decent, fair shape and put it to the good. My own view is that we need severe dialogue about the very nature of our political system, about how we become a true republic in all the best senses of the word. There is no trust in the system now, so the only way is up.

The key issue is every citizen's engagement in the system. Because of our size and population, each person can really have a say if he or she demands it. We have to start fixing things at the local level, and there are already great civic organizations at the town and county levels to start the process. People do and will become involved, and change can come from the bottom up.

What does give me hope is that the Irish are international in view and our development agencies are among the best in the world. We're not good yet at "nation-state," but in all

fairness, our history has come into that. We need to create an actual republic.

BIR: How do you see America's hand in any way having wounded or killed the Celtic Tiger?

O'Toole: No matter what, we all have to take responsibility for our nation's and our own hand in this. Some in America won't want to hear it, but in Ireland, we foolishly and mistakenly embraced a right-wing American view that lower taxes and lax regulation of banks, mortgage companies, and developers created the Celtic Tiger. In both global and national terms, it was an oversimplified formula that led to losing touch with your own reality. That formula became a model of self-delusion. The Irish believed it was the reason for unprecedented prosperity, and certain Americans asserted that Ireland "proved" their right-wing model.

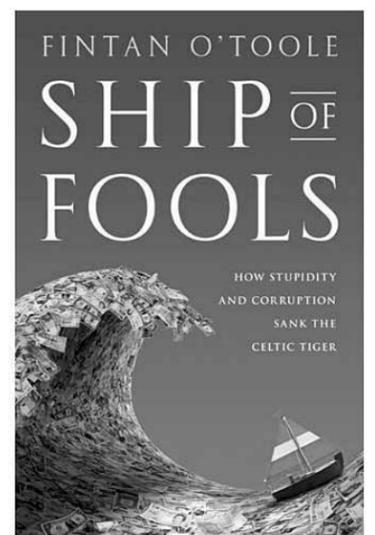
BIR: Are you optimistic that things will get better?

O'Toole: Economically, it will take time. In Ireland we're sort of going through the classic stages of grief – anger, denial, and so on. Most people do have a sense of a decent society, and no matter how bad this has been, it's *not* 1929. One thing we have going in Ireland is that it's all so personal – you get used to standing up for yourself, and you can't hide from everyone around you because we *are* small in population. The people I chastise can't hide either.

BIR: Some critics have charged that you're too hard on your own nation.

O'Toole: I do it out of love for my country. The Irish are resilient and imaginative and will get out of this mess. I feel a responsibility to tell the truth, no matter how unpleasant to some. I feel a responsibility not just to point a finger, but to try to address what's next, what's possible for my country. To that end, my next book is a follow-up to *Ship of Fools* and will offer a coherent framework for possible options and solutions to the aftermath of the Celtic Tiger.

While the term "must read" can seem hackneyed, Fintan O'Toole's *Ship of Fools* is unequivocally a must read for anyone hoping to understand what spawned, nourished, and ultimately destroyed the Celtic Tiger.



Ship of Fools: How Stupidity and Corruption Sank the Celtic Tiger, Faber and Faber, paperback, ISBN-13: 978-0571252688, 240 pages, \$15.99.

IMMIGRATION Q & A

Birth Records: Necessary for Green Card Applications

Q. I am applying for legal permanent residence in the US. Will I need to submit a birth certificate with my application?

A. Yes, you need to submit a copy of your certified birth record as part of the application package for legal permanent residence. (Birth records are required for a number of other types of immigration applications as well. This information applies also to those applications.) The record must contain the following information:

- Person's name;
- Person's date of birth;
- Person's place of birth;
- Names of parents;
- An annotation (stamp, seal, signature, etc.) by the appropriate authority indicating that the document is the official record or an extract from the official records.

Unobtainable birth certificates
Your birth record may be unobtainable for a number of reasons, such as:

- Your birth was never officially recorded.
- Your birth records have been destroyed.
- The appropriate government authority will not issue the document.

In such cases, you should try to obtain a certified statement from the appropriate government authority in your home country stating the reason why your birth record is not available. With the certified statement you must submit what the US immigration authorities call "secondary evidence." For example:

- A baptismal certificate that contains the date and place of birth and parents' names (providing the baptism took place within two months after birth);
- An adoption decree for an adopted child;
- A sworn affidavit from at least two persons, preferably including the applicant's mother, stating that they have personal knowledge of the date and place of birth, parents' names, and the mother's maiden name.

An affidavit must be signed in the presence of an official authorized to administer oaths or affirmations in the relevant country. Information regarding the specific procedures for obtaining birth certificates usually is available from the embassy or consulate of the country concerned.

Translations: If your birth certificate (or any of the other evidentiary documents discussed above) is in a language other than English, you will need to submit both a copy of the original document plus a certified English translation of the entire contents of the document. The translator needs to certify that he/she is competent to translate documents from the original language into English, and that the translation submitted is a complete and accurate version of the original document. Applicants and their interested family members may not provide translations themselves, even if they are fluent in English. Note that the same criteria apply for translations of other documents not in English that may need to be submitted in conjunction with applications for immigration benefits, such as passports, marriage certificates, divorce decrees, and other court records.

Note for Irish citizens: For Irish birth certificates, the "long form" version should be submitted. If you have any difficulty obtaining the proper evidence regarding your birth records, or if you have any other questions concerning immigration law, visit one of our weekly clinics listed in the Irish Reporter for a free, confidential consultation. We also can provide referrals to professional translation services in the Boston area.

Disclaimer: These articles are published to inform generally, not to advise in individual cases. Immigration law is always subject to change. 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.



Emergency in Haiti: Irish Immigration Center's Response – IIC continues to coordinate with leaders of Haitian organizations, state, city, and other responders to this crisis, sharing resources and communication to enable all providers to be more effective. We are working hard to help the Haitian community with practical support and counseling, and legal assistance. Our new Immigration and Citizenship Program Assistant, Elizabeth Saint-Victor, speaks Kreyol and has already provided great support to our Haitian crisis response.

An important component of the IIC's work is to help Haitians in Greater Boston to apply for Temporary Protected Status (TPS), which would allow them to remain legally in the US with employment authorization for an initial 18 months. IIC is collaborating with the Greater Boston Nazarene Compassionate Center in Mattapan and hosted a TPS clinic last week. We expect to host additional clinics in coming months.

If you are interested in volunteering with IIC's work assisting Haitians with TPS, call Elizabeth at 617-542-7654, Ext. 46.

Visit our website at iicenter.org/haitiresponse.htm for more information about and to donate to the IIC's efforts assisting Haitians living in the Boston area.

Thanks to all who made our free health screening a success! – Last week the IIC partnered with Cathedral of the Holy Cross "Cathedral Cares Ministries" to bring all Bostonians a free health screening! Nurses volunteered their time to offer confidential health

screenings that included blood pressure checks and blood sugar testing. We want to thank all the nurses and volunteers who provided such excellent care and a listening ear.

If you missed us last week, come visit us at the end of March! On Tues., March 30, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. we will be hosting another Free Health Screening that will be open to everyone, and again in collaboration with CARE and Cathedral Cares Ministries, but this time in our Downtown Office in Boston. Please call Ciara at Ext.14 as soon as possible for your appointment (if you only have a small window of time to join us) but remember drop-ins are always welcome!

New classes added to IIC's & CARE Health and Education Services! – Running in conjunction with our Home Health Aide and CPR classes, the IIC & CARE currently are preparing to offer other classes to help participants take the next step in their health related career. We need your feedback to help us prioritize what classes and events the Irish community needs now!

We want to offer Resume/CV preparation, basic computer skills, education events, sharing information for immigrants who want to attend colleges in Massachusetts, social events to network with fellow child caretakers, nannies, and home health aides in Boston &/ or Quincy.

Please contact Ciara today at 617-542-7654, Ext. 14 if you are interested in any of the topics listed or suggest other topics!

Host families and work placements need-

ed for Wider Horizons Program participants arriving this month! – A group of young adults from Ireland (Newry, Dundalk, and surrounding areas) will be coming to Boston for six weeks to participate in IIC's Wider Horizons Program. Through this program, young adults between the ages of 18 and 28 come to Boston to live and work in unpaid internships.

The program fosters mutual understanding and reconciliation between Protestant and Catholic communities in the border counties of Northern Ireland and Ireland. The program also improves participants' employability by providing them with essential skills and practical work experience to use on their return home. While they are here, participants stay with host families and work in unpaid internships in local non-profit youth and community organizations.

If you are interested in being a host family (financial compensation provided), please contact Ann-Marie Byrne: E-mail: amariebyrne@iicenter.org; Tel: 617-542-7654, Ext.16. If you are interested in offering one of these young adults a placement in your organization (placement must be in the area of Youth and Community work), please contact Nancy: noconnor@iicenter.org; Tel: 617-542-7654, Ext.19

Please Respond to the US Census – Last month, census forms were delivered to every residence in the United States and Puerto Rico. All you have to do is answer the 10 short questions and then mail the form back in the postage-paid envelope pro-

vided. If you don't mail the form back, you may receive a visit from a census taker, who will ask you the questions from the survey. It is important that people fill in the form and promptly and mail it back. Census information affects the numbers of seats a state occupies in the U.S. House of Representatives. There is a danger that Massachusetts may lose a representative in Congress if individuals do not respond. Also people from many walks of life use census data to advocate for causes, rescue disaster victims, prevent diseases, research markets, locate pools of skilled workers and more.

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP UPDATE

IIC is proud to bring Boston residents weekly free legal clinics to answer anyone's legal questions. Our friendly, dedicated, and experienced immigration attorneys will answer any and all questions you may have about immigration and citizenship issues. We can also help with paperwork for you or a family member.

Upcoming dates:

Dorchester: St. Mark's School Hall, 1725 Dorchester Ave. Dorchester – **Tues., April 27, at 6 p.m.**

Clinics also take place at our office the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Please call in advance to confirm that a clinic is being held at 617-542-7654. Our offices are located at 100 Franklin Street, Boston (Enter from the side entrances at 60 Arch Street or 201 Devonshire Street.

Our next in house clinics are April 6 and April 20.

Matters Of Substance

'HALT' My Relapse – Part One

BY DANIELLE OWEN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The Irish Immigration Center's Community Counseling coordinator, Danielle Owen, provides counseling, support, referrals, and case management along with outreach, education, and consulting services to Irish immigrants both new and well-established Irish community members. We can assist you if you are experiencing issues such as substance abuse, domestic violence, anxiety, depression, healthcare access, and homelessness.

"I've tried to stop drinking because my boyfriend says he hates to be around me when I drink. I usually feel angry and upset when we go out because he's 'allowed' to drink. I try to only drink at the weekend but usually after work I say I'm going to the pub to get dinner and I end up getting a few pints. My boyfriend moved out last week but now I'm craving drink around lunchtime

– I have started to go to AA, but I can't get longer than a week or two before I crave drinking again. I'm miserable and now that he has left, I feel like I have no one. What can I do?"

First of all, remember you are not alone and you will see this at AA meetings. It might also be helpful to go see a doctor/ER room as medical support can make all the difference in dealing with cravings. We recommend seeing a doctor to anyone who plans to stop their alcohol use completely. Relapses (returning to drinking after pausing for a time) are painful and disappointing, but they are a normal part of the recovery process. There are some things we can do to make sure we are less likely to relapse. Think of these tips like washing our hands during flu season! When it comes to avoiding relapse, we can use the HALT plan. You might get cravings to drink when you are:

Hungry: Get cravings

around the time when you usually eat a meal? Maybe your cravings are not actually for alcohol but that you are hungry. In early recovery it can be confusing for your body to separate the two separate but similar cravings.

