

June 2010  
VOL. 21 #6  
\$1.50

Boston's hometown  
journal of Irish  
culture.

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# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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## Greensward Challenge: Old Head Links in Kinsale

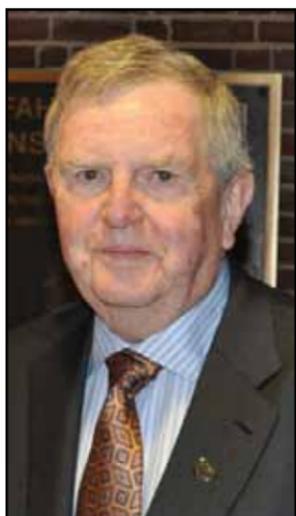


Looking down on the links at Old Head in Kinsale, Co. Cork, tells a golfer that a round at par will be hard in the making. *Photo courtesy Tourism Ireland*

### A Man For Others

Dr. Martin J. Dunn leaves little to chance when it comes to helping others cope with life's trials. "It's pay-back time," he said at a tribute to his life's work. "If people hadn't helped me, I wouldn't be here today."

See Pages 6, 7.



### O'Malley Gets 'Visitor' Assignment in Dublin

Boston's Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley has been asked by Pope Benedict to help the Archdiocese of Dublin as it continues to cope with heavy fallout from the clergy sexual abuse crisis in the Irish capital. While maintaining his Boston post, O'Malley, who is 65, will be an "apostolic visitor" to the Dublin see where he is expected "to explore more deeply questions concerning the handling of cases of abuse and the assistance owed to the victims" while monitoring "the effectiveness of and possible improvements to the current procedures for preventing abuse, according to a statement from the Vatican.



### Kelli O'Hara At The Pops

One of Broadway's most talented leading ladies, the Oklahoma-born Kelli O'Hara, will be saluting Cole Porter when she meets up with Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops this month (June 9-11).

See Page 10.



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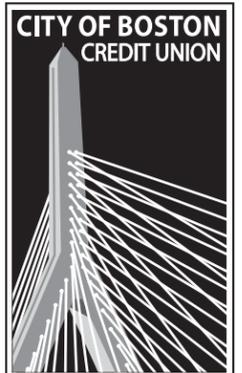
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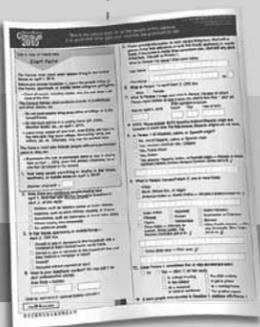
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## ON THE TOWN WITH THE BIR

**Rev. Daniel J. Finn**, pastor extraordinaire of St. Mark's Parish in Dorchester and a persistent advocate for immigrant rights and causes, especially Irish affairs, is now in the real estate business.

Four score and seven years after it was founded, his parish's grammar school will be closing its doors this month, a casualty, like so many other urban Catholic parochial schools, of a dramatic decline in attendance as memories of full-to-overflowing classrooms and streets chock full of involved parishioners fade into the far distance.

St. Mark's founding pastor, **Rev. John A. Daly**, opened the school in 1923, at a cost of about \$160,000, to accommodate the children of his rapidly growing flock of parishioners. In its school-week heyday, perhaps the 1940s and 1950s, when an addition was built, St. Mark's Grammar School was a Monday-Friday learning place for up to 1,000 students, mostly Irish Catholic, all led in lessons and prayer by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.



But that was then and this is now, a time of retrenchment and consolidation for the once-broad school system of the archdiocese of Boston. As student numbers, and any sight of a teaching nun, dwindled to a precious few over the last few decades, it became clear that something had to give, and it did.

Dorchester now has the Pope John Paul II Academy, its resources spread over five neighborhood campuses. St. Mark's was to have been the sixth campus, "but the numbers didn't work for us," said Father Finn. "Five campuses made sense, six was one too many."

While most of the students who are leaving St. Mark's and not going into high school have found seats in other Academy schools, Father Finn has moved into the real estate business.

"I'm supposed to find a buyer or a renter for the school building," he said in an interview last month. "Thank God I have some help from parishioners and friends who work in development and rehabilitation. It's just not clear to me at this point what will come of things. It's not easy to market a large building built for specific educational purposes."

Possibilities hardly abound for a building with aging ramps and stairs, floors of classrooms and a few offices. Affordable housing? That's what's happening in Dorchester on the old St. Kevin's parish grounds in Uphams Corner and on the St. Peter's property on Meetinghouse Hill. A charter school? "We had one in the convent years back, but that would be unlikely for the school building given the presence of Pope JP II Academy schools nearby," said the pastor. A home for a non-profit like the College Bound Dorchester program that now rents the convent and the downstairs church space for its operations? "That would be a nice thing to happen for us," he said, "but I don't really have a sense of their overall hopes and needs and if a space like the school is right for them. Right now is a time of exploration for me and the parish; we'll just have to see what we can do. When we were thinking we would be the sixth campus, we had all sorts of plans drawn up for the building and the property and a new traffic flow, but that's all moot now and we have to move on."

Meanwhile the parish keeps on keeping on. "This is a vibrant place with an ethnic mix that is exciting to me and, in their attention to church activities, good for the parish," said the pastor. "I wouldn't want to be anywhere else."

The archdiocese is respecting Father Finn's wishes and then some. He'll be staying in Dorchester at St. Mark's but Cardinal Sean O'Malley has asked him to help the cause by taking on the pastorate of St. Ambrose Parish, which is situated a mile north of St. Mark's in the Fields Corner neighborhood. He is now on the case.

Be it pastoral care, immigrant advocacy, real estate brokering, fund-raising, Dan Finn is an energetic, 24/7 man and priest, no doubt about it.

— TOM MULVOY



The Irish Cultural Centre celebrated its 20th anniversary last month with a gala reception at its campus in Canton. At left, ICC Board President Michael O'Connor enjoyed the ambiance with the Bay State's junior U.S. Senator, Scott Brown, while above, Mrs. Margaret Geraghty, one of the Center's original board members, relished the sunshine on the Center's new deck. See Brett's Boston, Page 7.

Photos courtesy the ICC.

**Bono's back injury delays US tour dates** – U2 has been forced to postpone 16 North American shows and cancel this month's Glastonbury appearance as leader of the band **Bono** has been told to rest and recuperate for the next eight weeks following back surgery last week. It emerged late last month that emergency surgery carried out in Munich saved the singer from possible paralysis after he injured his back during rehearsals for the second leg of the U2 360 tour.

**A piloting family:** Aer Lingus pilot **Captain Grainne Cronin** made her final flight to Boston on Mon., May 24, en route to retirement after 33 years of service. Cronin was just 22 when she became an Aer Lingus pilot in 1977, following in the footsteps of her father **Felim**, who was among her final passengers on the Boston flight. Aer Lingus was the second airline in Europe to employ female pilots after SAS. From Malahide in Dublin, Cronin and her father are not the only family members to become high fliers: Her sister **Caroline** is a pilot with Ryanair; her husband, **Neil Johnston**, is also a pilot; her daughters, **Alana and Louisa**, both hold private pilot's licences while Louisa has recently completed her training as a commercial pilot.

**Dublin quality hailed** – Dublin has been ranked ahead of London and Paris in a world-wide survey measuring quality of life. The 2010 Mercer Quality of Living city rankings report ranks the Irish capital as



**U2 has postponed sixteen North American shows due to Bono's back surgery.**

Photo via U2 website

No. 26 in its listing of best cities in the world in which to live. Vienna remains at the top of the pile, followed by Zurich, Geneva, Vancouver, and Auckland. It came as no surprise that Baghdad ranked at the very bottom.

**16th Irish person scales Everest** – **Vivian Rigney** has become the sixteenth Irish person to reach the summit of Mount Everest. The 39-year-old Stepside, Co Dublin, native conquered the world's highest mountain on May 23 with his climbing team and in doing so completed the Seven Summits challenge by scaling the highest peaks on all seven continents. He is understood to be only the fourth Irish climber to complete the Summits tour. Rigney lives and works in New York where he is an executive coach.

**Singing toddler becomes YouTube sensation**

– Two-year-old **Ella O'Brien** is set to smash internet records as her rendition of Justin Bieber's hit *Baby* has received close to a million hits over five days on YouTube. The toddler's cousin **Maria** captured Ella, from Greenmount in Cork, on film singing along to the song while jumping on a bed. The footage was originally posted on Facebook for family members to view but later uploaded to YouTube after a very positive reaction to the youngster's antics. Ella's parents are amazed at the complimentary comments posted by the site's viewers from across the globe. One viewer said he preferred Ella's version to the original deeming the two-year-old a better singer than Bieber. Her uncle, **John O'Brien**, said they have a second clip of Ella singing a new Bieber song but will hold off on posting it so as not to take attention away from her first clip.

**Births hit 25-year-high** – The Irish population has soared to its highest level since 1862, reaching 4.339 million, according to the latest report from the Central Statistics Office (CSO). Ireland has the highest fertility rate in the European Union with an average of 2.05 children per woman, with births soaring to their highest level in over 25 years. Some 71,389 babies were born in Ireland in 2007, almost 6,000 more than the previous year, and higher than at any time since 1981. August is the most popular month for births, with significantly more births in the second half of the year than in the first. France has the highest fertility rate at 1.98 after Ireland, followed by 1.92 in the UK. The statistics also revealed that one third of births are now outside marriage and almost 44 per cent of first-time mothers were unmarried. Nearly one-in-five births were to immigrants, the figures reveal.

## 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](mailto:calendar@BostonIrish.com) and please include a daytime contact name and telephone number.

**June 11-13** – Worcester Irish Music Festival, Hibernian Cultural Centre & Fiddlers' Green, 19 Temple Street, Worcester. [worcesteririshmusicfestival.com](http://worcesteririshmusicfestival.com).

**June 14** – JFK Forum: Time Magazine, Henry Luce and the American Century. John F. Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum Columbia Point, Boston. 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. | Free | Register: 1-866-JFK-1960 | [jfklibrary.org](http://jfklibrary.org).

Columbia University History Professor Alan Brinkley discusses his new biography of Henry Luce with Harvard Professor Jill Lepore.

**June 19** – John Boyle O'Reilly Commemoration, Holyhood Cemetery, Brookline. 11 a.m. [massaoh.org](http://massaoh.org) The Annual

John Boyle O'Reilly Commemoration is sponsored by the Mass State Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Reception to follow at Division 14 Watertown, 151 Watertown Street. Robert Bateman, Past State & National Historian and Member of Division 8 in Lawrence will be the guest speaker.