Angry: Get cravings after an argument or when you feel angry with a person, place or a thing? Your body knows that alcohol gives you a temporary fix, but remember the reasons you are angry are still there the next day.

Lonely: Get cravings to drink when you're lonely? Loneliness, like anger, is a painful feeling. I hear people say that when they are drinking, even if they are in a roomful of people, they can still feel lonely.

Tired: Get cravings when you're exhausted? After getting through a day of work, it can be hard to summon up the energy we need to fight our cravings.

However, if we learn other ways to deal with



Danielle Owen

our hunger, anger, loneliness or tiredness, we don't have to relapse! Change is possible! We will explore other ways to handle these triggers in our next column, but if you need help and support now, or if you have recently relapsed and would like to know more about our Relapse Prevention Group in Quincy, please contact Danielle, in confidence, at the Irish Immigration Center: Phone: 617-542-7654, Ext. 14, or send an e-mail to dowen@iicenter.org. For information about AA meetings, go to: aaboston.org or call 617-426-9444.

10 CELEBRATING 20 YEARS: 1989-2009

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IRISH IMMIGRATION CENTER

FREE LEGAL CLINICS

TUESDAY CLINICS:

<p>SOUTH BOSTON Laboure Center 275 West Broadway South Boston, MA 02127 6:00 pm October 27th</p>	<p>ALLSTON-BRIGHTON The Kells Bar and Restaurant 161 Brighton Ave, Allston, MA 02134 6:30 pm October 13th November 10th, December 8th</p>
<p>DORCHESTER Saint Mark's Parish (School Hall) 1725 Dorchester Ave. Dorchester, MA 02124 6:00 pm September 29th November 24th</p>	

VISIT WWW.IICENTER.ORG OR CALL 617-542-7654 TO CONFIRM SCHEDULE

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IN CONCERT



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The concert will benefit *Children's Friend, Inc. & Mechanics Hall*
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A Green Day at the White House

Ireland Taoiseach Brian Cowen presented a bowl of shamrocks to President Obama at the White House on St. Patrick's Day. Pictured at the reception were (below): Irish step dancers from New York City; (Right): State Senate President Therese Murray, Sen. Joan Menard; Ann Lawless of Chicago, Pat "The Cope" Gallagher, MEP of Donegal; Former Massachusetts Lt. Gov. Tom O'Neill, Gerry Dunfey; and Brian Cowen, President Obama, and Vice President Joe Biden. *Photos by Ed Forry.*



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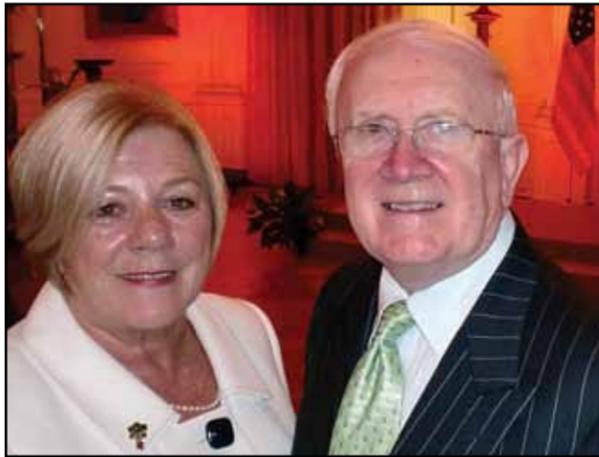
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Tickets are \$150 per person or \$275 per couple. Sponsorships and advertisements in the program booklet are still available. Please email info@irishculture.org.



BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

**BOSTON IRISH ARTS,
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Hail the Boston Comhaltas Ceili Band: 35 Years of Spreading Enjoyment Far and Wide

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Thirty-five years is a pretty good stretch of time: a little more than a third of a century, and longer than many businesses and more than a few marriages last.

And 35 years is the milestone the Boston Comhaltas Ceili Band is fast approaching. Since its creation during the year of the American Bicentennial, the “pride and joy” of the Hanafin-Cooley branch of Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann (CCE) has played tried-and-true ceili music at festivals, dances, benefits, and other special events from the Northeast to Alaska, even in the Grecian Islands — just about anywhere that ever needed a healthy dose of reels, jigs, hornpipes, barn dances, set dances, and the occasional song.

The durability of the Boston Comhaltas Ceili Band is a reflection of its members’ dedication, of course — especially that of leader Larry Reynolds, who co-founded the band with Tom Sheridan a year after helping start the Hanafin-Cooley branch. But its longevity might also stand as a testament to the resilience of the ceili band genre itself, which has remained popular through many decades even as other styles and interpretations of Irish music have emerged. Consider that the Boston Comhaltas Ceili Band’s life span has encompassed the likes of the Bothy Band, the Pogues, “Riverdance,” Solas, and “Celtic Woman,” among others.

“I like the flow of the music in ceili bands,” says Reynolds, whose sons Mike, Larry Jr., and Sean, and nephew Pat are regular members of the band. “When you get a good band, one that can keep time and also give the music a lift, it just moves everyone along. And when that happens, everyone enjoys themselves — the dancers and the musicians.”

Over the years, the Boston Comhaltas Ceili Band has spread that enjoyment far and wide, supported by a cast of contributors including Seamus Connolly, Jimmy Hogan, Fergus and John Keane, Martin Cloonan, Tara Lynch, Catherine Joyce, and Connie Patten. They’ve played for the president of Ireland, children and adults of all ages, Irish music experts and novices alike, in dance halls, on cruise ships, and inside steamy festival tents during the height of summer. Small wonder the band was inducted into the CCE Northeast Regional Hall of Fame in 2002 for helping to keep Irish music tradition alive and well.

The origins of the band are straightforward enough: As Reynolds explains, he and other Hanafin-Cooley



Larry Reynolds and the Boston Comhaltas Ceili Band have made appearances far and wide during their more than three decades of operation — including at the Irish Connections Festival in Canton (above). Photo by Sean Smith.

members often provided music at events, “so we said, ‘We should really have a band and make it a more formal arrangement.’” Reynolds certainly had plenty of experience to draw on, notably his association with the Tara Ceili Band during the era when Boston’s Irish dance halls were at their peak. The idea with the Boston Comhaltas Ceili Band, he says, was to have a fairly structured repertoire of tune sets, and songs, if needed, that members could pick up and use as the occasion warranted.

But don’t get the idea that this band is all about regimentation, says Lynch, who joined in 1998. “You don’t just blast out the tunes. You have to pay attention to

each other, and to the dancers, and make sure you’re all connected. We may have a list of what tunes to play when, but there’s plenty of room for spontaneity. I think that’s one reason the band gets so many invitations to play: People enjoy the sound and the energy, and the fact that the band is really engaged with them.”

A good ceili band, Lynch continues, is “a group of musicians who, regardless of their individual level of competency, simply sound good together — it’s greater than the sum of its parts. Again, you play as individuals but you listen to each other, so you can achieve that right blend of instruments, loud or soft, that sounds right.

(Continued on page 17)

The Trek Of a Lifetime

Tir Na Theatre Explores The Value of Tradition In ‘Trad’

BY R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Colin Hamell, Producing Artistic Director of Tir Na Theatre Company, arrived in Boston in 1991, purely for a visit. Thankfully for the Boston theater community, he never left.

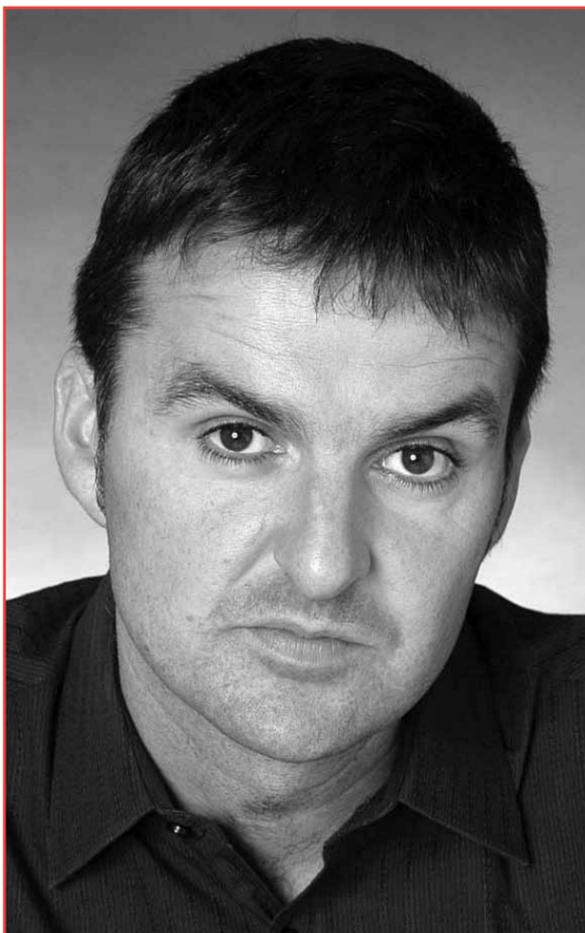
Originally from Navan in County Meath, the actor-producer remembers, “I was in drama school in Dublin, and at the time they were giving out a lot of green cards for Irish people to come to America . . . I actually had no inclination to come, but I got one in the mail, and if you got one you had to come for at least a week.”

A week turned into a year, one year turned into two, and “I ended up staying. I met a girl, got married, had kids and the whole thing.”

In addition to establishing a successful career as an actor, part of the “whole thing” was creating the Tir Na Theatre Company, which presents the New England premiere of Mark Doherty’s poignant satire, “Trad,” from April 8 - 24 at the Boston Center for the Arts. In addition to producing the piece, Hamell also appears in the play with Billy Meleady and Nancy E. Carroll (just back from the Broadway production of “Present Laughter.”) Carmel O’Reilly directs.

Over the years, Hamell has racked up some impressive theatrical credits. He did several shows with Suga Theatre; appeared Off Broadway in Ronan Noone’s “The Blowin of Baile Gall”; was cast in “The Beauty Queen of Leenane” with Julie Harris; and starred in New Rep’s acclaimed productions of “The Weir” and “The Lt. Of Inishmore.”

At Tir Na, he most recently produced “Swan-Song” and “Bottom Of The Lake,” a well-received double bill of Conor McDermottroe plays. The idea for Tir Na came about after a trip to Spain a few years ago. “While I was there, I (thought), wouldn’t it be great if I could get something going where I could do theater in European cities and in Boston. I noticed that a lot of the European capitals like Barcelona and



Colin Hamell: Came to Boston, and stayed.

Brussels had a huge expat community.”

Consulting with a producer friend in New York, he mounted a production of “Stones In His Pockets” in Spain. “I brought actors over, rehearsed it in Spain, did it in Spain, went to Brussels, then came back and did it in Boston. So (Tir Na) grew out of that idea where we could rehearse and perform on both sides of the Atlantic. I just love being part of the whole process from start to finish.”

The company built a sturdy reputation and was subsequently invited to New York to participate in that city’s first Irish Theatre Festival.

But with time comes change. The Internet has given audiences access to a huge number of entertainment options, all from the comforts of home. So it has become a challenge to get bodies into the seats, not only for Tir Na but for every theater company in town. Unfazed, he maintains Boston is “a great theater town. (But) you have to produce something really good.”