**June 19** – Irish Cultural Centre of New England takes a look back with a presentation on the Irish War of Independence. By our board of directors and WROL host Seamus Mulligan. Begins at 5:30 p.m., with cocktails and appetizers followed by the presentation. We will then move to an Irish buffet dinner and a viewing of *The Wind That Shakes the Barley*, a moving drama that shows two brothers fighting to reconcile clashing ideas with

family loyalties.

Tickets: \$25 ICC Members/\$30 Non-Members. To purchase tickets, please call 781-821-8291. Irish Cultural Centre of New England 200 New Boston Dr, Canton, Massachusetts, 02021

**July 17** – 8th annual Blackstone Valley Celtic Festival. Indian Ranch Performance Center, 200 Gore Road, Route 16, Webster. 1-800-841-0919 | [blackstonevalleycelticfestival.com](http://blackstonevalleycelticfestival.com). A great one-day festival packed with top bands, step dancers, competitions, and vendors, all in a beautiful setting. Free Parking. Shuttle bus (\$2) encouraged please.

**July 23-25** – 24th Annual Lowell Summer Music Festival, Boarding House Park, 40 French Street, Lowell. Free.

Donations welcome | 978 970-5200 | [lowellsummermusic.org](http://lowellsummermusic.org). The festival features six stages of traditional ethnic music, authentic crafts demonstrations, ethnic foods, art and children's activities.

**August 2-6** – Children's Celtic Camp at Irish Cultural Centre of New England. A fun and educational program for children grades 1-8. Experience the fun of Irish tradition and culture through dance, music, literature and more! Please call 781-821-8291 for more information. Space is limited, register early! The camp is still seeking teachers and junior counselors for the 2010 season. For more information and job descriptions please send an e-mail to Louise O'Shea at [louiseoshea@irishculture.org](mailto:louiseoshea@irishculture.org).

## Publisher's Notebook

## Bulger Plea: Get Involved

By ED FORRY

Former UMass President Bill Bulger was guest speaker last month at a community breakfast hosted by Mt. Washington Bank. Speaking to a gathering of some 300 local business and civic leaders, Bulger used the occasion to voice a lament for the current tone of public discourse in public issues. Here's an abridged version of his remarks:

"The ancient Greeks gave us this system of government. They worked very hard to give us a representative democracy, something that was brand new. All around them were these dictatorships and all the rest, but these Athenians wanted no part of that. They wanted to create a government that represented the people who were ruled by that government. It was heroic and it serves as a model for all of us.



Ed Forry

"Pericles, a serious political leader, talked about a system of representative government. 'We serve as a model for others,' he said. 'In Athens politics is serious business. And we say that those who do not involve themselves in the political lives of their community are useless.'

"That was his word, a strong word -- useless. And now here we are in the United States and so frequently we disparage every single person who has involved himself in politics. Rightly. Wrongly. I don't say that to dismiss criticism; it has its place. But it becomes something more than that, sad to say, frequently. We know that we need you, the people in this room, involved in the political life of this community. I urge you to become part of that. It is so important to us.

"When we talk about the economy -- and some of these talkmasters, they will be picking on a toll taker on the turnpike; he's the cause of all of our woes. A large part of the cause of our woes stems from a decision made by the executive branch of this government without the Congress. And that's the invasion of Iraq. We have been at it for almost a decade now and it's costing us a fortune, not just in human terms but in our national treasure.

"I never understood what justified the invasion of Iraq. I remember being at Harvard (in a class) with William Kristol, who said, 'We should invade Iraq.' I knew so little about it, but I could honestly take the position that we were not yet justified for an invasion. Remember Hans Blix? He said there were no weapons of mass destruction that we could find; do not invade. And yet there was this eagerness to invade on the part of so many people in our government.

"If the Congress were doing its job at the time -- the Constitution is crystal clear: It is for the Congress to declare war, no one else. But the Congress did not do its job. The president came and asked the Congress for some kind of joint resolution -- in 2002 -- to empower the president to go to war, and it was built on a chain of really frightening ifs. If Iraq succeeds in creating WMDs. If Iraq attacks the United States with nuclear weapons. Or if Iraq gave haven to terrorists or if the terrorists use them, then the extreme magnitude of harm that would result would justify a preemptive resort to military attack.

"All the fear and panic generated by these frightening 'ifs' and the desire to pay someone back for the pain inflicted by the attacks of September 11 resulted in Congress's really supine delivery of what was demanded of them.

"We do have some huge problems, but the Iraq war, not some toll taker on the pike [is the cause]. The invasion was not necessary to our national security. The cost in human and financial terms to the country has been devastating.

"The country needs people like yourselves to be involved. If we are going to have a government that is of the people and by the people, then all of the people should be involved in it. I urge that upon you today."

## Commentary

## Election Fallout Stirs Talk of a Union of Unionists

By ROBERT P. CONNOLLY  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

For years, the political playbook for Northern Ireland's unionists stressed saber-rattling and offering up the hardest of hard-line stands.

After all, the party that dominated unionist politics for decades, the Ulster Unionist Party, once had its armed wing and in the aftermath of partition made clear that Northern Ireland was a Protestant state and that Catholics were a barely tolerated and little-trusted enemy within the North's borders.

From its inception in 1971, the Democratic Unionist Party, founded and led by the volcanic Ian Paisley, chipped away at the UUP by depicting it as being too soft on Dublin, nationalism, and Catholics in general. The DUP's relentless hammering finally bore fruit in 2003, when it supplanted the UUP as the North's leading unionist party.

Withering rhetoric and sharp elbows still seemed to be the key to political success for Northern Ireland unionists. But all of that seemed to change last month, when unionist voters went to the polls in the British parliamentary election and appeared to endorse a more moderate and constructive



Robert P. Connolly

approach.

The biggest loser in the election was the political start-up known as the Traditional Unionist Voice, founded in 2007 by former members of the DUP outraged by the DUP's surprising decision to serve in government with representatives of former arch-enemy Sinn Fein.

Many political observers thought that the TUV could soar in last month's election and might even take the Westminster seat being vacated by the retiring Paisley. But in the end, the TUV took only 4 percent of the vote across Northern Ireland and was demolished in the North Antrim constituency where Ian Paisley Jr. trounced TUV leader Jim Allister, polling 19,672 votes to Allister's 7,114.

Meanwhile, a progressive unionist, Lady Sylvia Hermon, retained her North Down seat after breaking with the UUP over an election pact the party had formed with Britain's Conservative Party. Hermon, saying she was more in tune with Labor, ran as an independent and took nearly two thirds of the votes cast in her constituency.

Overall, the election was wipeout for the once-proud Ulster Unionist Party, which did not claim a single parliamentary seat and saw its party leader, Sir Reg Empey, go down in flames in his own race.

## News Background

## Taoiseach Thinks Economy Has Reached Turning Point

Taoiseach Brian Cowen believes there are signs of recovery and said he believes the economy "has reached a turning point". Speaking in Athlone to a regional Fianna Fáil meeting on May 29, Cowen said that Enterprise Ireland would create 40,000 new jobs over the next five years, leading to the creation of an additional 28,000 jobs elsewhere in the economy. The Taoiseach said the challenge now is to move with confidence and ambition into a new phase of recovery and renewal. This surge of optimism comes only days after he was forced to defend his actions following the announcement of the loss of 200 jobs at the medical devices manufacturer, Covidien, in his constituency town of Tullamore, Co Offaly. The Taoiseach said he had spoken to the US-based CEO, Rich Meelia, who he said had reassured him the company was committed to Ireland and to Tullamore. Covidien is the biggest private employer in the town with 650 employees.

### Crisis in tourism: visitors down 3,500 a day

The latest figures show the tourism industry here has been hard hit by the worldwide recession, losing a staggering 100,000 visitors each month so far this year. The Central Statistics Office study showed 354,400 fewer tourists visited Ireland between January and March, a drop of 23 per cent on the previous year to 1.084 million. St Patrick's Day celebrations in March failed to attract the tourists as numbers arriving in Ireland declined by 18 per cent during the month to 434,200, down 3,500 per day. However, the figures show the number of tourists from North America fell by just 3 per cent for the first three months, while visitors from other long-haul destinations increased by 11 per cent. Irish people are also making fewer trips abroad but the fall is much less dramatic. People made 543,100 trips abroad in March, down only 4 per cent since last year and for the first three months of the year, overseas trips fell by 7 per cent.

### Major drugs supplier arrested

A major international operation involving 700 police officers across five countries led to the arrests of Dublin drugs baron Christy Kinahan and 33 others on May 24 in what is considered to be a major blow to a key gang supplying drugs and weapons across Europe. The operation, codenamed Shovel, centred on an Irish-led international crime cartel based in southern Spain and resulted in 22 arrests in Spain, 11 in the UK,

The Democratic Unionist Party went into the election holding nine of Northern Ireland's eighteen Westminster seats and saw that number slip to eight seats. But the loss was a big one, with party leader and Northern Ireland First Minister Peter Robinson shockingly going down to defeat in Belfast East. Political analysts rightly observed that Robinson's loss had more to do with a set of difficult personal issues swirling around him than with ideology or the major issues of the day.

Pointing to the poor performance of the hardline TUV, Jeffrey Donaldson, a DUP member of parliament re-elected last month, said: "The TUV was wiped off the political map. The message contained within their defeat was that the unionist community by and large supports the settlement at Stormont."

Perhaps the most interesting question arising out of the election is: Where does unionism go from here?

With the UUP in disrepair and with the sharp differences that once divided the UUP and the DUP now gone, some wonder whether this is the moment to create a single unionist party that would constitute a united front for the preservation of the union as the nationalist population in Northern Ireland continues to grow.

While the ideological differences have faded in the aftermath of the elder Paisley's decision to go into government with Sinn Fein, the residue of the cultural differences between the parties still exists, although that would not seem to be an insurmountable problem.

As the dust from the election was settling, Robert Saulters, the leader of the Orange Order, the iconic Protestant fraternal organization, pointed to the need for unionist unity. "We will continue to dilute the union if we fight and bicker among ourselves," said Saulters, who added: "Personally, I believe there should be one big unionist party which represents all the views that I hear. It must be a party that is big enough and modern enough to allow people with conflicting opinions to work together for the common purpose of maintaining the union."

Certainly, it would not be easy to unite two parties that have battled for unionist supremacy for decades, although there is plenty of motivation for the UUP and the DUP to head to the altar.

Particularly galvanizing is the specter of Sinn Fein winning the most seats in next year's Northern Ireland Assembly election, which would result in former Irish Republican Army chieftain Martin McGuinness moving up to become First Minister.

In last month's election, Sinn Fein won 25.5 percent of the vote, only fractionally better than the DUP's 25 percent, but certainly catching the eyes of unionists who must now face the prospect of a former IRA man driving past the statue of Carson, walking in the footsteps of Craig, and becoming the face of Northern Ireland.

and one in Dublin as well as searches in Belgium and Brazil. The main target of the dawn raids -- convicted drug dealer Christy Kinahan who is considered to be the main supplier of drugs to Ireland -- was arrested in his luxury 6-million euro villa in Estepona, on the Spanish coast, near Gibraltar.