All of which brings him to “Trad.” When the play was presented at the Galway Arts Festival, it was hailed as “bold, brilliant, funny” with “dialogue as rich and thought-provoking as it is frequently hilarious.”

The story follows a 170-year-old widower and his 100-year-old son. When the father begins a tirade about the family line dying out, the son confesses that he fathered a child some 70 years before. Despite the son having one arm and the father having one leg, the two old men set off from their humble west Ireland home in search of the son’s child.

Hamell followed the success of “Trad” as it went from Galway to Australia and New Zealand. It also won the Fringe First Award at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. He said, “So I thought, well there’s a play that’s kind of proven its international appeal. And it’s a play that I could cast properly here. And it’s a play that only has three actors,” he added, noting its fiscal efficiency. “The father is 170 and the son is 100, so we

(Continued on page 15)



A column of news and updates of the Boston Celtic Music Fest (BCM Fest), 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.

— SEAN SMITH

Three Squared

As Boston's population of tradition-influenced young musicians continues to grow, their talent and creativity continues to infuse the local folk music scene with new sounds and new ideas. On April 12, BCM Fest's Celtic Music Monday series at Club Passim in Harvard Square will present "Double Threes," performances by two trios that signify the creativity and energy of these youthful musicians and singers, some of them barely out of college.

• Mariel Vandersteel, Bronwyn Bird, and Julie Metcalf became friends while studying at Berklee College of Music, a period that saw them embark on several fascinating musical collaborations. Vandersteel and Bird are members of Blue Moose & the Unbuttoned Zippers, a popular groove/jam band that incorporates Celtic, Appalachian, Scandinavian traditions, and (very) original music. Metcalf helped found the equally groundbreaking Folk Arts Quartet, which combines folk fiddle styles with a classical string quartet sensibility. (Vandersteel and Metcalf also are part of the newly formed Paper Star Trio.) Together, they muster fiddle, viola, Hardanger fiddle, nyckelharpa, accordion, and a whole lot of gusto.

• In the past couple of years, Matching Orange has become a welcome presence in the New England contra dance circuit. But they also have proved themselves more than adept as a concert band, drawing upon training and experience in jazz and classical as well as folk styles. Eric McDonald, besides being a first-class mandolin player, also excels on guitar and vocals, while Brendan Carey Block boasts impressive credentials in Scottish fiddling — former US National Junior Champion, three-time New England — and experience with bands such as Annalivia and the Glengharry Boys. Together with special guest Julie Vallimont (piano), they bring high energy and a refreshing approach to traditional music.

"Double Threes" begins at 8 p.m. in Club Passim, which is located at 47 Palmer Street in Harvard Square. Admission is \$12, \$6 for members of Passim, WGBH and WUMB. See clubpassim.org for reservations and other information.

Making Your Acquaintance

The BCM Fest Board had a very enjoyable and productive open meeting on February 27 at the Passim Folk Music and Cultural Center office. We made a



Matching Orange has proved a welcome presence at the N.E. contra dance circuit.

few new friends, heard their thoughts and impressions about BCM Fest, and even came up with a couple of truly unique ideas for some future events and activities.

We'll be scheduling another open meeting in the near future — hope you can make it.

Get Ready for the Call

BCM Fest will soon make its official "Call for Performers" for the 2011 festival, which takes place next January 7 and 8. Application forms and other details will be made available at the BCM Fest website, bcmfest.com. But now is the time to start thinking about participating in BCM Fest 2011: Perhaps you and your musical colleagues have an act or collaboration in mind — or, even if you're not a musician, you might come up with an idea for a special event you'd like to see. So get those wheels turning and the creative juices flowing.

For more information on BCM Fest, see bcmfest.com; you can also sign up for the BCM Fest e-mail list via the website.

The Trek Of a Lifetime

(Continued from 14)

play these very, very old characters. You've got this kind of physical comedy. Because of their age, it takes them 20 minutes to move four feet," he said laughing.

"As an actor in Boston, I've worked a lot with Billy Meleady and I knew the two of us could do it justice. . . We obviously are not going to look 100 or 170," he said, "But the audience will hopefully go there with us."

The title of the play references both to the concept of "tradition" as well as Irish music. "Trad' is different," he explained. "It's [got] two musicians on stage with the actors. They provide traditional Irish music -- we have a fiddle and a guitar. They [play] short pieces of music between the scenes and during the scenes to help move the play along. A nice touch."

Hamell was also delighted when Carmel O'Reilly agree to direct. "She's so well sought after and so well respected in Boston that when she signed on board, a lot of top production people, lighting designers, set designers, costume designers, signed on [too]." Reflecting on what he hopes audiences will take away from "Trad," he said, "The father-son relationship . . . It's a kind of universal theme. The father is 170 and the son is 100, and the father still keeps correcting and telling the son what to do, the way that all our fathers do no matter how old you get. It's a role the father can't stop playing." He continued: "It's very sweet in a way, too, because at the end of the play, they have their first kind of heart to heart, where the father actually tells the son what he means to him. I think a lot of people can relate to that. We go through our whole lives with this relationship with our parents and it's not until we're sometimes close to the end that we actually turn around and say, 'You know, I love you,' or 'You're brilliant,' or whatever it is. So it kind of packs that little punch." Hamell thought for a moment and added, "Even though it has slightly melancholy touches, it's uplifting too, you know? I think it's going to leave people with a nice glow at the end of the evening."

"Trad" by Mark Doherty, from *Tir Na Theatre at Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont Street*. For tickets: call 617-933-8600 or go to bostontheatrescene.com. BIR readers can receive a discount by mentioning the code IRELAND.

Government Stepped In to Save Opera House

A shortfall in funds brought about by escalating construction costs during the building of an extension to the Grand Opera House in Belfast was met by a donation of 1.7-million pounds from the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure. The handing over of the money was questioned by UUP Assembly member David McNarry, who expressed concern over the lack of discussion or search for alternative sources.

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BIR Music CD ROUNDUP

BY SEAN SMITH

Black 47, "Bankers and Gangsters" – Now into their third decade, Black 47 and Larry Kirwan, their indefatigable leader and lyricist, continue to offer up their brand of fiercely populist, urban Irish rock with convincing, and well-directed, passion. I've often thought that listening to a Black 47 album was akin to being waylaid in an Irish pub by a talkative stranger who proceeds to give you the full spectrum of human experience – rage, humor, pathos, nostalgia, sadness, conspiracy theorizing – until you are physically and emotionally sated.

The album's title track – Kirwan's broadside on the financial crisis ("Bankers and gangsters, soldiers and dancers/ All locked together in default harmony/With the financial chancers, and all manner of high rolling romancers/ Livin' out this American tragedy"), with an anthemic chorus backed by horns, Uilleann pipes, and guest vocalists The Screaming Orphans – might seem to suggest we're in for one long diatribe on Wall Street greed and social inequalities. But Kirwan and the band are less interested in straightforward rabble-rousing, and keener on presenting a larger, wider depth of field on the Irish-American-New York experience.

"Long Hot Summer Comin' On," for example, hearkens back to New York's 1970s punk scene – a wellspring of inspiration for Kirwan and other Irish/Celtic rockers – while in "Long Lost Tapes of Hendrix," a rock and roll urban legend (that unreleased live recordings of Jimi Hendrix wound up stashed away in West Cork) serves as the Holy Grail for a quest that goes comically awry.

But Kirwan also makes connections to Irish song and

literary traditions, in "One Starry Night," (with appropriately stately interjections by horns and pipes) which draws on his memory of a Wexford tinker's version of "Molly Ban," and in "Yeats and Joyce," where music and poetry are inextricably linked to a wistfully remembered love affair. "Bas in Eireann (Death in Ireland)" is a stirring, modern-day recreation of a transportation ballad, this time with a feminist perspective, aided by Christine Ohlman and The Screaming Orphans.

The humor is also in strong supply: "Izzy's Irish Rose" is Kirwan's salute to vaudeville, "when the Wild Irish Rose danced a polka down the Bowery with the Tailor from Vilna while sharing dreams and hopes as only the dispossessed can do," he writes on the website with lyrics and notes on the album's songs [www.thereelbook.com/bankers], which is recommended reading. "Wedding Reel" might be a droll take-off on "Fairytale of New York," with Kathleen Fee playing Kirsty MacColl to Kirwan's Shane MacGowan ("See you later, Alligator, I'm off to check the form/If I don't score at the disco, you can keep the bed warm").

Oh, and for good measure, there's "Celtic Rocker," in which Kirwan casts a sardonic, if somewhat cynical, eye on a genre he acknowledges Black 47 had no small part in helping to popularize. "Might as well take it to the cleaners," he writes.

The Irish Tenors, "Ireland" – I have this unsettling feeling. The Irish Tenors only just released "Christmas" late last year, and put out "Ireland" just in time for St. Patrick's Day. So does this augur a trend whereby there will be an Irish Tenors CD every few months to coincide with a major holiday? Fourth of July? Halloween? Thanksgiving? How about "The Irish Tenors Celebrate Labor Day"?

Anyway, "Ireland" is the trio's salute to the Emerald Isle – or, perhaps more accurately, this particular incarnation of the trio, since several of the songs here ("Danny Boy," "Whiskey in the Jar," "Rocky Road to Dublin," "Toora-Loora-Loora," "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling," "When

You Were Sweet Sixteen") appear on earlier albums, going back to the days of Ronan Tynan and even John McDermott (in case you're keeping score, the roster is Anthony Kearns, Finbar Wright, and relative newcomer Karl Scully).

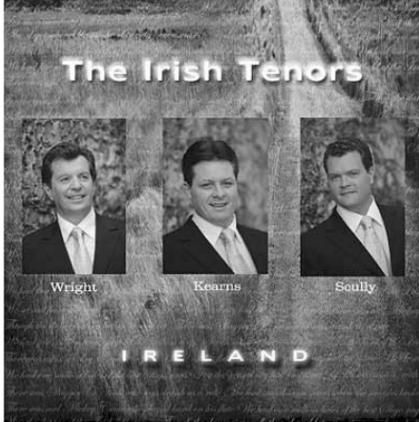
So, the post-Tynan line-up puts its particular stamp on these and other classics, such as "The Water Is Wide," Finbar Wright's "Lift the Wings" (from "Riverdance"), Stephen Foster's "Beautiful Dreamer" (don't forget, he was of Irish descent), and even Steve Earl's "Galway Girl." But the familiar elements are all there, from the full orchestration to the elegant vocals; a rather posh, and somewhat bombastic, tribute to Ireland.

Annette Griffin, "Songs from the Heart of Ireland" – Galway native Griffin, who studied at the Royal Irish Academy of Music and played with The Bunratty Castle Singers of Shannon, formally intro-



duces herself to the US with "Songs from the Heart of Ireland," a mixture of pop standards and show tunes ("I Will Always Love You," "The Wind Beneath My Wings," "Snowbird," "Isle of Innisfree" – from "The Quiet Man" -- and "The Rose," from the movie of the same name) as well as Irish/traditional classics ("Come By The Hills" and a medley of "Galway Bay," "Sing Me an Old Irish Song" and "A Mother's Blessing"). There's plenty of tremolo, sentimentality, strings and tinkly piano, as well as the occasional accordion (for that "authentic Irish" sound), so Griffin clearly would not be out of place sharing the bill with The Irish Tenors (see above).