### Priest convicted of abusing three sisters

Father Eugene Lewis, former provincial superior of the White Fathers order, was convicted in Omagh Crown Court on May 26 of sexually abusing three sisters almost 50 years ago. In the course of the six-week trial, the court heard the serious sex attacks were carried out in the family home after the priest had wormed his way into the family through another, innocent cleric. The priest often chose to visit at bedtime or on Saturday when the girls were bathing. One of the girls also levelled allegations of abuse occurring at the Tempogue, Co Dublin base of the White Fathers after her parents sent her to him when they discovered she had an affair with a married policeman. However, these allegations were not the subject of charges as they fell outside the jurisdiction of the court. The court found him guilty of 11 counts of indecently assaulting the three sisters on dates between August 1963 and September 1973. Lewis, who had previously dismissed the allegations as "absolute rubbish," will be sentenced next month.

### Cowen opens last section of Dublin to Cork bypass

Taoiseach Brian Cowen cut the ribbon on the last section of the Dublin to Cork motorway on Friday. The opening of the final 40km of motorway from Portlaoise to Cullahill in Co Laois will bypass the commuter towns of Abbeyleix, Durrow and Cullahill. Developed at a cost of 2.6-billion euro, the 253-kilometer route is the longest of five major inter-urban routes designed to link Dublin with the regional cities and the Border. The opening will reduce the journey time from Dublin's infamous Red Cow roundabout to Cork's Dunkettle Interchange from about three hours to two hours twenty minutes. The shortened travel time for the new 253-kilometre city centre to city centre trip is a long way from the 1980s when the average journey time took between four hours and thirty minutes and five hours.

— AS REPORTED IN THE IRISH EMIGRANT



## BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

The Boston Irish Reporter is published monthly by:

Boston Neighborhood News, Inc.,  
150 Mt. Vernon St., Suite 120, Dorchester, MA 02125  
[news@bostonirish.com](mailto:news@bostonirish.com) [www.bostonirish.com](http://www.bostonirish.com)

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Date of Next Issue: July, 2010

Deadline for Next Issue: Friday, June 18, at 2 p.m.

Published monthly in the first week of each month.

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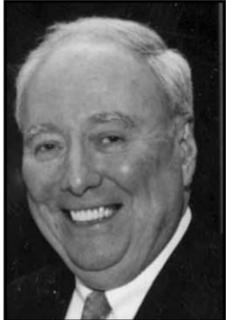
## Commentary

## Positive Change in Northern Ireland: A Steady Rise in Nationalist Vote

By JOE LEARY  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The recent British Parliamentary elections indicate a dramatic new phase in Northern Ireland's journey towards peaceful change. New leaders in London, a continuing increase in Nationalist/Republican votes, Unionist parties in disarray, and the promise of lower corporate tax rates all portend change. It appears much is happening to set the stage for movement towards a United Ireland.

The success of the two Nationalist/Republican political parties, Sinn Fein and the Social Democratic Labor Party (SDLP), both aggressively advocating Northern



Joe Leary

Ireland unity with the Republic of Ireland, was seen in many of the 18 constituencies where the election was fought.

SDLP member of Parliament Alasdair McDonnell, who was considered very lucky to have won his seat five years ago because of a split Unionist vote, tallied more votes than the combined opposition in South Belfast in winning this time (with the help of brother Nationalists in Sinn Fein).

Similarly, Sinn Fein's Michelle Gildernew, in the Fermanagh and South Tyrone constituency, beat the Unionist consensus candidate Rodney Connor after three recounts by a very small margin – four votes. Unionists, with help from London, had great hope for this district and although the margin was small it was a major victory for Sinn Fein and all Nationalists.

Mark Durkan, retiring head of the SDLP, maintained his seat in parliament with a clear victory in his city of Derry. One of the noteworthy elements of this election was the combined Nationalist vote of 76.6 percent in his constituency. Margaret Ritchie, the new leader of the SDLP, was elected to the British Parliament, taking fellow SDLP member Eddie McGrady's long-held seat in South Down and giving the resurgent SDLP a total of three British Parliament seats.

Gerry Adams, the leader of Sinn Fein, was re-elected overwhelmingly, gathering 71.1 percent of the vote, an astounding figure that indicates strong personal approval for his leadership within his West Belfast district. The total Nationalist/Republican vote in West Belfast was 87.5 percent. Martin McGuinness, running in the Mid-Ulster district, won 52 percent of the vote and the other nationalist candidate received 14.3 percent for a total of 66.3 percent of the vote for unity with the Republic.

In the biggest surprise of all in the North, the leader of the hard line Unionists, Peter Robinson of the DUP,

lost his seat to Naomi Long of the Alliance Party, which tries to set itself as an alternative between Unionists and Nationalists. Long's win was anticipated by no one. The other unionist leader, Sir Reg Empey of the more moderate Ulster Unionists, also lost in this election, leaving the entire Unionist side without a clear leader, a disastrous situation for Unionism and its pursuit of maintaining and strengthening ties with the United Kingdom.

In total, the Nationalist/Republican side elected eight members of the British Parliament (five Sinn Fein, three SDLP) for the first time equaling the eight elected by the Unionists. Sinn Fein, though it actively pursues election to the Parliament, refuses to pledge allegiance to the Queen and therefore does not take its seats.

To be objective it should be recognized that the Unionist vote, if organized as a single party, would surpass the Nationalist vote, assuming all Alliance Party votes and all Independent votes were Unionist. Certainly the majority of these votes would be Unionist, but some would not. In this election those who voted Unionist and those who voted Nationalist were about tied.

According to the Belfast Telegraph, Robert Saulters head of the notoriously divisive Orange Order, has begun to call for "one big Unionist Party." This may become a reality soon, especially if the Nationalist parties continue to succeed. A powerful reason for Unionists to join together is the prospect of either Gerry Adams or Martin McGuinness being elected First Minister of Northern Ireland – a thought even now causing great difficulty in the Unionist community.

It appears undeniable, however, that each election adds strength to the future prospect of a United Ireland.

In fallout from the election the United Kingdom's new Prime Minister, David Cameron, has appointed Owen Paterson as his Northern Ireland Secretary of State. In a surprise, Paterson has announced that he is studying the idea of devolving corporate tax authority to Northern Ireland to make them more competitive with the Republic of Ireland's 12.5 percent -- another step in removing a barrier between the North and South. This move has been tenaciously resisted by hardline Unionists but more and more Northern Ireland business men have been recommending it as a solution to the nearly complete dependency of financial aid from London in operating Northern Ireland society.

Paterson said that state spending – meaning the British government – represents 77.6 percent of GDP in Northern Ireland, meaning that Northern Ireland as a free standing state or even province is economically unsustainable. The new conservative government may be sending up trial balloons with this tax idea since they are facing huge deficits in England, Scotland, and Wales.

The prospect of a unified tax system throughout Ireland would be a major step towards unification.

## Off the Bench

## Whatever Became of John McCain?

By JAMES W. DOLAN  
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

There is no denying that Senator John McCain is a true American hero. He was badly injured when shot down over North Vietnam and then endured five years of imprisonment, deprivation, and torture. He said he "broke," but if so, it was only after resisting to a point far beyond what could reasonably be expected of anyone.

The son and grandson of admirals and an Annapolis graduate, McCain was a natural leader with a fighter pilot's devil-may-care flair for the bold and unexpected. After the war, he eventually became an effective Navy lobbyist in Washington where he was introduced to the trappings of political power.

Retiring from the Navy as a captain, he married an heiress after a divorce from his first wife and moved to Arizona where he began his political career and was eventually elected to the U.S. Senate as a Republican. He soon became the darling of the media with his independence, candor, sense of humor, and willingness to shake up the establishment.

He brought a fighter pilot's audacity to the often stodgy, predictable, and boring business of the Congress. Obviously enjoying the role of "maverick," he joined with Democrats in pushing progressive immigration legislation and was a strong advocate for campaign finance reform. Guns-a-blazing, he targeted "earmarks," swooping down on wasteful items slipped into the budget by senators of both parties.

Then something happened. The first sign of a dramatic change was the naming of Sarah Palin as his vice-presidential running mate in the last election. It was a move, more desperate than bold; a signal that he was willing to name an obviously unqualified, first-term governor in Alaska whom he barely knew as his possible successor. All in an effort to rescue his faltering campaign. Was he that ambitious? Did he really want to be president that badly?

He took the loss hard and then set his sights on his re-election campaign. But the party and the country had moved to the right, in no small part due to Gov. Palin's rising popularity and the incipient Tea Party

movement. J.D. Hayworth, a former Arizona congressman and conservative talk show host, announced he would run against McCain and began attacking him for his independence, progressive views, and willingness to consort with liberals.

Now 73, the old fighter pilot was in a quandary. Should he go down fighting or should he "modify" his views in an effort to assure his re-election? It was a tough decision; having lost the presidential race, he now faced losing his Senate seat. The old McCain would have said the hell with it, climbed into his cockpit, and flown the mission, even knowing he wasn't coming back.

The decision was easier then – duty, honor, country. There was no turning back in the face of the enemy. But this was a different enemy, a more subtle and insidious foe. Ambition, celebrity, influence, and power can sap the strength of the very strong. Those who, under different circumstances, could take a beating or a bullet are often powerless to resist the ego's siren song. It is the difference between physical and moral courage.

Unfortunately, McCain joined a long list of politicians who were only too willing to sacrifice what they stood for rather than themselves. He even abandoned and then denied being a "maverick," a title he so obviously relished. Political survival became more important to him than the survival he risked so often as a naval aviator.

As an admirer of the old McCain, I would have preferred that he confront these new enemies with the same strength and defiance he displayed when facing his North Vietnamese interrogators.

I wish he had said: "Rather than abandon those principles in which I believe and for which I have fought, I am prepared to lose this election. Remaining in office is not as important to me as standing up for what I believe is right for my country. If that is not enough then so be it; for it is duty, honor, and country I hold dear, not the personal fate of this old warrior."

*James W. Dolan is a retired Dorchester District Court judge who now practices law. His e-mail address is [jdolan@dolanconnly.com](mailto:jdolan@dolanconnly.com).*

## Commentary

## A death in Our Family: Aunt Elinor (1914-2010)

By TOM MULVOY  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Last Saturday morning, two days shy of her 96th birthday, Elinor (Harrington) Barron died where she had prayed she would – in her home of 52 years in the Waban neighborhood of Newton. It was the end of a life that began in May 1914, three months before the Guns of August announced the beginning of The Great War, and that endured through close to a century's worth of turmoil and high drama in the larger world.

In the smaller world where families live and work and have children, my Aunt Elinor was for ten decades an active participant in the comings and goings of a large Dorchester family that saw closeness as a virtue even as it grew to number dozens of members.

### Middle child in family of seven

Elinor was the fourth of seven children born to Frank and Elizabeth Harrington, who had a home in Dorchester on Allston Street, a couple of blocks down from Codman Square and just about as far from the family's second home, St. Mark's Church on the avenue. The Harringtons were all Dorchester as the years moved into the '20s and the '30s and '40s: Elizabeth often played the organ at St. Mark services, Frank worked in the Post Office at Fields Corner, a brisk walk down and back to home on good days, and the children attended local schools and were very much engaged in parish activities like the choir, the Scouts program, the Holy Name Society, and the womens' Sodality.

### Add independence to a joie de vivre

The middle child in a family always on the go, and, over time, very productive (28 grandchildren for Frank and Elizabeth), Elinor learned to adapt from early on as she showed a joie de vivre that was contagious and an independence that later on made her a go-to aunt for the stories behind the story of the Allston Street Harringtons.

That independence found her in the 1940s working at the Barron-Anderson Topcoat Co. down near South Station. There she met a scion of the enterprise, Harry Barron, who soon enough proposed marriage, a notion that carried an arresting fact for El's family and friends and neighbors back in St. Mark's Parish: Harry was Jewish.

So at a time when students in Catholic schools like St. Mark's Grammar School were being taught by the nuns of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur that the Jews had killed Jesus Christ, here was Elinor Harrington marrying a Jewish man.

### Sacred vows, clinical ceremony

The process of making such a marriage official and sacramental in the Roman Catholic Church of 1947 seems outlandish 63 years later, but rules were rules. The church itself was out of bounds, and the assigned parish curate refused to officiate, so Elinor and Harry made their vows quietly in front of a friend, Rev. Bob Adams, in the waiting room of the parish rectory with only her siblings, Anna and Vincent, in attendance to witness a clinical private ceremony.

So now all the Harrington grandchildren would have a Jewish uncle and as time went by until Harry died in 1989 after 42 years of marriage, his in-laws and his 24 nieces and nephews were graced with the presence in their lives of a fine and generous man, husband, and involved father of four of our cousins, Paul and Bobby and Richie and Joanie, the aspersions cast on his faith so long ago assigned firmly to the ashcan of history by those of us who came to know and love him.

### Lessons in tolerance, the value of true love

So it was that Aunt El gave us all a lesson in tolerance and in the high value of true love and she has left her children and their families and her larger family with the clear memory of a life well and properly lived while she was raising her children, helping out at her church, volunteering for community affairs and at Newton-Wellesley Hospital, and loving Harry.

On Saturday, it was time finally to slip away from her family. She leaves her children, her sister, Mary Louise Harrington Cyr, who is, at 89, the last of the Allston Street Harringtons, and with whom she talked daily over all the years of their lives together.

Elinor's funeral Mass was said yesterday at St. Philip Neri Church in Waban and she was buried in Newton Cemetery, at peace forever next to her Harry.

## BIR Profile

# Dr. Martin J. Dunn Heeds His Jesuit Mentors: Being a Man for Others is the Only Way to Go

BY GREG O'BRIEN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Few in life have come so face-to-face with a calling as Dr. Martin Joseph Dunn. At 75, he's a hands-on symbol of selfless love and sacrifice.

A Jesuit product to the core, a graduate of BC High, where he is serving his ninth year on the Board of Trustees, and Boston College, Dunn is co-founder of Por Christo (For Christ), a charitable medical service organization that organized and supervised 60 voluntary medical missions to South America and republics of the former Soviet Union to provide life saving dental care and facial surgery to the needy from 1979 to 1994. A private practice Dorchester surgeon at the time, Dunn raised more than \$5 million to subsidize traveling medical teams, M\*A\*S\*H-type units, of up to 30 fellow surgeons, anesthesiologists, and operating room and intensive care nurses, and to support healthcare and medical clinics throughout the world.

For his efforts, he was the recipient of Ecuador's top humanitarian awards, was knighted by Pope John Paul II into the order of Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice, was inducted into London's Royal College of Medicine, received White House citations, was a George Washington Medal of Honor award winner, and was even appointed a Kentucky Colonel. But who's counting? Certainly not Marty Dunn.

"It's payback time," he says of his career. "If people hadn't helped me, I wouldn't be where I am today. You must be there for others. That's the Jesuit philosophy."

Dunn's most celebrated example of his outreach is Alexandra Balcazar, who at six months was abandoned in 1984 at a hospital in Quito, Ecuador. Born deformed, remnants of a jaw were fused to her skull, and her mouth was clamped shut. She was taken to a Catholic orphanage where nuns had to force feed her with mashed food through the gaps of her baby teeth and at times through a feeding tube to her stomach.

"She couldn't open her mouth," says Dunn in an interview in a second-floor BC High conference room. "Her mother left her at the hospital because she couldn't feed her. The child was going to die. She then had a tracheotomy just so she could breathe."

Dunn, the son of an Irish-born church sexton, was in Ecuador at the time on a two-week Por Christo medical mission when he received an urgent call from Margarita Perez de Hurtado, then Ecuador's first lady, to examine the girl. At first glance, Dunn knew she would require sophisticated surgery, and arranged to fly her back to Boston. In a seven-hour operation at Cardinal Cushing Hospital in Brockton (now Good Samaritan Hospital), Dunn, taking a cue from the Almighty in the Garden of Eden, fashioned a lower jaw from two of Alexandra's ribs. All that was missing from the operating room was Michael the Archangel.

"Surgery in children is unforgiving," says Dunn. "You can't make any mistakes."

There were no missteps. A day after the surgery, Alexandra was sitting up in bed and eating ice cream.

Word of the miraculous surgery spread, and soon Dunn's heroics were the subject of two Good Morning America interviews, a Reader's Digest cover story, a People Magazine profile, a story in Family Circle and countless other clips. Dunn and his wife, Carol, whom he took to his junior prom at BC High, ultimately adopted Alexandra, who then needed facial erector sets to hold her new jaws in place. She is now a 29-year-old licensed EMT, and is employed with Fallon Ambulance as a chair car driver. She has no trace of any deformity.

Tracey, the Dunn's older daughter, now lives in Cohasset where she owns and operates the Village Wine and Spirits shop.

Facial medical skill is a blessing, but it comes from years of extraordinary life education and training from places like BC High and BC, where Dunn was enrolled in pre-med and pre-dental courses, Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, a didactic course in oral and maxillofacial surgery at Tufts School of Graduate Dentistry, an internship and residency at Boston City Hospital Medical Center, and mini-residencies at the Clinic St. Andre in Nancy, France, the Royal Dental College in Copenhagen, Louisiana State University, and the University of Zurich in Switzerland.

Given that he is a former consultant to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., the Eisenhower Army Medical Center in Augusta, Ga., Veteran Administration hospitals, and the United States Public Health Hospital, among others, one might think that Dunn was a child medical prodigy. Hardly. There was a time in his young life when he was on track to split rocks in The Rower, a small country village in Kilkenny where his father, James, and grandfather, Michael, hailed from. His grandfather was a road laborer.

was born in North Quincy, the oldest of five boys, but his growing-up years were complicated by death and marriage. His mother Kathleen (Bulger), with roots in County Carlow, died from breast cancer when he was 11 years old. He remembers the night. "The family doctor came at about 10 p.m. after I was in bed," Dunn recalls. "He pronounced her dead, and then I heard my dad crying. I didn't leave the bedroom."

And just like that, "The next day, I became the cook, and the four younger brothers paired up in twos to wash the dishes," Dunn says, noting the Irish like to keep it simple, even in death.

It was his dad's second marital loss. He had four



Dr. Martin J. Dunn addressing a reception in his honor at Boston College High School last month.

Photo by Ed Forry

children with a first deceased wife, Julia (Flood), and then he married yet again, this time to Rose (Kelly), another Irish woman. The couple had a daughter Rosemary, who still enjoys a close relationship with Dunn. Two of Dunn's biological brothers, Francis, a career Navy electrician, and Vincent, a sheet rocker, are now deceased. His brothers Paul, a cabinetmaker, and George, formerly employed in the Boston insurance business, are retired. In all, Dunn's father raised ten children; coincidentally, he was one of ten.

James Dunn(e) emigrated to Boston when he was 17, traveling on a "potato boat" in steerage with less than \$20 in his pocket. He protested loudly when a Boston immigration official misspelled his surname, dropping the "e." After being told he would be sent back to Ireland for such whining quicker than you could say Galway, he kept silent, starting a new life in this land of opportunity where the Irish need not apply—thus leaving it up to his son to make bigger name for himself.

Dunn's father, who left school after the sixth grade, initially worked in Fitchburg in the paper mills before settling into North Quincy and delivering groceries in Neponset for "Muck" O'Keefe, who became a founder of the First National Stores company. His first long term employment was at the Tubular Rivet and Stud Company in Wollaston, then he worked as a custodian at St. Ann's Church for 26 years.

"A very religious man, he opened the church at 6:15 every morning and closed it at 8 p.m., never missing a day of Mass or Holy Communion," recalls Dunn, who mirrors his father in looks and personality. "From the age of six, my brothers and I assisted him dusting and cleaning the vigil lights."

"Dad never swore, although I remember hearing him say, 'Dan,' a few times. And he never drank. But I do remember on that rare occasion of a social obligation when he took a glass of wine, which he downed like medicine. He was strict, but a deep, kind person. I attribute the strictness to the fact that on two occasions, he was left with a young family. He had to be a disciplinarian. He kept us all on a short rope."

But his heart always exceeded the glower. Dunn's dad was an active member of the charitable St. Vincent DePaul Society, and every Saturday he purchased 60 loaves of bread to deliver to needy Wollaston families in the parish. Martin would often accompany his father on the bread runs.

The younger Dunn doesn't remember much about his biological mother, born on Prince Edward Island—aside from her being a loving woman and an excellent cook. She would bake for the corner small grocery store near North Quincy High School that Dunn's dad ran as a side business.

After his mother's death, Dunn, not much of an athlete (a casual football, baseball and basketball player), fumbled his way through the ninth grade. "I was focused on knocking around, just having a good time." His academic record was appalling, by his own admission. But when the Lord closes a door, he often opens another. Dunn's stepmother Rose, in a bold move, directed the floundering Dunn to enroll at BC High and to pay for the tuition himself. Shape up or ship out, and don't let the door hit you in the derriere, was the message received.

No one had to draw him more word pictures. Dunn

cut lawns and bagged groceries to pay for the \$180-a-year tuition, a princely sum then. "The experience at BC High and working hard to pay the tuition changed my life," he says.