Note: All due respect to Griffin and her coterie, but please don't try to pass off "Rose of Allandale" as a "traditional" song about Irish immigration. It's English, for one thing -- Allandale is a village in Northumberland -- and was written by Charles Jeffreys and Sidney Nelson in the 1840s. Just as easy to get these things right...



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Late night action in the Boston Comhaltas Ceili Band at the 2007 ICONS Festival. "When you try it, you find there's just nothing like it," says Larry Reynolds of playing in a ceili band. "You look out from the stage and see the people dancing and having a fine time. That's what makes this music special – it's something to be shared."
Photo by Sean Smith.

Hail the Boston Comhaltas Ceili Band: 35 Years of Spreading Enjoyment Far and Wide

(Continued from 14)

"What I like is, you can go into a gig tired, or just not feeling in that good of a mood, but then you sit down to play, you home in on the dancers and the other musicians, and you bring your game up. It's kind of like sports: If you play with the best, it makes you better."

As with any band, Lynch notes, the rapport between members, non-musical as well as musical, makes the experience of playing together all the better – like packing into a van to rush from Boston to the Catskills Irish Arts Week and "pulling up to the door just in time to unload, get set up and start playing." Solidarity and familiarity with one another makes it easier to overcome little crises and annoyances – broken strings or sound system problems, for example – or, Lynch adds, with

a laugh, "the things it's best the audience doesn't know about."

Lynch says the ceili band genre, which was in a down period during the 1970s, has been revitalized to a great degree by renewed interest in set dancing. In fact, she adds, dancers "have done very well in terms of promoting, communicating, and sharing elements of set dances so that they're known far and wide. That's also helped to keep ceilis and ceili bands popular."

Is it possible to attract Irish musicians of more recent generations – who often have contemporary-minded groups like Lunasa and Altan as sources of inspiration – to the ceili band style of music? Lynch thinks so, given the right circumstances.

"If a kid doesn't like playing the music, it comes across like a neon

sign," she says. "But their involvement in ceili band music is often hard-linked to competitions, and they don't always get the opportunity to play for dancers. When do they have the chance, they find they like it because it gets them playing for people, which is quite different than what they're used to."

Lynch adds that young musicians who are particularly dedicated to the Irish music tradition see ceili bands as an opportunity to play with, and learn from, older musicians. "It's a great venue for bringing generations together."

Reynolds also thinks there will be an ample supply of youthful musicians to keep the ceili band sound going. "When you try it, you find there's just nothing like it. You look out from the stage and see the people dancing and having a fine time. That's

what makes this music special – it's something to be shared."

Irish Tenor Kearns to sing in Worcester on Sun., May 2

Dublin's Anthony Kearns, a founding member of The Irish Tenors, will give a solo performance on Sun., May 2, in Worcester's Mechanics Hall. The concert will be a fundraising benefit both for the internationally respected concert venue and for Children's Friend, Inc., Worcester's oldest child and family service agency.

Kearns performs both traditional Irish songs and a large classical repertoire. Last summer he performed with the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood as part of

the birthday celebration for renowned Irish flutist James Galway, who had specially requested that Kearns sing.

Former US Ambassador to Ireland Jean Kennedy Smith once said of Kearns, "I have never heard a better Irish tenor voice."

Tickets are available from the Mechanics Hall box office (508-752-0888). Premium tickets, at \$60, include both the concert and a reception with Anthony Kearns. Other ticket prices are \$30 and \$45.

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For a True Taste of Irish Music, Fun, and Good Will, Check out the Russell Memorial Weekend in Doolin

BY JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

If music is the heart of Ireland, then surely Doolin in Co. Clare is the soul of the country as evidenced by the huge annual turnout for the Russell Memorial Weekend.

This musical weekend -- in memory of brothers Micho, Packie, and Gussie Russell -- has become a late winter tradition and is held in Doolin on the last full weekend in February. The festival originated in 1995 to honor Micho Russell, one of Ireland's best-known traditional musicians, who died in 1994. But in 2006, his family renamed the festival the Russell Memorial Weekend to give equal honor to all the musical brothers.

The weekend draws former Doolin residents, musicians, and all those who appreciate traditional music and it's a celebration from one end of town to the other and the beginning of one day to the end of the next. Concerts and recitals are held in the town's pubs, there's set dancing in the Hotel Doolin, musical workshops for attendees and, this year, a performance of Connemara Sound (Fuaim Chonamara) as the featured concert. Connemara Sound stars Brian Cunningham who, with a group of young musicians including several members of his own family, weaves music, song, story, and dance into an epic about Ireland's oldest dance form, Sean

Nós, a musical tradition of Connemara.

But the festival weekend doesn't just focus on Doolin and music. This year, organizers reached out to those suffering from the Haiti earthquake and for the opening concert in the Russell Cultural Centre, in lieu of admission fees, the audience was asked to donate to help earthquake victims.

So, is there a Boston connection to this musical weekend other than many local residents whose families came from or still live in that area? Funny you should ask. The Russell Weekend website (michorussellweekend.ie) says that in 2009, Denise vonMering from Boston made "a generous donation" to the Weekend in memory of her grandfather, Thomas Joseph Shannon (1897-1977), who was born in Doolin and was a neighbor of the Russells. He came to this country in 1920, and met his future wife, Margaret, a native of Macroom. They married in 1923, lived around the Boston area, and eventually settled in Somerville.

Denise's tribute to her grandfather is included on the website: "I am drawn to Clare, to the place of story, song and dance that my grandfather spoke of so fondly. I loved my grandfather very much and knew him well, but it wasn't until I went to Doolin and experienced the Micho Festival that I realized "who" he really

was, how the music and the landscape had defined him and kept a part of him wild and free to the end of his days. I know that he would be delighted to think that in some small way, he was still a part of the musical heritage in Doolin." Her donation was given "to help enhance and promote the traditional musical heritage of Doolin."

While the Russell Weekend is great fun, you don't have to focus on those February dates to hear great Irish music. Many pubs around the country feature seisiúns where singers will wander in during the day or evening, sit down, and join others in making wonderful music.

MEA CULPA

Oops. Apparently, my mind wandered when I wrote and proof-read this column last month because my eagle-eyed brother-in-law, Fred, who lives in Wauwatosa, WI, spotted this in the March column: "And, in Limerick, on Saturday night, March 13, the National Lottery Skyfest's fireworks will light up the Co. Cork sky." No, folks, Limerick has not moved south although no doubt the fireworks were so high in the sky and so spectacular that they might have lit up the Co. Cork sky...well, probably not that far away actually! The City of Limerick, I am happy to report, is, in fact, still in Co. Limerick.

VOLVO OCEAN RACE

How great for Galway and its economy to be cho-



At the Granuaile Pub in Newport, Co. Mayo, musicians wander in every Thursday night and join in the lively seisun. Sometimes, there are more musicians in the charming pub than customers and it makes for a fun night out.

Judy Enright photo

sen as the finishing port and the closing ceremony location for the Volvo Ocean Race in 2012! The final leg is expected to be a three-day race around Ireland before finishing in Galway Bay.

Moving existing commercial docks to a proposed new wharf farther out to sea at Galway Port is a key element in the plan, organizers say. The Let's Do It Galway committee adds that Galway's economy is set for a windfall of up to 80-million euro, with revenue coming in part from more than 40,000 international visitors expected to visit the city for the final leg.

Enda Cunningham wrote recently in *The Connaught Sentinel* that, "Demand for hotel rooms in Galway could be so great during the Volvo Ocean Race 'grand finale' in 2012, that the hotel industry is considering docking a 1,500-cabin cruise liner in Galway Port. With up to 50,000 corporate guests alone expected to travel to Galway that June for the final leg of the race, significant pressure is expected on the 5,500 hotel rooms in the city and county."

The Galway Harbour Company is currently seeking planning permission for the new commercial dock farther out to sea as an initial phase of plans to develop a new Galway Port. If permission is granted and the dock is built, cruise liners could dock there.

Cunningham's story quoted Paul Gill, chairman of the Irish Hotels Federation, as saying, "If there was pressure or demand, we could hire in a cruise liner, with 1,500 cabins to dock here. We would not let capacity be an issue. It was done in Wales for the Rugby World Cup in 2007, where two cruise liners moored for three weeks. It would be possible to do it here, but we would need a year run-in to organize the logistics."

Gill added, "There are 5,500 rooms in the city and county, a further 2,500 in Limerick and 1,000 in Athlone. Road connectivity is important and the new motorway is very important. Overall, that's 10,000 in the greater western area. But the new Port



A fiddler sits at a table in the Roadside Pub in Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare, and entertains visitors. The pub is currently run by Peter Curtin and has, in fact, been run by the Curtin family since 1893. The pub is a particular draw for area musicians and in the summer there is music every night.

Judy Enright photo

would need to be built to make it a reality. There'd be no point in mooring a liner in the Bay and having runners sailing in and out to it. I don't think capacity will be an issue, but if it was, a liner would be a no-brainer."

John Killeen, president of Let's Do It Global, said preparations for the "biggest ever grand finale" at Galway Docks in 2012 will send the city well on its way to economic recovery.

GARDENS

Many of Ireland's beautiful gardens (and some grand old homes) will open to the public around Easter and remain open through the summer. The following are among nearly 30 gardens and homes open during the Wicklow Garden Festival:

- Avondale House, in Rathdrum, a Georgian House built in 1777 and the birthplace of Charles Stewart Parnell, will be open to view. Avondale's Forest Park offers parkland that is synonymous with the birth of Irish Forestry in 1904. There is an extensive collection of trees and shrubs from the long open sweep of the Great Ride to towering conifers on the banks of the Avonmore River.

- Hunter's Hotel in Ashford is noted for its prize-winning gardens, situated on the banks of

the Vartry River, with a spectacular display of oriental poppies in May and June. Many other interesting perennials are featured in box-edged borders. The large kitchen garden provides fruit and vegetables for the hotel.

- The Mount Usher Gardens, also in Ashford, represent the Robinsonian style of informality and natural design. More than 5,000 trees and shrubs from all over the world are planted in harmony with woodland and shade-loving plants. There are many other garden festivals across Ireland and the gardens and homes are well worth visiting, especially at this lovely time of year. Local tourist offices will have information available.

TRAVEL

Whenever you decide to visit Ireland, be sure to stop by your favorite travel agent or visit the Aer Lingus website (aerlingus.com) for the latest information on direct flights and ground deals. Flights and deals are also offered by US Airways (usairways.com) and several other airlines, but often involve layovers that add hours to the trip but also cut the cost.

For seasonal happenings, check out Tourism Ireland's website (discoverireland.com.)

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Thirty-Two Counties

Antrim: A new bypass destined for Ballymena is to be delayed following the discovery of a rare Neolithic ring-fort, one of only four of its type in the country. A team of twenty archaeologists have been working on the site two miles south east of the town, overlooking the Larne Road Roundabout, and have uncovered a number of artifacts including small blades, Neolithic pottery, and a leaf-shaped arrowhead. The site of the ring-fort came to light when the topsoil was removed from the hill with the aim of moving the earth to make embankments for the new road.

Armagh: For the next while Diane McMinn will be fundraising for a proposed mission trip to Morocco with the Christian-based group Frontiers International. The twenty-one-year-old from Bessbrook, who is a student at Queen's University Belfast, will spend three and a half weeks in the Muslim country with eight others. They will be rebuilding houses destroyed in a 2004 earthquake as well as working with orphans and widows. The group has to be very circumspect in their dealings with people and must follow strict rules of conduct and dress in order to avoid arrest, which happened to the group who went out last year.