While attending Boston College, he continued to bag groceries, and later at Tufts, he worked 40 hours a week in the Dorchester Center Post Office. The superintendent, John Grandfield, was a BC grad, and he took a liking to Dunn, creating a custom work schedule that allowed him to work Friday nights and all day and night Saturdays, driving a mail truck, and on Sundays working as a "weekend superintendent" sorting the mail, as well as on holidays and vacations. Boston Irish Reporter Publisher Ed Forry replaced him on that job, for which Dunn insists he set the performance bar.

Dunn later set the performance standards at Por Christo, now a member of the Caritas Christi Health Care System. Responding to Pope John Paul II's plea on Boston Common in 1979 to "come follow me and help others," Dunn and his surgical teams engaged in surgeries up to 12 hours long to assist those in critical need. They also set up pediatric and newborn intensive care and burn units, examined thousands and thousands of patients, and worked closely with building contractors to plan new medical facilities. Dunn, who had visited Guatemala in 1975 with his wife and daughter Tracey, was duty-bound by the devastating earthquake the following year, and spent two weeks in the rubble with a medical team assisting with care and teaching Guatemalans emergency medical procedures and public hygiene.

In all, 56 of Por Christo's trips under Dunn's tenure were to the South American countries of Ecuador, Bolivia, and Peru and for were to assist republics of the former Soviet Union. A month after the Soviet Union dissolved, the Lithuanian Children's Relief Program implored Dunn to set up a mercy mission for emergency operations and to train surgeons in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.

Far from the other side of the world today, Dunn, who just celebrated his 75th birthday at an inspiring BC High reception in his honor, is still engaged in medical care, working five days a week in southern New Hampshire and northern Massachusetts as a regional oral and maxillofacial surgeon for Aspen Dental.

Asked if he plans to retire soon, he flashes a cold stare: "No," he replies, stating that he remains motivated by a desire to serve and by the love of his wonderful wife, Carol, whom he met 60 years ago. She sang in the choir at St. Ann's and taught Sunday School. "She was good looking, and I was on the move," he says with smile.

His wanderings have since ceased; the couple has been married 53 years this month. And Dunn, if he has his way, is staying put. His father, he notes, split wood up until he was 87. "I hope I have his genes," he says.

After three quarters of a century, Martin Joseph Dunn is ever open to the calling of the Lord. Reflecting the Jesuit philosophy, he hopes an accounting of his life attests to the reality that he was here for others. "If someone needs something or is in trouble, I'd meet with them," he offers without a moment's hesitation.

Greg O'Brien is president of Stony Brook Group, a Brewster-based publishing and political/communications strategy company. A regular BIR contributor, he is the author/editor of several books and writes for various regional and national publications.

# BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett

Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

To celebrate his 75th birthday, the family and friends of Dr. Martin Dunn hosted a May 15 event at his alma mater, Boston College High School. With the theme "Closing the Loop," the program was designed to support a student exchange program between BC High and Belvedere College S.J., Dublin, Ireland. Both high schools are operated by the Society of Jesus. Event co-chairs were Rosemary Byrne, Frank Keohane and Deborah Reed; master of ceremonies was BC High junior John Nee. The program featured speeches by BC High president William Kemeza, Belvedere College headmaster Gerry Foley, and Dr. Dunn; an Irish dance performance choreographed by Liam Harney; and music by the BC High Concert Choir.



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# Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By BILL O'DONNELL

## Jean Butler Happy In Post-Riverdance Life

In the mid-1990s, **Jean Butler** and her dance partner, **Michael Flatley**, were the talk of the entertainment world from The Point on Dublin's Liffey to Manhattan's Radio City Music Hall. "Riverdance" was the show to see (and see again) and she was the perfect partner for the creative,

self-absorbed dance maestro. Together they caught lightning in a bottle and her ethereal beauty, incandescently memorable, was every step the equal of Flatley's genius on the dance stage.

In the fifteen years since she left the glare of "Riverdance," she has been back and forth between the US and Dublin, working, creating dance, trying new things, moving forward as the memories fade. In a recent Irish Times article, **Roisin Ingle** interviewed Butler and for an old fan like myself (I caught her twice, and the show three times, beginning with the initial Dublin production) it was a seriously satisfying glance back at this special lady of the dance. It was good to hear that she has come to grips with the sometimes mixed bag that was her time with Michael Flatley and Riverdance. And no regrets.

Butler, 39, and married now, has spent recent years between hops to Ireland, in New York and at the time of the Times' article was rehearsing in Dublin for her new solo work "Day," which ran at the Abbey for the Dublin Theatre Festival in mid-May. Eschewing the high-stepping Irish jigs and reels that captured Riverdance audiences, Butler's passion today is contemporary dance, which she describes as like watching someone paint a canvas. I hope Jean Butler will showcase her solo dance work sometime soon here in the states. But in the interim, it is welcome news that she is still dancing, has broadened her horizons, and plans to be in the dance business for decades still to come.

An interesting footnote to the Riverdance years: Butler and Flatley, who were the lead dancers on Eurovision and when the breakthrough show opened in Dublin, are American-born. She from Long Island with a mother from Mayo and he from Chicago with Irish emigrant parents.

**Discount Cards For Tourists With Roots** – The Irish Foreign Affairs Department, with an eye to the 70 million people of the diaspora across the globe, is looking to create an Irish heritage card that will entice folks to visit Ireland and enjoy cut rate prices at tourist attractions. The certificate of Irish heritage is in the planning stage and would ask people with Irish roots to apply for and receive a small credit card-style card (like AAA or WGBH) that entitles users to special discount prices.

The program, monitored by Foreign Affairs, would be run by a private company. The target audience: the millions of people of Irish descent who do not qualify for Irish citizenship but feel close to Ireland – and, would, of course, boost tourism revenue. Two problems that might impede the plan's adoption (not ready until 2011 or later) is a fee for the heritage card and the application, which would mean an applicant producing supportive documents.

**Inishowen Homes For Sale on eBay** – The Irish home market has been devastated by the global recession with most homes having lost value and thousands of owners now "under water" with expensive Celtic Tiger mortgages far higher than current house values. There was a snapshot in time two-three years ago when Irish homeowners saw their property steadily increase in value by hundreds of dollars a month. That, sadly, is history.

With a stagnant housing market owners are turning to the Internet trying to reach a wider audience and are looking to eBay to bail out. Currently there are more than 3,000 homes in Donegal listed for sale online, 650 of them in Inishowen alone. But even with the intensified marketing online there are many homes that have been listed on eBay for two years. Properties are generally taking 6-12 months to sell and are being picked up

by buyers at up to 50 percent less than 2007 prices.

**Back-Pocket Research Satisfies Ministers** – The departments of the Irish government have traditionally employed well-paid consultants and ample research staff. However, possible cost-cutting trends in several ministries (?) or maybe just internal sloppiness has the government doing some of its fact-checking on Wikipedia, the notoriously unreliable faux encyclopedia that often leads the pack in a Google search.

The Irish ministries resorting to Wikipedia – which allows unmonitored editing & changes by the public – are Justice, Agriculture, and the Environment departments. Until these ministries get their act together anyone seeking official, fact-driven information should view these Irish government sources the same as one would when calling the American IRS with tax questions, that agency is traditionally wrong over 40 percent of the time. Caveat Inquiry!

**Former IRA Commander could Unite The Unionists** – The Democratic Unionist Party and the once powerful, but now on life support Ulster Unionist Party have been jousting for years. The DUP, despite leader **Peter Robinson's** bad, bad year, remains unionist top dog; the more moderate Ulster Unionists are near disappearing but still have a degree of community support. The logical thing (that which rarely surfaces in Northern politics) would be an agreement between both Unionist parties (not unlike the Tory-Lib.Dems in England) to get together as one dominant force representing their largely Protestant constituency. Both have adamantly refused.

But, there is a new and threatening force that could bring the two unionist political parties cheek to jowl at long last. That would be former IRA Derry commander and current Deputy First Minister **Martin McGuinness**. In the May 6 election Sinn Fein just nosed out the DUP for most total votes. If that happens again next year in the assembly elections, Sinn Fein/IRA could take over the First Minister's position. Unionists could have the largest assembly block but if Sinn Fein had the most total votes they would, if current rules remain in force, be in line to be top dog in the Stormont government. And that electoral scenario is the unionists' worst nightmare.

**Did You Know ...** that the US Department of Homeland Security reported that more than a million (1,130,818) non-US nationals in 2009 became legal permanent residents or received a green card? That number reflects the average of slightly more than a million immigrants granted legal residence or green cards each year over the past three years. The surprise number in the statistics is that last year only 1,637 of those were Irish natives. This is one-tenth of one percent of the total granted legal residence or green cards. This number of Irish represents one of the lowest totals of the 200 plus countries in the report. Imagine that!

**Knock Visit & Visionary Strike Out** – **Joe Coleman**, who claims to be having a running conversation with the Virgin Mary, was at Mayo's Knock Shrine with 300 followers in mid-May waiting in vain for a personal appearance by Mary. Coleman's third promise of an apparition never happened but the self-appointed heavenly medium, claiming illness and clutching his side, left the full-bore faithful to fend for themselves while looking skyward.

Just to reassure faithful readers that the Irish Church, despite some recent rocky times, has not gone rogue, the official word out on Joe Coleman and the as yet unfulfilled sightings is that the Catholic Church has dismissed any claims or proclamations associated with this ever-patient man. Amen!

**Irish Peacekeepers Ranks Thinning** – At the end of this year it is highly probable that the Irish contingent of UN peacekeepers could be down to zero. Recent moves reflecting changing needs have cleared Irish troops out of Chad and more have been withdrawn from Kosovo. Dublin has agreed to keep 50 troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina until the end of this year but unless there is a call for more Irish peacekeepers, that could be the end of large scale UN involvement by Ireland.

United Nations service has been a long and honored tradition by neutral Ireland

and has involved roles since 1955 in a dozen different peacekeeping missions beginning with a small force sent to Lebanon as observers. This was followed by Irish military serving as a UN force in the Congo in 1960, a return in 1978 to Lebanon with a UNIFIL contingent, Cyprus and Sinai followed, featuring a large Irish peacekeeping force ultimately totaling some 9,000 after it originally landed there in 1964. Other areas of UN service by Ireland have included troop postings in Iraq-Iran, Somalia and Eritria, Bosnia, Kosovo, East Timor, Liberia, and Darfur and Chad more recently. In the 55-year history of UN related duty, 86 Irish military have died.

Ireland over the years, in good times and bad, has punched above its weight in many ways. Another major humanitarian outreach by Ireland, in addition to its UN peacekeeping duties, has been the country's highly praised bilateral aid programs that provide financial and in-kind assistance to troubled regions around the world.

**Irish Pols Reach out to US Consultants** – Fianna Fail, in power for over a decade, is in decline with the only factor keeping the party of **Charlie Haughey** and **Bertie Ahern** viable politically is the Irish electorate appearing to have no more enthusiasm for **Enda Kenny** and his Fine Gael Party then it does for Fianna Fail. The main obstacle facing the Soldiers of Destiny is that Bertie Ahern and Ahern's finance minister and successor as Taoiseach, **Brian Cowen**, were ruling the roost when it all began to go bad. The Irish voters are famous for two things: their patience and their long memories. While one may be running out, the memory of who lost the reins of reality during the boom (Fianna Fail) and who expensively bailed out the three main Irish banks is part of the current culture. The punter watching all this just might be willing to take a chance on the main opposition, Mr. Kenny.

All of which is driving an extremely nervous Cowen-led Fianna Fail party to reach out as others in Europe, Israel, and Africa have done in the past to the political guns for hire in America. In this instance it is Cowen and company talking with **Sam Jeffers** and **Gregor Poynton** of Blue State Digital. While those two political pros and their company may not be household names to many of us, suffice it to say that they managed **President Obama's** extraordinary online fundraising and social networking campaigns that raised half a billion dollars in donations and organized one of the slickest volunteer networks since the internet was created.

The main goal, party insiders whisper, is to find and re-energize the missing half of Fianna Fail's voter base, which has been a consistent 25 percent of the electorate in recent history.

**Catholic Action League Could Be More Christian** – **C.J. Doyle** and his Catholic Action League (no ties, he says with the National Catholic League led by **Bill Donohue**) got my attention when Doyle was quoted in the Boston Globe re the 8-year old son of lesbians who was quickly booted out of Catholic school when his parents' sexual orientation became known.

Doyle's somewhat unChristian quote was, "It would seem [the parents] are either looking for an excuse to litigate or an opportunity to embarrass the church in the court of public opinion." How he know that? Could there be another reason, namely, seeking a good, value-oriented education for their child?

To cut to the chase, I e-mailed Doyle and asked him to support his claim about the child's parents and their motives. Doyle, who would rather talk than type, checked me out at the paper then called me. It was near supper time and with one hand stirring pasta and the other clutching the phone, I did a 10-15 minute standing tap dance with the indefatigable, driven Mr. Doyle.

His only "answer" to his original quote about motives was that in a similar situation in Colorado the homosexual parents did end up suing the school. Hardly a smoking gun, but we moved on amidst his alternating between frequent interjections of "you liberals." No harm, no foul. He went on to question me about my Catholicism, which produced a "not your business, friend."

He called the Globe the "most anti-Catholic newspaper in America" and **Jim**

**Carroll's** column "anti-Catholic." Doyle then moved to the default position: abortion. No surprise there. He took a shot at **Jack Connors** despite my reminding him that Connors was a tireless fundraiser for Catholic schools. That cut little ice with Doyle, who recalled that Connors seemed to support same sex marriage. Doyle was an admitted devotee of **Cardinal Law** (his anti-Globe Rosetta stone?), but **Cardinal Sean**, hinted Doyle, is a bit further down the list of Doyle's top churchman. What he do?

Short of answers but with a non-stop patter that almost had me ruining the pasta, Doyle reached into his memory box and recalled that years ago I had supported Irish divorce in a column I wrote. We didn't get further into the Irish divorce question that put an end to wives as indentured, penniless chattels of their husband. At that time women's lives as Irish spouses were not unlike a Middle East marriage. I wanted to scream, "Of course I supported divorce in Ireland." What doesn't Doyle understand about servitude and no civil or property rights as a female in a marriage breakdown? Finally, the spaghetti was ready and C.J. was wrapping up trying to show me the error of my ways.

I am more convinced than ever after our chat that these groups of volunteer religious vigilantes (a charge I leveled at Doyle) are more fascist than Christian, ultimately hurt the Church, and have no brief to lecture you or me in how to practice our religion.

### RANDOM CLIPPINGS

Irish Taoiseach Brian Cowen isn't afraid of anything except an election. ... Good angling, I guess, in Galway's Lough Corrib with a 25-pound trout taken, the biggest caught in Ireland in over 100 years. ... Hospitals in Ireland are closing beds and lines of waiting patients on gurneys signal deep budget cuts. ... Give a resounding cheer for Galway's Druid Theatre Company, which marked its wondrous 35th birthday last month. ... British economists are predicting that the Value Added Tax (VAT) will go up in the UK, which still includes the North. Derry is still battered by unemployment double the jobless rate of other areas in the North. ... If you see the ever expanding supermarket chain in the North, Asda, building out and creating jobs, remember it is a WalMart store by any other name. ... As many of their sisters did, the Sisters of St. Joseph (PA) supported the health reform measure, concluding the legislation had no effect on abortion financing, and now an upset **Bishop Brandt** of PA is refusing the good nuns the use of the diocese's parishes or newspapers for recruitment purposes. ... The JFK Library & Museum has some really compelling free forums at Columbia Point. Evenings around 5-5:30. Just call the Library to reserve a seat.

Speaking of the Kennedys, a large family contingent will be traveling to Tipp as the late Senator and his sister Jean Kennedy Smith will be honored with the Tipperary Peace Prize in June. ... The newly opened duty free shop at Shannon has been closed as US Customs and Border Patrol were concerned with security. ... A Unionist Minister is warning that the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising could encourage breakaway republicans to up their "veneration" and pursue the "nihilistic path of violence." Huh? ... Veteran Irish Senator **David Norris** thinks it would be good for Ireland to join the Commonwealth and reach out, and Irish athletes could compete in the Commonwealth Games. Ah, yes. ... Banks beware on both sides of the Atlantic: An Irish couple was just awarded \$20,000 from the Bank of Ireland for bad mortgage advice. It could open the floodgates. ... It's "only" been 38 years since Bloody Sunday and the victims' families are still waiting for the Saville Report, due, the Brits say, early in June. But haven't we heard that before? ... The Bank of Ireland, bailed out with Irish ratepayers euros to the tune of billions, wants to sell its art collection and donate proceeds to charity. How about "donating" the money back to the Irish Treasury that let it survive? ... Good & Bad News. The euro, which is at its lowest value in four years, could be heading to parity with the resurgent dollar. Great for tourists and Irish and British exports, but bad for the euro's health and long term viability.

# NOTES FROM THE IRISH IMMIGRATION CENTER

An agency accredited by US Department of Justice

100 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110

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

Website: [iicenter.org](http://iicenter.org) Email: [immigration@iicenter.org](mailto:immigration@iicenter.org)



**Ed Forry, owner of the Boston Irish Reporter, wins Eire Society Award** – The IIC congratulates Edward Forry, owner of the Boston Irish Reporter, for being honored by the Eire Society of Boston with its Gold Medal Award, given at the society's annual dinner on April 30 at the Omni Parker Hotel.

**Mark your calendars—Free Health Screening on June 14!** – Thanks to our partnership with Cathedral Cares Ministries and CARE, we will offer a Free Health Screening on Mon., June 14, between 3-6pm at our IIC office. This time we will have our favorite dentist, Dr. Nore, joining us to offer free dental screenings. In addition, we will also have our usual blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol screenings! Space is limited, so call Ciara (617-542-7654, Ext. 14) to confirm your appointment on June 14. We expect spaces to fill up fast. Our next session, which will include free dermatological screenings, will not be until October, so be sure not to miss the June event.

**IIC & CARE expand Health and Education Services** – The IIC continues to expand its Health

and Education Services. In partnership with CARE, we host Home Health Aide and CPR Classes. IIC has added Basic Computer Skills to its roster of skill building programs and is considering other exciting classes to help participants take the next step in their careers.

Future possibilities include classes or workshops in resume/CV preparation, education information events for immigrants who want to attend colleges in Massachusetts, and social events to network with fellow child caretakers, nannies, and home health aides.

Please contact Ciara today (617-542-7654, Ext. 14) if you would like to learn more about our Health and Education Services. We want to hear from you!

**Wider Horizons Program Participants Graduate** – The Wider Horizons Graduation took place on Thurs., May 20. Sixteen young people from Ireland and Northern Ireland completed the program, and it was a great success. Included among the guests were Irish Immigration Center staff and volunteers as well as many host families and employers who lived and worked with the group over the last six weeks. We had a great night to mark this achievement in the gallery space of Artists for Humanity in South Boston. Thanks to Artists for Humanity for the use of their space, to all of the host families for opening up their homes, and to all of the employers who gave these young people the chance to work in their organizations and to make this a unique and rewarding experience!

**J-1 Summer Students Arriving** – Irish college students will begin arriving in Boston at the beginning of this month to seek summer jobs in shops, restaurants, tourist attractions, as well as other opportunities. The Irish Immigration Center invites you to list your employment and housing options with us as soon as possible. "The J-1 program from Ireland is one of our favorite and most valuable programs of the summer," said Sister Lena Deevy, IIC Executive Director. "These bright young men and women are the future of Ireland, and we are delighted to be able to help them gain experience along their university path."

If you have a room to rent or a job opportunity for the summer, you can advertise them free of charge at IIC by contacting Frank Mackey with any openings at [J1summer@iicenter.org](mailto:J1summer@iicenter.org) or by phone at 617-542-7654, Ext.18. College students traveling on J-1 visas typically arrive in early June and work through the end of the summer before returning to Ireland to continue their studies.

For many years, the IIC has provided assistance for incoming students seeking work and housing in Boston. Our Cyber Café, located in the downtown IIC office, is a busy hub for job and apartment seekers during the summer months. Volunteers are on hand to help field calls from employers and landlords, as well as to promote our openings to the Irish students.

The IIC Cyber café will be opening this year for summer students on Tues., June 2. The hours are as follows: Monday, 12-5 p.m., Tuesday, 12-7, Wednesday, 12-5, Thursday, 12-7, and Friday, 12-4 p.m. We look

forward to seeing you!

If you are an employer, landlord, or a J-1 looking for advice, contact us at [J1summer@iicenter.org](mailto:J1summer@iicenter.org).

Join us at the Palestrina Choir performance at Mission Church June 20 -- Since 1923, the Palestrina Choir of Saint Mary's Pro-Cathedral in Dublin has continued the time-honored tradition of sacred cathedral music with consistently excellent expressions of creativity. Blanaid Murphy, Choral Director at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, leads the 48-voice boys' choir.

The Choir will be performing at the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help on Mission Hill on June 20 at the 12:45 Mass and again at 6:30 pm. This free event is co-sponsored by the Irish Immigration Center, the Irish Consulate, Culture Ireland, the Irish Cultural Council, and the Irish Pastoral Centre. Donations are requested, and all proceeds will benefit the hosting charities. For more information, please call 617-267-9330 or via e-mail [BostonCongen@dfa.ie](mailto:BostonCongen@dfa.ie).