Carlow: The elderly people of Carlow will be toning up their abs in a new outdoor gym, "Tone Zone." Carlow Sports Partnership will be opening this new age gym in mid-May on the grounds of Eire Og GAA club. This will be the second outdoor gym in Ireland, the first being in Dunshaughlin Park, Co. Meath, which opened in 2007 and has seen great success. The concept is championed by President Mary McAleese and finds its origins in China. The gym will consist of five stations each working on different areas and within these five areas there will be three pieces of equipment. There will also be an Astroturf area for group sports.

Cavan: A buzzard that survived a gunshot wound has been returned to the wild and the occasion was watched by the children from St. Brigid's School in Killoughter, Redhills. The wounded buzzard was found by Sarto Quigley while he was out walking and with the help of Joshua Mohan he took it to his home before contacting Wildlife Ireland. The bird was brought back to health at the Irish Raptor Research Centre in Ballymore by Lothar Muschkat, who was at the Redhills school to answer questions from the children. Principal of the school Fiachra O Mordha said the sixty-seven pupils at the school take a particular interest in the natural world.

Clare: Jackie Whelan, the man behind the restoration of the West Clare Railway, has been granted permission by the county council for what will be the country's largest rail and road museum. The museum will be located at Moyasta, the home of the only objector to the proposal, David Browne, who has vowed to appeal the case to An Bord Pleanála. In addition, Whelan also faces the possibility of an objection from the National Roads Authority from whom he must gain permission to set his rail line across the main road from Kilkee to Kilrush. However he is optimistic that he can begin work on the museum in the next few months.

Cork: One Cork-based couple who have been eagerly anticipating the return of the Cork-Swansea ferry are Dean and Gemma Thomas, for it was on the former ferry between the

two ports that the couple met. David is from Swansea and Gemma from Passage West, and the pair met on the ferry that used to make the journey. They were among the passengers on board for the inaugural crossing and took with them their daughter, seven-year-old Hayley. They are now looking forward to being able to visit David's family in Wales on a more regular basis.

Derry: In a month's or so time more than 300 ex-army homes in Ballykelly are expected to go on sale. The houses were purchased by the Dublin-based Merrion Property Group who have said the site will be landscaped and will include children's playgrounds, retail units, a crèche, and a leisure centre. Work on construction of these amenities is expected to begin immediately. A previous set of houses that were put on the market last year were all sold within hours. Local politicians have welcomed the move though concern was expressed at the effect on infrastructure of the increase in population.

Donegal: Rory Gallagher is coming home. Ballyshannon will be welcoming home the Blues guitar legend but in bronze form. During the Rory Gallagher International Tribute Festival 2010 the sculpture by artist David Annand, which is in its final stages, will be revealed. Thousands of people are expected to arrive for the unveiling which coincides with the beginning of the five-day festival. Ballyshannon is extremely proud and excited to be holding this event and to be erecting the statue of the hometown legend, all thanks to the support the town received from Donegal County Council's Public Art Office.

Down: The town of Dromore is getting set for a face lift. Following the example of an English town, the Chamber of Commerce has decided to dress up the town by putting pictures of well known locals on boarded up or empty buildings. The idea is that twenty locals will be asked, 'What does Dromore mean to you?' Their photo and their thoughts will then be displayed all over the town to distract from any unsightly buildings in the area. The Chamber not only sees this as way to brighten up the look of the town but also to remind people what Dromore has to offer.

Dublin: A shop mentioned in James Joyce's "Ulysses" that closed last year has been reopened and is now being run by volunteers. In his book Joyce had Leopold Bloom stepping into Sweny's Chemist on Lincoln Place to purchase a bar of lemon soap and to have some lotion made up. Sweny's opened in the mid-nineteenth century and continued to operate as a chemist's until its closure. Now reopened by volunteers, it is selling books as well as soap and a range of pharmaceutical products, and each Monday morning it also features readings from "Ulysses."

Fermanagh: Catriona McGorman from Lisnaskea and reigning Fermanagh Rose Karan Leonard from Belcoo are busy organizing the selection of this year's Fermanagh Rose, which will take place in Enniskillen at the beginning of May. While the chosen Rose will have a place in the Irish Regional Final, only six will go forward to Tralee, but it is a very different story for the men. The organizers are also looking for an Escort to represent the county, and since it has been decided that this year there will be one escort from each of the thirty-



two counties, the Fermanagh man selected is guaranteed a place at the festival in Kerry.

Galway: Galway shopping Centre on the Headford Road is to be demolished and replaced by a 85,618 square-meter development which will quadruple the size of the existing shopping centre. The development will be built over four blocks and consist of restaurants, crèche, leisure centre, over two hundred apartments, four main anchor units, and ninety-one commercial units. It is being undertaken by Dublin development company Harcourt Developments and will cost over 200-million €. The development company has just been given the go ahead after trying for five years to gain planning permission for the project, which will be worked on and opened in phases.

Kerry: Tralee is opening its doors for free to anyone whose name is Niamh, as part of a tourism drive by Holiday Tralee and the Tir na nÓg Festival. For the first eleven days of April anyone called Niamh can stay free in the festival hotels, and there will be free passes to children's entertainment events for all the young owners of the name. The festival's mascot is Oisín and Niamh is an integral part of the story of Tir na nÓg. The festival will have a range of attractions including a family treasure hunt, a charity walk for Crumlin Children's Hospital, greyhound racing, and a homes and motor show.

Kildare: British actress and fashion designer Liz Hurley was at the Kildare Village shopping complex last month for the official opening of the latest in her chain of boutiques, and the first one to open in this country. Despite the biting March wind, she appeared in a pair of white jeans and a skimpy kaftan top, part of her beachwear range. Having officially opened the store, Liz then sold the items herself, explaining to customers that the pink bikinis and beach bags were special buys as all proceeds will go to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation and Professor John Crown's Cancer Clinical Research Trust in Ireland.

Kilkenny: Helen Finnegan began making cheese six years ago on her husband Robert's family farm in Stoneyford, and she has now received one of

the top awards from the Irish Food Writers' Guild. It was Helen's Knockdrinna Farmhouse Sheep's Cheese that took the award, a cheese she began making in response to consumer demand. Now employing four at the farm, Helen and Robert recently converted an old stone building into a farm shop which opens five days a week. They also make use of the whey to feed their own free-range pigs.

Laois: Mountmellick is hoping to be the home of a world champion. Twelve-year-old Aaron Dowling will be traveling to Denver, Colorado, this month to take part in the Sport Stacking World Championship along with his three fellow teammates. Aaron, the son of Conleth and Colette Dowling, attends The Rock National School and only took up the sport just over a year ago. The Irish team is coached by Michael Nolan, who is also the distributor for speeds stacks in Ireland. The Clare man is paying for the boys to go to the world championship and although they will be competing against 1,000 other contestants Nolan believes that the Irish team has a great chance of winning. Aaron is being given great support from the whole town and really hopes he can come home a champion.

Leitrim: The Government has selected Carrick-on-Shannon to represent the county in the Town category at this year's Entente Florale Competition; the competition has attracted entries from twelve countries. The selection of the town followed its receiving a Silver Medal in the Tidy Towns Competition and funding will be sought from the local authority as well as the local community. Already Pádraig Glancy of SuperValu in the town has offered to match the total amount collected on a voluntary basis in the surrounding area. Work to be carried out as part of the entry includes the planting of the roundabout on the Boyle road and an increase in the number of hanging baskets in the town.

Limerick: The National Lottery Skyfest was held in Limerick this year over St Patrick's Day and was attended by nearly 50,000 people, but for one young woman it was an especially good night. Twenty-one-year-old Patricia Ingle was struck down with a viral infection two years

ago which left her suffering from brain damage. The visit to see the Skyfest was the first time that Patricia had left the hospital in eighteen months and she, her family, and her boyfriend had an excellent night. They all hope that this is the start of the new beginning for the young girl who has so much living yet to do.

Longford: Liam Butler from Legan had what he described as one of his toughest competitions yet when he took part in the All-Ireland Readoiri competition in the recitation category in Limerick, but he still managed to bring home the All-Ireland title. Five years ago the Newport man, who was representing the diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise in the competition run by the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association, won both the Readoiri title and the All-Ireland Scor award. He paid tribute to the support from family and friends which included this year a busload of people from Legan who accompanied Liam to Limerick.

Louth: A conservation study carried out by an archaeological company has confirmed the fears of Dr. Peter Harbison more than a year ago that the famous high crosses of Monasterboice are under severe threat of erosion. Already a noticeable crack has appeared in the elaborate Muiredach's cross and further erosion of the sandstone will cause irreparable damage. It has been suggested that the crosses should be housed in a new visitors' centre, with exact replicas of the crosses placed on the original site. Although the site is in the care of the Office of Public Works, the more than 70,000 thousand visitors each year are looked after by a team of volunteer guides.

Mayo: It seems that the name for the new pedestrian bridge in Ballina first suggested by Councillor Michelle Mulherin last autumn is the popular choice by the people of the town. It was decided by the councillors that they would consult local residents on the matter after Councillor Mulherin suggested the bridge honor former president Mary Robinson, and fifty of the one hundred and eighty-three responses agreed with her choice. Also suggested were the Beckett family, since the bridge is accessed through Beckett land, and Hollister or the company's founder, John Schneider. The name of the bridge will be decided at the next meeting of the Town Council.

Meath: Eleanor Moloney has been named as the only Irish winner of this year's Evans World Book Day Short Story Competition. The nine-year-old pupil of Carnaross National School wrote her story, "Vikings Come to Dublin," prompted by a first line given by a number of noted authors. Now Eleanor has seen her work published for World Book Day, one of sixteen stories in an anthology written by primary school children in Ireland and in Britain. Her teacher in Carnaross, Helen Sherlock, said she was a very worthy winner as she puts a great deal of effort into her stories and has a boundless imagination.

Monaghan: A coach company based in Inniskeen, which recently won a major award, has now set its sights on the 2012 Olympic Games in London. Matthews Coach Hire won an Environmental Sustainability award at the Small Firms Association's National Small Business Awards and is now tendering for work at the Olympics in London. According to Paddy Matthews, founder of the company, the award was

(Continued on page 20)

NEWS DIRECT FROM IRELAND

Reduction in rescue helicopter service – It has been reported that the Department of Transport plans to curtail the helicopter rescue service in the southeast. While full 24-hour cover will be available from rescue helicopters based at Shannon, Sligo, and Dublin, the helicopter at Waterford will only be manned during daylight hours. This information has been leaked while a new helicopter rescue service contract is currently being negotiated with a Canadian company. The ten-year contract is said to be worth 500-million €. No one thought to ask why such large sums of money should be spent on a task that once was and could again be undertaken by the Air Corps.

Proposal to give automatic guardianship to unmarried fathers – The Equality Authority has taken up the cause of unmarried fathers who currently have no legal rights to guardianship or access to their children. As things stand, a mother is exercising her legal prerogative if she decides to prevent the father from seeing his child. The only way this can be overturned is through the courts and, although the courts are usually sympathetic to the father's plea, it is argued that it is grossly unfair to deny the father access to his child for the many months that it takes to obtain a court order.

It is now proposed that all fathers should automatically be granted guardianship status and have automatic access to their children. If for any reason the mother believes that such an arrangement is not in the best interests of the child then she should be required to apply to the courts for a barring order.