**Advocacy Update** – Erin Fried recently joined the staff of the IIC as an advocate for immigration reform. On Wed., May 11, she joined members of the Irish community, including Geri Garvey of the Irish Apostolate and Sheila Gleeson, Executive Director of the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers, for a lunchtime discussion on comprehensive immigration reform.

With our partners, we are hard at work promoting policy reform that will give immigrants the security and opportunities they deserve as members of our community. On June 3, we will rally at the State House to gain the attention of US Senator Scott Brown and to urge him to stand up for the comprehensive immigration reform that we need and deserve. Erin met with members of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 615, Massachusetts Communities Action Network (MCAN), and the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition to finalize details of the rally.

Please join us at 3:30 p.m. at the State House and hear Mayor Menino, community members, business leaders, and legislators speak out.

**IIC clinics** – We are pleased to offer free weekly legal clinics. Our friendly, dedicated, and experienced immigration attorneys will answer your questions about immigration and citizenship issues. Clinics are held both in the community and at our office.

Upcoming dates for our community clinics include: **Mon., June 7, 6:30 p.m.** – The Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington St. Brighton

**Tues., June 29, 6 p.m.** – St. Mark's Parish (School Hall) 1725 Dorchester Ave. Dorchester

Clinics take place at our office on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 4 to 6 p.m. Please call 617-542-7654 in advance to confirm that a clinic is being held. Our office is located at 100 Franklin Street, Boston (enter from the side entrance at 60 Arch Street or 201 Devonshire Street.) Our next in-house clinics will be on June 1 and June 15.

## IMMIGRATION Q & A

### 'Green card' redesign is a security issue

**Q.** I'm a legal permanent resident. I saw a news report recently that said that the government is issuing some kind of new green card. Does this mean that I have to do anything to get the new card?

**A.** US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that it will employ a redesigned legal permanent resident card (Form I-551, the "green card," effective May 11, 2010). However, this means only that from that date USCIS will be issuing the redesigned card in new cases and renewals of existing cards. Current holders of legal permanent residence status do not need to do anything; the cards they have now will remain valid up to their expiration dates.

USCIS says the redesign will make the permanent resident card more secure in order to deter immigration fraud. This will be accomplished by, for example, using secure optical media to store biometric information identifying the card holder; employing holographic images, laser engraved fingerprints, and high-resolution micro-images to deter counterfeiting; and incorporating radio frequency identification capability to enable US Customs and Border Protection officers at ports of entry to read the cards at a distance. The card also will have a preprinted USCIS return address to be used to return lost cards.

To view a facsimile of the new card, go to the May 11, 2010, announcement at [uscis.gov](http://uscis.gov).

One thing to note is that the new green card, after many years, will once again be green.

By the way, green card holders often keep the originals of their cards at home. The law actually requires that the original be kept on the holder's person at all times. This means that holders should make a copy of the front and back of their card to keep in a safe place. This will facilitate replacement in the event of loss or theft.

**Disclaimer:** These articles are published to inform generally, not to advise in individual cases. Immigration law is always subject to change. The US Citizenship and Immigration Services and 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.



Meeting the needs  
of the immigrant  
population.

## Irish Immigration Center

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**IIC has moved. Our new offices are located at 100 Franklin Street, Boston in the Lower Level. Please note that entrances are located at 201 Devonshire Street and 60 Arch Street. We look forward to welcoming you to our new home.**

## Matters Of Substance

### Halt My Relapse – Part 3: Attitudes, Feelings, Behaviors

BY DANIELLE OWEN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

To complete our three-part Relapse series, I want to explore some warning signs that might be helpful to those who are trying to stay sober and to avoid relapse. In 1982, researchers Terence T. Gorski and Merlene Miller identified a set of 11 warning signs or steps that typically lead up to a relapse. Over the years, additional research has shown how these steps are "reliable and valid" predictors of alcohol and drug relapses.

**Change in Attitude** – For some reason you decide that participating in your recovery program (counseling, AA meetings, groups etc...) is just not as important as it was.

**Elevated Stress** – An increase in stress in your life can be due to a major change in circumstances or just little things building up.

**Reactivation of Denial** – This is not denial that you have a drug or

alcohol problem, it is denial about the stress that is getting to you.

**Recurrence of Post-acute Withdrawal Symptoms** – Anxiety, depression, sleeplessness, and memory loss can continue long after you quit drinking or doing drugs and can return during times of stress. They are dangerous because you may be tempted to self-medicate them with alcohol/drugs.

**Behavior Change** – You may begin to change the daily routine that you developed in early sobriety that helped you replace your compulsive behaviors with healthy alternatives.

**Social Breakdown** – You may begin feeling uncomfortable around others and making excuses not to socialize. You may begin to isolate yourself.

**Loss of Structure** – You begin to completely abandon the daily routine or schedule that you developed in early sobriety, like

sleeping late or ignoring personal hygiene or skipping meals.

**Loss of Judgment** – You begin to have trouble making decisions, you make unhealthy decisions or become annoyed or angry easily.

**Loss of Control** – You make irrational choices and are unable to interrupt those choices, like thinking that you can return to social drinking and recreational drug use and you can control it.

**Loss of Options** – You may feel loneliness, frustration, anger, resentment, and tension when you come to believe that there are only three ways out: insanity, suicide, or self-medication with alcohol or drugs.

**Relapse** – You attempt controlled, "social" or short-term alcohol or drug use, but you are disappointed at the results and immediately experience shame and guilt. You need help getting sober again.

Relapse is a part of the



Danielle Owen

Recovery Process and is preventable! Knowing the warning signs that lead to a relapse can help you make healthy choices and take alternative action. If you do relapse though, help is available! If you need support now or if you would like to know more about our Relapse Prevention Groups in Quincy, please contact Danielle, in confidence, at the Irish Immigration Center: Phone: 617-542-7654, Ext. 14; e-mail: [dowen@iicenter.org](mailto:dowen@iicenter.org). Check out: [alcoholism.about.com/od/relapse/a/relapse\\_signs.htm](http://alcoholism.about.com/od/relapse/a/relapse_signs.htm)

# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

**BOSTON IRISH ARTS,  
ENTERTAINMENT,  
TRAVEL & MORE**

## It's Transition Time for Cape Bretoners: Music & Dance Scene Not Like It Was, But It's Still There if You Want It

By SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

It's a cool, early spring Saturday night at Water-town's Canadian-American Club, and the sounds of a fiddle and piano casually tearing through a set of Cape Breton reels reverberates through the sparsely populated ballroom. Small clusters of people sit on the edges of the dance floor, chatting as the music continues — a cavalcade of marches, jigs, strathspeys, and the occasional air.

At length, couples take the floor, and after a bit of organizing, a dance begins: an enduring Cape Breton favorite, the Mabou Set. For most, the figures are quite familiar — swing your partner, promenade, and eventually, join hands and step in place for several measures. After about an hour, the couples are done dancing, and opt to relax for a little while before starting home.

All in all, a pleasant night out for those who came, but at the same time it underscores some ongoing trends that have been evident to long-time local Cape Breton music

and dance aficionados: the low turn-out, for instance, and the fact that it's non-Cape Bretoners who seem to make up more of the attendance at these monthly dances.

Clearly, Greater Boston's Cape Breton community is undergoing a transition, with the graying of the generation that played such a major role during the 1950s and 1960s in establishing this area as a legendary outpost for music and dance of the Canadian Maritimes. Subsequent generations of Cape Bretoners have simply not come down to the so-called "Boston states" on the same scale, according to the elders; what's more, they add, the overall commitment to traditional music and dance hasn't been as strong as in past generations.

There's an irony here: Arguably, Cape Breton music has never been as popular as it is now, thanks to internationally known performers like Natalie MacMaster, The Rankin Family, The Barra MacNeils, Mary Jane Lamond, Ashley MacIsaac — not to leave

out the late Jerry Holland, who (as folks around here are quick to note) was a Brockton native. Boston has plenty of its own Cape Breton talent, such as Joe Cormier, Kimberley Fraser and Doug Lamey, to name just a few.

Now, there is a growing realization within the local Cape Breton community (including both ex-pats and their offspring, as well as others with different, personal attachments to the island) that this proliferation of interest in their homeland's music is a potential boon, and that greater effort should be made to reach out to the non-Cape Bretoners in Boston and involve them in their dances and other events. Doing so in this day and age, of course, involves going beyond the usual word-of-mouth or other familiar methods of communication; recently, for instance, the Canadian-American Club was given its own Facebook page.

It's not as if the local Cape Breton community has been a solitary enclave. There has been, for example, plenty of collaboration and friendship



Dancers at the Canadian-American Club in the middle of a "Boston set."

Photo by Sean Smith

over the years between the Boston Irish and Cape Bretoners like Holland, or Bill Lamey, renowned not only for his fiddling but also for the dances he organized in the '50s and '60s, notably at the Orange Hall in Brookline. In fact, Boston's Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann branch uses the Canadian-American Club for its monthly ceilidh and social event.

"We love seeing new faces come to the dances," says Peggy Morrison, president of the Canadian-American Club and a pianist and dancer as well. "It's something everyone can enjoy, whether you have a connection to Cape Breton or you're just starting to learn about it — or, if you just want a

fun night out to perhaps make some new friends."

Yet a kind of bitterness lurks among the older generation. They're happy to see the music they grew up with has caught the fancy of the larger world, and they acknowledge that, yes, things change and perhaps all for the better. On the other hand, though, is an almost indefinable sense of loss — that while the music is in good hands, the life and times it once was part of is gone.

"We love that so many people love the music now, but somehow it's not the same," says Mary Lamey, granddaughter of Bill Lamey. "It's when I go to Cape Breton, and get out to a dance, I get a sense

of how it used to be — you just feel the music, and it's very emotional. There's just not as much of that anymore.

"I think when the music got so very popular, the old style got pushed aside," says Lamey, adding that she nonetheless has plenty of high regard for many of today's Cape Breton musicians, including her nephew Doug. "There's just sort of an ebb in the tide."

How could this have happened? After all, one of the most fondly quoted Cape Breton factoids is that the island has more fiddle players per capita than anywhere else on the planet. The answer, as explained by local Cape  
(Continued on page 12)

## KELLI, KEITH & COLE

### Broadway's Kelli O'Hara Sings Cole Porter With The Boston Pops

By R. J. DONOVAN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Over the past decade, Kelli O'Hara has earned critical acclaim as one of Broadway's most talented leading ladies. With a bell-like soprano, she most recently graced the stage at Lincoln Center playing the iconic role of Nellie Forbush in the Tony Award-winning revival of Rodgers & Hammerstein's "South Pacific."