Arrest made in relation to Trevor Sargent leak – Gardaí investigating the leaking of documents relating to Green Party TD Trevor Sargent arrested a garda officer in her 30s on Thursday morning. The woman was released without charge at midnight and a file is being prepared

Ireland Today: Forgetting the Recession for a Day

Crowds turned out to watch St Patrick's Day parades in cities, towns and villages all over Ireland on March 17. Someone who took the trouble to count reckoned 115 separate parades took place and most, if not all, seemed to have fine weather. Wherever the parades took place they were watched by festive crowds wearing all sorts of outrageous outfits to mark the occasion. An estimated 650,000 spectators watched the Dublin parade with crowds lining the pavements all the way from Parnell Square to St Patrick's Cathedral.

Reports of St Patrick's Day festivities also came in from across the world. The Sydney Opera House was bathed in green lights, as was the big wheel in London. Even the tower of Big Ben was decorated in green lights. The Beijing St Patrick's Day parade took place in the snow. While the biggest parade in the US took place in New York, Washington was a hive of activity. Taoiseach Brian Cowen, Minister for Foreign Affairs Micheál Martin, First Minister Peter Robinson, and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness attended a series of receptions throughout the day and all were among the 500 guests at the White House reception in the evening. Earlier Cowen had a 40-minute meeting with President Obama.

During his short stay in Washington the Taoiseach addressed the 18th annual dinner of the American Ireland Fund, chaired the first US Meeting of the Global Irish Network, joined Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Dr. Jill Biden, for a special St Patrick's Day breakfast at the Vice President's official residence, and attended the St Patrick's Day lunch hosted by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, on Capitol Hill.

– LIAM FERRIE

for the DPP. Sargent submitted his resignation as Minister of State for Food after a newspaper reported that he had written to an investigating garda in an effort to influence the outcome of a criminal investigation. Sargent believed that a constituent was about to become the victim of a miscarriage of justice.

Fourth option venue for assisted suicide talk – Dr. Philip Nitschke, who was in Dublin last month to hold a public meeting on assisted suicide, was eventually given space in the Seomra Spraoi social centre after three venues had cancelled his booking; Buswells Hotel, The Outhouse, and the Macro centre declined to host the event. Opposition to the holding of the meeting had been organized on

Facebook by Youth Defence, and gardaí were patrolling the area in case of protests, but there were none. Some 40 people attended the meeting of Nitschke's Exit International and members of the media were asked to leave before the subsequent workshop took place.

US visa cancelled for anti-war campaigner – Dr. Edward Hogan, a former army commandant and anti-war campaigner, who was due to give a talk on extraordinary rendition at a conference in North Carolina, has had his US visa revoked. The reason given was "information received" but Hogan has been unable to ascertain what that information was.

Snippet: The Irish Tobacco Manufacturers' Advisory Com-

mittee estimates that the Exchequer will lose 600-million € this year as a result of tobacco products being smuggled into the country or purchased abroad by individuals for their own use. The tax on cigarettes in Ireland is among the highest in Europe, making this country particularly attractive to smugglers.

From AONB to wind farm for Down coast – The Irish News reports that the NI Environment Agency plans to declassify a five-mile stretch of the Co. Down coastline on the grounds that it is no longer meets the standard of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. However there are also plans to establish a wind farm along the coast and the five-mile stretch, which includes Tyrella beach, is the only place where power could be brought ashore within environmental guidelines. The final decision on declassification has yet to be taken, but a spokesman for the NIEA has said that the decision will not take into account any future development proposals.

Settlement in discrimination case against PSNI – The Fair Employment case taken against the PSNI by Superintendent Gerry Murray, alleging religious and age discrimination, was settled before the commencement of the tribunal. Murray, the most senior Catholic member of the force, claimed he was overlooked for a senior position on the grounds of age and religion. The PSNI accepted that it needed to improve procedures by which appointments were made and has agreed to give Murray a career development interview.

MPs call for inquiry into Omagh bomb intelligence – A House of Commons committee has called for a new inquiry into the use of intelligence information prior to the Omagh bombing. A BBC Panorama program had claimed that phones belonging to members of the Real IRA were being monitored as the car

carrying the bomb was being driven to Omagh and that none of this intelligence was given to the RUC. An official inquiry subsequently concluded that the bombing could not have been averted by the more expeditious use of information gathered. The report itself, however, was not made available to the cross-party NI Affairs Committee which now wants a further inquiry.

Damages for children who witnessed prison fight – An 11-year-old boy and his nine-year-old sister have been awarded 10,000 € in damages after being traumatized by witnessing a fight between prisoners in Mountjoy Prison. The two children had been visiting their father when prison officers pursued two prisoners, one of them bleeding, as they ran through the room where the children and their mother were sitting. Their mother claimed they had suffered psychological injuries as a result.

4.25-million € settlement for road crash victim – Claire Noone, 25, who was seriously injured in a road accident in 2005, received the settlement at a hearing in the High Court. Noone had taken the action against Michael and Margaret Laheen of Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, whose car collided with that driven by Noone; her boyfriend, John Larkin, who was in the passenger seat, died at the scene. Justice John Quirke expressed the hope that the law would be changed in the next 12 months to allow settlements to be made in the form of annual payments rather than a lump sum. It has been estimated that Noone will live for 63 years but her family fear the settlement will not be enough should she live longer.

No further redundancies planned for Anglo Irish Bank – The 1,500 staff at Anglo Irish Bank have been told that apart from the 230 already announced redundancies there will be no further job cuts this year.

THIRTY-TWO COUNTIES

(Continued from page 19)

the result of a concerted effort by all staff towards sustainability, and among the measures carried out are the recycling of tires and filters and the use of rainwater to wash the vehicles on a daily basis.

Offaly: The family of Colin Dunne, who died tragically while taking part in last year's Barcelona Marathon, attended this year's event to receive a presentation from the organisers. On the podium with the winners were Colin's parents, Tom and Bernie, his sister Ciara, and his fiancée Yvonne Kearney. Colin was a teacher at Killeigh National School and the Colin Dunne School of Hurling has recently begun its training sessions. Taking part in this year's marathon were Colin's teammates, who ran the marathon to raise funds for a defibrillator for the Mucklagh and Rahan community. The team comprised Cormac Minnock, Finian Minnock, Anthony Condron, Ger Keyes, Damien Minnock, and Nial Leavy.

Roscommon: Residents of Boyle, accompanied by their mayor, Councillor Jan Flanagan, staged a march through the town last month in protest at the closure of the daycare facility at the Plunkett House nursing home. Also taking part in the protest march was parish priest Father Gerry Hanley, who spoke of the centre as a lifeline for the fifty people, many of them living on their own, who used it on a regular basis. Among them was Paddy

Beirne from Ardmore, who has attended the centre for the past two years and enjoyed cards and bingo as well as a midday meal. The HSE has promised to review the decision to close the centre in three months' time.

Sligo: Every year people get into difficulty when trying to return to the mainland from Coney Island, and the RNLI station on Sligo Bay has to come to the rescue. Lifeboat Operations manager Willie Murphy has commended the county council for a measure that will make his team's job much easier and improve safety. There are a number of pillars placed along the route from the island to the mainland, and the county council has now had a number painted on each one. Now those who are caught by the rising tide and who take refuge on the pillars, can tell the emergency services which pillar they are on, and so make the rescue operation much speedier.

Tipperary: Councillors Jim Ryan and David Doran together unveiled a plaque in St. Mary's Garden of Remembrance in St. Mary's Cemetery in Thurles last month. The unveiling marked the twinning of the garden with a similar garden in Tibine, South Lebanon. On display in St. Mary's during the unveiling was a plaque which is to be erected in the Irish Garden of Remembrance in Tibine in October. The ceremony was conducted by John Wort and also unveiled on the day, by Bridin O'Gorman, was a special plaque to the late Anne Coonan of Castle Meadows, erected by her son Tony. At

the conclusion of the ceremony both the Lebanese and Irish national anthems were played.

Tyrone: Thirteen-year-old Chloe Coyle from Castlederg is 50,000 € richer after being named the winner of RTE's All Ireland Talent Show last month. Chloe, a pupil at St. Eugene's High School in the town and the daughter of Carmen and Jude, joined the school choir at the age of six and has been singing ever since. Having been mentored throughout the contest by Dana, for Chloe's performance in the final she sang "The Water is Wide." The first thing she plans to do with her winnings is to bring her father home from Edinburgh, where he is currently working, and she also plans to treat the family to a holiday in Orlando.

Waterford: An account of airline pilot Damien Behan's proposal to his fiancée Katie Kelly on Bonmahon beach has won the couple a wedding worth 7,000 €. A competition was run by the Timmy Ryan Breakfast Show on local radio for those who had a wedding booked for next year, with the winner to be judged by the best story of an engagement. Now Damien and Katie, who are due to marry in February next year, will not have to worry about wedding rings, the wedding cake, flowers, photography, and cars, as these will all be provided by wedding professionals in Waterford.

Westmeath: The sixty-five members of the Mullingar Town Band who travelled to Limerick last month to take part in the

From Roscommon to Wicklow

International Band Parade surprised themselves by coming home with three trophies. Under musical director Hubert Magee the band played in front of an estimated 30,000 people and were given the Overall Award. In addition, they took the titles of Best National Band and Best Musical Performance. The band members did not have time to rest on their laurels, however, as they were scheduled to march in St. Patrick's Day parades in Tullamore, Clara, Mullingar, Castlepollard, and Portlaoise.

Wexford: Four schoolteachers from Enniscorthy are planning to drive to Mongolia during their summer holiday to take funds raised in the intervening period to help disabled children. Joey Redmond, Andrew Wheelock, and brothers PJ and Liam Guinan have designated themselves Team Banjaxed and will be raising the money to help the children of the Bed-

ouin population that has settled around the Mongolian capital of Ulaanbataar. Already the team has held a fundraiser in the Millennium Bar in Davidstown, and they will also be holding table quizzes, barn dances a non-uniform days.

Wicklow: One person whose lifespan has obviously not been affected by her habit of smoking is Elizabeth Nolan from Baltinaglass, who celebrated her one hundredth birthday last month. Now resident in Baltinglass District Hospital, Elizabeth was raised in Tuckmill and married local man Joe Nolan. In addition to enjoying a bottle of Guinness, she also smoked for almost ninety years, having begun at the age of eight and giving them up just four years ago. At her party Elizabeth was joined by her three surviving children, nineteen grandchildren, forty great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren.



IRELAND'S WEATHER

REPORTED MONDAY, MARCH 29, 2010

BY LIAM FERRIE

It was yet another week of fine weather although we did have some heavy overnight rain on at least three nights. We had long periods of sunshine on most days.

That is all about to change. Temperatures are already on the way down and most days will be cold and damp. Showers on high ground could be of sleet or snow. Friday might bring some respite but it will be cold again on Saturday.

Latest Temperatures: Day 10C (50F).....Night 4C (39F)

The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

Cén t-am é? “What time is it?” Last month we began to learn how to tell time and what to say about who and when. We will continue this theme for the next lesson or two.

Cén t-am é? /ken tahm eh/ “What time is it?” Since the word for “o’clock” is taken from English you can answer ...

Trí a clog /tree uh klok/ or **trí a chlog** /tree uh hlog/ depending on the Irish speaker. We will stick with **a clog**.

To give the time in minutes you can say, **Deich tar éis a trí.** “Ten after three.” Or ...

Tá sé a deich tar éis a trí. “It’s ten after three.” Remember, when you add “It’s” you must insert the particle **a** before the minute number. Unstressed vowels are always pronounced like /uh/ as in English “the” (as opposed to “thee”). You will also hear **tar éis** /tahr EHS/ run together in rapid speech so it sounds like /tahrish/.

If it is before the hour, you can say, **Deich chun a trí** “Ten to (before) three.” Or ... **Tá sé a deich chun a trí.** “It’s ten (before) to three.”

The “half hour after” or “half past three” is **leathuair** /ley-oor/ **tar éis a trí.**

or again you can add “It’s” and say **Tá sé a leathuair tar éis a trí.** You are not likely to say, “It’s (a) half hour until/before five” but should the occasion arise simply substitute **chun** – **Tá sé a leathuair chun a cúig.**

You are more likely to say, “It’s a quarter past ...” or “A quarter to ...” The Irish word for “quarter” is **ceathrú** /KAAH-roo/.

Ceathrú tar éis a deich. “A quarter past ten.”

Tá sé a ceathrú chun a haon déag. “It’s a quarter to eleven.”

Recall that when you prefix **a** to **aon** or **ocht** they must become **haon** and **hocht** to keep the sounds from running together. Also remember that there is no Irish word for “a”, it is built in to the **noun**.

Now here are some other phrases that may come in handy:

“I was there before two.” **Bhí mé ann roimh a dó.**

Here **ann** /ahn/ means “there”. **Roimh** “before” is pronounced /reev/.

“She will be there between five and six o’clock.” **Beidh sí ann idir a cúig is a sé a clog.**

Idir “between” is pronounced /ED-uhr/.

Is is used to mean “and” instead of the more common **agus**.

“It’s after five o’ clock.” **Tá sé i ndiaidh a cúig.**

Here **diaidh** “after” is “eclipsed” because it follows the preposition **i**, “in”.

Lastly, here is a new sentence construction: **Cén t-am a bheidh an traein ag fág as Doire.**

“What time will the train be leaving for Derry.”

“What time is (the + **noun / pronoun**) + **ag** + **verbal noun phrase** + as + **noun**.”

Here are some verbal phrases that will fit in that “slot.”

fágáil as “leave for” **imigh as** “depart”

bualadh le “meet with” **teacht as** “come from”

Cén t-am a bheidh an bus ag fágáil as Corcaigh?

“What time will the bus leave for Cork?” – literally,

“What time will be the bus at leaving for Cork?”

You already know the names of some places – Dublin **Baile Atha Cliath**. Belfast **Béal Feirste**, Derry **Doire**, Cork **Corcaigh**. Here are a few more:

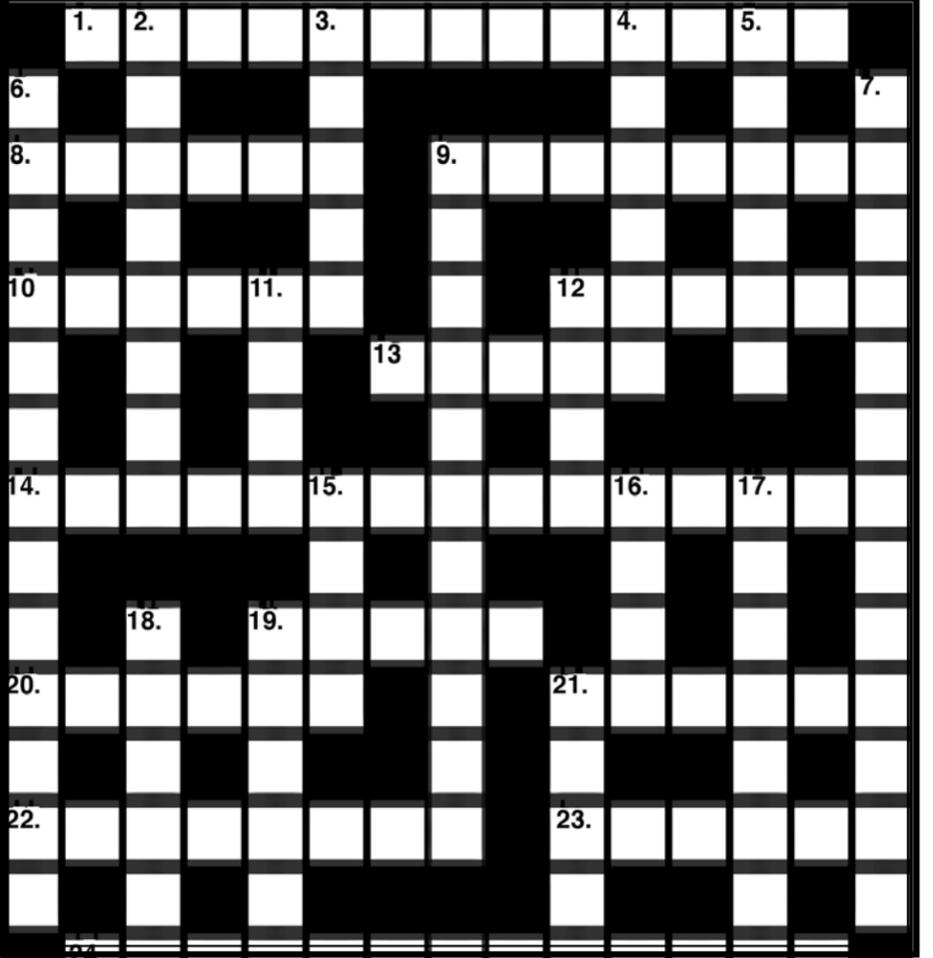
- | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| Galway | Gaillimh |
| Athlone | Baile Atha Luain |
| Waterford | Port Lairge |
| Limerick | Luimneach |
| Killarney | Cill Airne |
| Tralee | Trá Lí |

Now see if you can answer translate these into Irish. 1.) “What time will the bus leave for Killarney?” 2.) “It’s half past four.” 3.) “What time did the train arrive from Belfast?” 4.) “Seven o’clock.” 5.) “What is your name?” 6.) “I’m Kate.” 7.) “Are these your children?” 8.) “What time is it?” 9.) “When will we meet Patrick?” 10.) “Children, put your coats on!” 11.) “What time does the train arrive from Athlone?” 12.) “I’m from Waterford? Where are you from?” 13.) “What time did you meet Nora last night?” 14.) “It was a quarter to nine.” 15.) “Will Mary be at home from six to nine o’clock?”

Answers: 1.) **Cén t-am a bheidh an bus ag fágáil as Cill Airne?** 2.) **Tá sé a leathuair tar éis a ceathair.** 3.) **Cén t-am bhí an traein ag teacht as Béal Feirste?** 4.) **Seacht a clog.** 5.) **Cad is ainm duit?** 6.) **Is mise Céit.** 7.) **An bhfuil do chlann seo?** 8.) **Cén t-am é?** 9.) **Cén t-am bheidh ag bualadh le Pádraig?** 10.) **Leanaí, cuiribh na cóta orthu!** 11.) **Cén t-am a bheidh an traein ag teacht as Baile Atha Luain?** 12.) **Is mise as Port Lairge. Cad as tú?** 14.) **Bhí sé ceathrú chun a naoi.** 15.) **An mbeidh Maire idir a sé is a naoi a clog?**

CELTIC CROSS WORDS

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



IRELAND IN CROSSWORDS ©-bigwood.com

ACROSS

1. Or find chiller. (anag.) Stepchildren of Aoife whom she turned into Swans on Lough Derravaragh. (8,2,3)
8. Protection found in popular Mourne location. (6)
9. Pout face up until refreshment appears. (3,2,3)
10. Fry air? No, but reduce its pressure. (6)
12. Get up on hind legs about per can order. (6)
13. Impulses scrambled the last of the Carrickfergus letters. (5)
14. Then avoid by cute diversion around engineering work carrying the Dublin - Belfast rail line over Drogheda. (3,5,7)
19. Tree falls over after a century on Mediterranean island. (5)
20. Threw in at the Gaelic game? (6)
21. Make a quick grab for ants all over the small church. (6)
22. Stretch little Leonard starts, then finishes after note. (8)
23. Salty pool covered up back in Portnoo gallery. (6)
24. Sweet stew clan. (anag.) Limerick market town with a Knights Templars castle built in 1184. (9,4)

DOWN

2. Oh, lure me in disorder for Bill first proposed and lost by Gladstone in 1885 and passed in 1912. (4,4)
3. “Hail fellow, well met. All — — and wet: Find out, if you can, Who’s master, who’s man.” Swift. (5) 4. Storeys one knocks to the ground. (6)
5. Recite with a singing voice to nine others in Rosses Point one time. (6)
6. Hour train call. (anag.) Kerry mountain popularly ascended through the Hag’s Glen and up the Devil’s Ladder to the peak at 3,314 feet. (13)
7. Jests shame pen. (anag.) Irish writer and poet (1880-1950) who wrote ‘The Crock of Gold’. (5,8)
9. Owners latch up in neat Mayo village on the Sligo border. (11)
11. You must see the faithful dog in Glengarriff, I do insist. (4)
12. Ripe conversion of fairy on Greek roundabout. (4)
15. Squirrel’s home back in the American garden in pretty Ardmore. (4)

16. Last word in mean fashion. (4)
17. Greasy sun out over U.C. (8)
18. E.g. rang up Sligo village underneath Ben Bulbin on the Bundoran road opposite Inishmurray Island. (6)
19. “This goat-footed bard, this half-human visitor to our age from the hag-ridden magic and enchanted woods of — — — antiquity.” Baron Keynes - (describing Lloyd George) (6)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 23

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 friends 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.”
- “If you do not sow in the spring you will not reap in the autumn.”
- “Put silk on a goat, and it’s still a goat.”
- “Listen to the sound of the river and you will get a trout.”
- “A persons heart is in his feet.”
- “It is a long road that has no turning.”
- “Necessity knows no law.”
- “The wearer best knows where the shoe pinches.”
- “There is no luck except where there is discipline.”
- “The man with the boots does not mind where he places his foot.”
- “The light heart lives long.”
- True greatness knows gentleness.
- When wrathful words arise a closed mouth is soothing.

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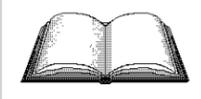
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Census – The First Seven Towers Anthology



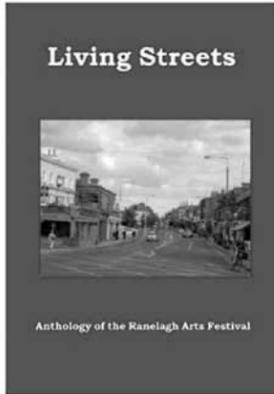
This book, which contains poetry, fiction, memoirs, and articles is a collaboration between the spoken word and the written word. All featured writers are committed to the public performance of their work. Contributors to Census are: Kildare poet Liam Aungier, Meath musician, broadcaster, journalist and poet Eamon Carr, Cork-based poet and screenwriter Paul Casey, Cavan poet and educator Tom Conaty, Dublin writer and Phantom FM DJ Steve Conway, Dublin poet, broadcaster and teacher Catherine Ann Cullen, Dublin writer, journalist, broadcaster and musician Conor Farrell, Wicklow writer Shane Harrison, New Zealand born and Dublin-based poet Ross Hattaway.

Also Galway poet and journalist Kevin Higgins, New York poet and novel-

ist R. Nemo Hill, Kildare writer Eileen Keane, Kerry actor and poet Noel King, Oklahoma born, New York-based poet Quincy R Lehr, Dublin born, Kerry-based writer Colm Lundberg, Dublin poet Éamonn Lynskey, Waterford born, Dublin-based writer Donal Moloney, Dublin artist, sculptor and poet Joe Moran, Dublin poet Anne Morgan, Tralee born, Wexford-based actor, director, producer, playwright and poet Noel O Briain, Kerry writer Tommy Frank O'Connor, Cork-based artist and poet Mel O'Dea, Limerick poet Eddie O'Dwyer, Dublin-based poet and playwright Fintan O'Higgins, Dublin-based poet Maeve O'Sullivan, Dublin-based poet Jessica Peart, New York poet Ray Pospisil, Dublin-based, San Francisco poet Raven, Dublin writer Oran Ryan, Kerry-based writer John W Sexton, Kerry poet Eileen Sheehan, Armagh born, Dundalk-based poet and essayist Barbara Smith, Cork poet Patricia Walsh and North Carolina poet Doog Wood.

Living Streets – An Anthology of the Ranelagh Arts Festival

“Living Streets” contains fiction, non-fiction, poetry and visual art work from the Ranelagh Arts Festival and features work from Bill Barich, Eamon

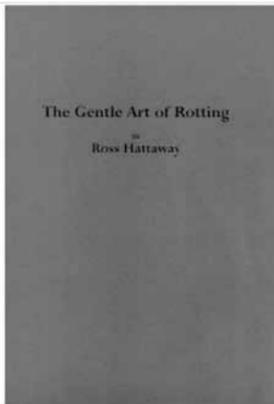


Carr, Evelyn Conlon, Tom Conaty, Anthony Cronin, Tony Gilmore, Pauline Hall, Ross Hattaway, Anne Haverty, Francis Hyland, Maeve Kelly, and Eamonn Lynskey.

Also, Aidan Matthews, Cláir Ní Aonghusa, Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin, Noel Ó Briain, Honor Ó Brolcháin, Louise O'Callaghan, Raven, Nollaig Rowan, James Ryan, Oran Ryan, David Scott, Luke Sheehan, Ronan Sheehan, Macdara Woods, Bohoe, Raghu Babu, Imelda Healy, Kate Horgan, Ann Murphy, Daragh Owens, Martin Parr, and Brigid Tiernan

The Gentle Art of Rotting

by Ross Hattaway



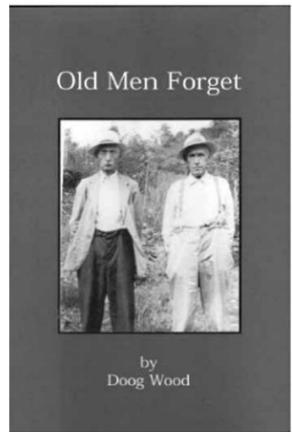
This is a collection of ‘High Country’ poetry, reflecting the dichotomy of the New Zealand High Country where starkness and beauty, economy and expression, machismo and inner sensitivity exist in a symbiotic yet sometimes uneasy relationship. Moving and humorous, these arresting poems reflect the origins and upbringing of the poet and the psychic landscape of New Zealand. “An exciting new collection of poetry,” said The Sunday Independent.

Old Men Forget

By Doug Wood

This is a powerful, concise, gripping, and humorous first collection by

North Carolina poet Doog Wood that gives a unique perspective on his forebears while describing in cameo form the dynamics of a close knit community. It tells the story of three of his forefathers, brothers who lived and worked the land in North Carolina. He creates through his work a living archive of these specific men and that specific time that manages to reach beyond that time to become universal stories, whose truths are our truths, too.

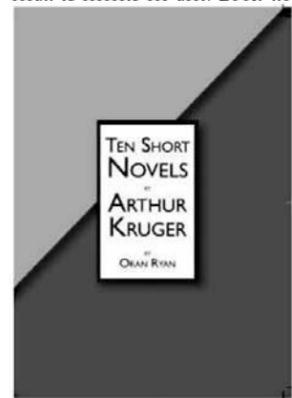


Ten Short Novels

By Arthur Kruger

“Ten Short Novels by Arthur Kruger” is Oran Ryan’s second novel. This novel circumvents the natural order of novel writing as it is written in a cubistic format and the series of short novels contained within the novel are written by the hero of the novel rather than the real-life author.

Each chapter takes a different life, giving ten different perspectives on Arthur Kruger, some as lived by Kruger after he kills himself and inexplicably finds himself alive after being hit by a train. Exploring themes like life, love and the after-life, Kruger, as the author, challenges the reader to question their understanding of existence. “Ten Short Novels” can be read as a possible journey into a mind in the grip of



a breakdown. Whichever way the reader experiences it, living life will never be the same again after reading Ten Short Novels by Arthur Kruger. Writer and actor Frank Kelly, who launched the novel, described it as a stimulating, enjoyable; it “made me chuckle with its wry Beckett-like humor.”

Scattering Day – 21 Sonnets and Other Poems

by Noel O Briain

Varied in form, idea, and philosophy, Noel’s multifaceted poems use free form and sonnets to address universal issues. In some cases, Noel uses historical incidences such as the Iraqi war and use of child soldiers in Palestine as a backdrop to his exploration of these issues. The poems are powerful, devastatingly honest and disturbingly intense, but also manage to be hilariously funny.



Eamon Mac Gearailt – The Forgotten Bard

By Noel O Briain

This biography of the fictional poet – mac Gearailt – comprises a fascinating study of the Irish traditions of story telling, replete with humor and wit, this slim volume will thrill and fascinate, as it will amuse...”

The Origami Crow: Journey into Japan, World Cup Summer 2002

By Eamon Carr

As a sports columnist for a Dublin daily, journalist Eamon Carr watched the unfolding drama of the 2002 World Cup finals firsthand in Japan.

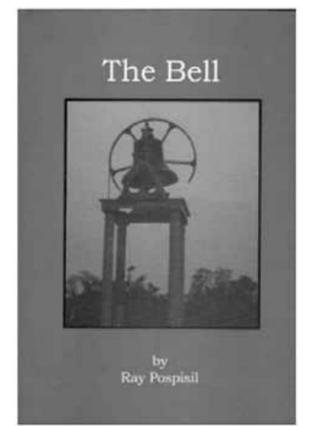
Yet, against the intense public spectacle of media attention following the controversial departure of Ireland captain Roy Keane, Carr followed his own private journey – a lifelong quest to visit the shrines and places of the famed poet Matsuo Basho, recognized master of haiku. In a volume of spare, elegant prose and his own haiku chronicling impressions and revelations of that journey, Carr explores the deep interrelationships found within the seeming contrasts of ancient and modern, nation and individual, crowd and solitude, loss and victory. Histories, memories and legends, as well as the wry personal observations of the weary working traveler, merge to create this profoundly moving narrative on the universal nature of grace and redemption.

The Bell

By Ray Pospisil

This first collection by the late Ray Pospisil has been called a “book of remarkable precision, feeling, and clarity filled with unforgettable poems. Of course it has become commonplace on book jackets to claim that the author manages to find the extraordinary within the ordinary, but for all the typicality of that praise, most poems that start ordinary end ordinary. Pospisil’s work, infused as it was with a restless imagination that never shied away when things turned too dark, managed to break through the chrysalis of mere coping to reveal a world that was more exquisite than one had reckoned, and at the same time far more disquieting...”

– Taken from the introductory speech given by Quincy R. Lehr at the launch of “The Bell” at the Nightingale Lounge Manhattan, New York, last June.



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PUZZLE SOLUTION FROM PAGE 21

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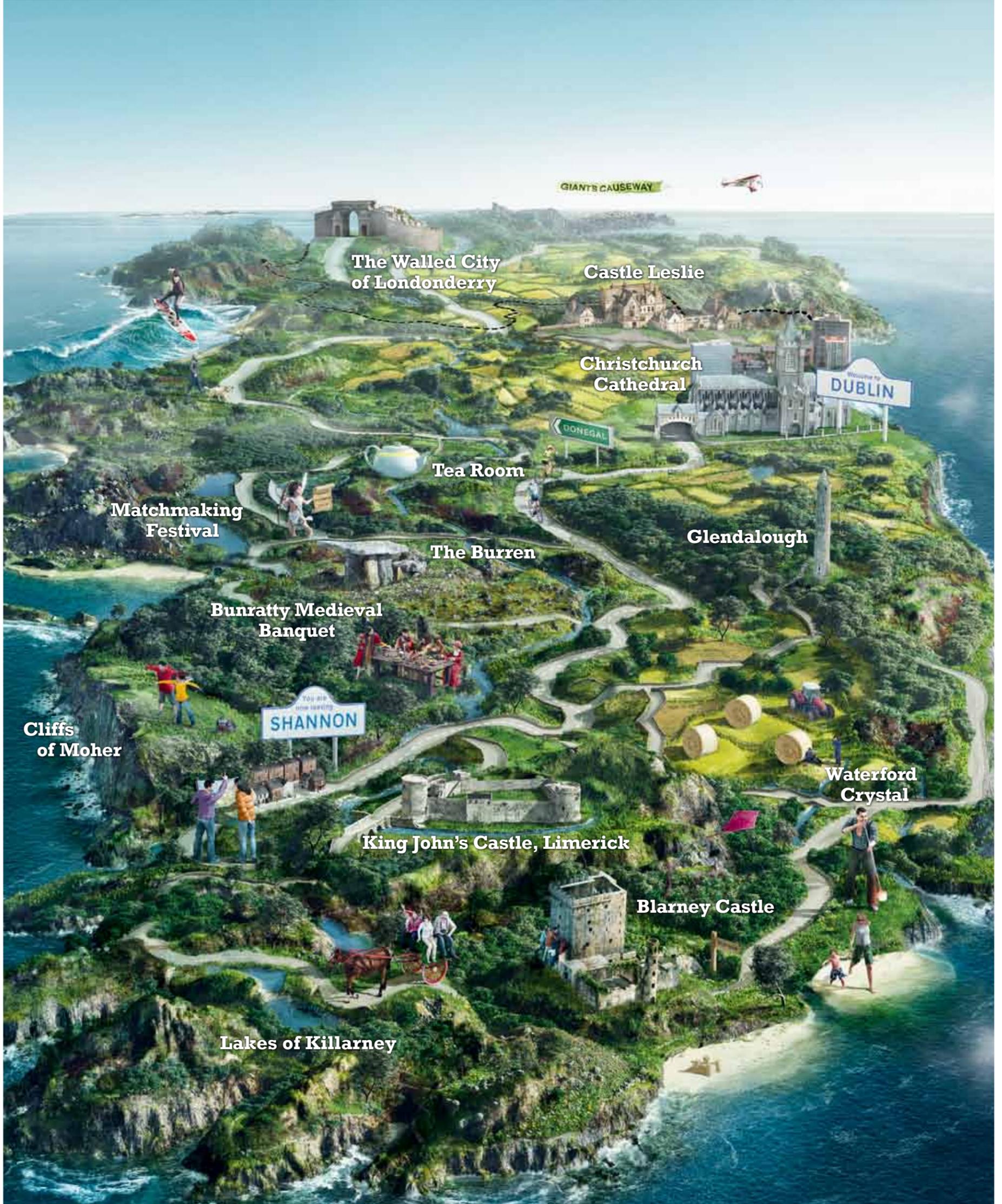
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