Prior to that, she wowed audiences in "The Light In The Piazza," "Sweet Smell of Success," and playing opposite Harry Connick, Jr. in a revival of "Pajama Game." To date, she has collected three Tony Award nominations in addition to numerous nominations for Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards.

"South Pacific's" Tony Award-winning director Bartlett Sher has said, "Kelli has such heart, and such deep sensibilities. She has the insights and imagination of a very, very great artist. And she has the most beautiful soprano voice in American musical theater."

From June 9 - 11, she'll be appearing with Keith Lockhart and The Boston Pops in "An Evening of Cole Porter." Also on the bill will be Broadway's Jason Danieley plus Fellows from the Tanglewood Music Center.

Born in Oklahoma, Kelli is married to actor-musician Greg Naughton. Together they have a son, Owen James, who'll celebrate his first birthday later this month. Speaking by phone during a busy day in Manhattan, she talked about her work, her music, being a new Mom



Says one director: Kelli O'Hara "has the most beautiful soprano voice in American musical theater."

and her surprise return to Broadway in August. Here's a condensed version of our conversation.

**BIR:** I've read you started out studying opera. So how did the girl from Oklahoma wind up center stage on Broadway?

**KO:** Well, the truth is that I did love Broadway music, but when I went to school I had the great fortune to work with a teacher named Florence Birdwell, and she was very big in voice teaching, especially in opera. She kind of encour-

aged me to (study towards an) opera degree, which I did for four years . . . (But) I never lost that love (of Broadway). I remember (in) my senior year, there was a choice to continue my studies . . . or just move to New York. I remember just knowing in my gut that I wanted to move to New York.

**BIR:** You've had a chance to work with some very talented leading men, who, by coincidence, are very easy on the eyes.

**KO:** (Laughing) Believe me, I've been

very lucky that way.

**BIR:** What was it like doing "Pajama Game" with Harry Connick, Jr.?

**KO:** I was working on "Light in the Piazza" when that came up. As much as I love Broadway music, I also grew up on Doris Day and the Great American Songbook and Frank Sinatra . . . I just thought, "I can do this, I can do this 'Pajama Game' thing." Meeting Harry Connick, Jr., was like the icing on the cake. Not only because he's so easy to look at, but also because I wanted to be around that kind of musicianship. I wanted to learn from that genre . . . Meeting him was exactly what I thought it would be . . . He taught me so much. He helped me make my first album. He was so generous to me, and still is . . . I really, really couldn't be more grateful for that particular time in my life."

**BIR:** And how about Paulo Szot, your "Emile" in "South Pacific"?

**KO:** I didn't know Paulo Szot at all. He was from Brazil. He had been in the opera world. I remember they had me come and audition with him, and I thought, "Well that's going to be easy . . . He just sings like a bird." But more than anything, I have to tell you about Paulo, he's one of the kindest, most generous people I've ever worked with. I just adore him. We're still doing concerts together. I'm actually going to go back into "South Pacific" for the last two weeks of its run in August. We're going to film it for PBS. I wanted to be a part of that film, but also just to  
(Continued on page 11)

## BIR Music CD ROUNDUP

BY SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

**The Press Gang**—There are three reasons for Boston area Irish music fans to like this trio: They're young, they're from New England, and they've clearly got a strong dose of Irish trad in their collective bloodstream. Oh yes, one more reason: They're very good.



The Press Gang is Christian "Junior" Stevens (accordion, concertina), who has some substantial Boston ties—he was a regular at The Skellig session and appeared at several Boston Celtic Music Fest events, among other

things; Alden Robinson (fiddle); and Owen Marshall (guitar, bouzouki, harmonium), who has played with the likes of Jerry Holland, Aoife Clancy, Mark Simos and Lissa Schneckenburger, to name a few.

Their debut CD is a spritely, ebullient mix of traditional Irish and American, as well as original tunes, with arrangements that bring out the best in their musicianship. It doesn't get much better than the first track, a medley of the reels "Mayor Harrison's Fedora" and "John Stenson's," which begins with a stately, almost whimsically dramatic prelude, then roars into top gear and stays there; Marshall's guitar is particularly noteworthy here, with ear-catching chord progressions and dead-on rhythm. "Crossing the Shannon" features a pitch-and-catch pas de deux between Stevens and Robinson, Marshall splendidly alternating his accompaniment to match the intensity (and he even gets a flatpicking break himself). Stevens and Robinson also have a go at the well-traveled "Coleman's March," which started in Kentucky but has entered the New England repertoire.

Surely one of the high points of the CD is the trio's handling of the exquisitely plaintive "Lucy Farr's Barn Dance": In fact, they do it twice, with Marshall getting the spotlight on the reprise, his use of the upper

register giving the guitar a harp-like sound, lovingly supported by harmonium. The "Lucy" reprise segues into "The Maids of Selma," an intriguing G/E-minor jig that the trio gradually ratchets up to full strength, then eases gracefully out the door.

**Michael McGoldrick, "Aurora"**—The fourth solo CD by former Lunasa and current Capercaillie flautist/piper McGoldrick, "Aurora" is very much a contemporary-minded affair: Most of the tunes are his own compositions—two of them inspired by a bungee-jumping experience (top that, Josie McDermott!)—or by other latter-day musicians. Trumpets, saxophones, electric keyboards and drums are much in evidence as well, and some tracks have a palpable jazz/world music flavor.



But with such notable guests as Dezi Donnelly, John Joe Kelly, Ed Boyd, Brendan Power, Dermot Byrne and Donal and Manus Lunny, McGoldrick shows he hasn't left the more traditional sounds completely in the dust. The four-part jig medley titled "Late Nights at the Central" is relatively spare, highlighted by Boyd's guitar and Donald Shaw's piano in support of McGoldrick's flute and expertly picked mandolin (especially on the second entry in the medley, "Heart Shaped Wood," with a dandy of a recurring triplet). The all-traditional "Mickey's Reels" set features some brilliant guitar and bouzouki interplay by Manus Lunny, providing an acoustic counterweight to Shaw's electric piano.

McGoldrick's fondness for other musical styles/genres is on display to good effect, notably the Breton-influenced "Pontivy" and the Balkanesque "Jolly Angler," both of which benefit from Parvinder Bharat's judiciously employed tabla. He also brings a suitably melancholic-rural vocal to Louisiana musician Dirk Powell's song "Waterbound," with contributions by Heidi Talbot and John McCusker.

Songs evoking inundated bayou country aside, there's a very modern, urban feel to this CD, sometimes to a fault: "Annam Cara/Ships in the Night," for example, gets completely overtaken by its jazz arrangement to such an extent that McGoldrick literally vanishes. But for the most part, though, his masterful playing and the quality of the tunes ensure "Aurora" has plenty of wattage.

## Kelli, Keith & Cole

(Continued from page 10)

weeks of its run in August. We're going to film it for PBS. I wanted to be a part of that film, but also just to close the show. It's going to be nice to be back with Paulo. He's one of my very favorites.

**BIR:** So tell me how the concerts with The Pops came about.

**KO:** I've always wanted to sing with The Boston Pops . . . They called and I was just so thrilled . . . Those phone calls are my favorite—when you've been wanting to do something for a long time and then it appears.

**BIR:** Is this your first time on stage in Boston?

**KO:** My first job was with "Jekyll & Hyde" and we came through Boston on tour. I also have some family there, so I've spent time there, just personally. I really, really love the city of Boston. I'd like to spend more time there.

**BIR:** Since you've been doing concerts everywhere from Carnegie Hall to the Cafe Carlyle, do you miss the routine of eight shows a week? Or does having a one-year-old at home change all that?

**KO:** (Laughing) You know, I said doing a show (on Broadway) was going to be too much, so I left "South Pacific" to spend more time with my baby. And I have to laugh because I've never been more busy. I'm almost wanting to be back in an eight-show-a-week show because when you're doing concerts, you never know what your schedule is going to be. You have rehearsals and you have meetings and you fly to different places.

**BIR:** Aside from your stage work, you make an appearance in the new "Sex and The City." Talk about high profile.

**KO:** I'm barely in it, really. I'm in the very top of the movie. But it was just so fun to be there on the production and sit through the read-through with those actresses and get into the life of it a little bit. I've been watching it for years. So that was a great thrill, just to be a part of it in the small way that I am.

**BIR:** Tell me a little about your family. Your ancestors go back to County Clare?

**KO:** There are lots of stories that have come down through the years. I do know that my great-great-grandfather and his three brothers came over in the late 1800s to farm, to find land in Oklahoma. And that's where we've been ever since. I grew up on the same farm that they found. I've been back to Ireland once, but not for long enough. I'd love to go back. We take great pride in (our history), but I need to know more.

"An Evening of Cole Porter," featuring Kelli O'Hara and Jason Danieley, with Keith Lockhart & The Boston Pops, June 9-11, Symphony Hall in Boston. Tickets: 888-266-1200; [bostonpops.org](http://bostonpops.org).

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A column of news and updates on 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

**BCM Fest 2011: Call for performers** — At the BCM Fest table (and on the dance floor), there's always room for all types of Celtic performers, whether singers, dancers and instrumentalists. So, for our 8th annual festival (Jan. 7-8, 2011), BCM Fest will affirm the interrelationship of the song and instrumental traditions in Celtic music. It's an opportunity for those musicians who have devoted their talents to tunes to explore the richness of traditional songs and ballads; and likewise, for those who relish singing all those verses and choruses to lend an ear of appreciation for the jigs, reels, hornpipes, polkas, marches, strathspeys, and airs. And dancers who have always danced to tunes are also encouraged to consider accompanying songs.

This doesn't mean that unaccompanied singers or instrumental-only ensembles won't "make the cut" for BCM Fest 2011. But we'll be keeping an eye (and ear) out for acts or special collaborations that feature both words and music from the Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton and other Celtic traditions.

In addition to individual and band submissions, BCM Fest also would like to hear from persons interested in producing the 2011 festival finale concert around the "Words and Music" theme. Please submit a three-paragraph description of your artistic vision for the concert; a budget (must be under \$800); and a preliminary list of performers, and your reasons for including each.

All applications must be received by July 10, 2010. You can download the BCM Fest 2011 application at [bcmfest.com](http://bcmfest.com).

**Focus on the flute** — Fiddle, pipes, accordion, harp: All of these have their place as Irish traditional music's iconic instruments. But more than a few people in the Boston area are quick to include the flute on that list, and can give you plenty of sound reasons for doing so.

Caroline O'Shea, for example, says the flute has "a perfect mix of soft breathiness and rock-hard, solid notes," as well as "a dark, woody feel, a recognizable pulse."

Tim Buckley, meanwhile, describes the instrument as "simple, powerful and fluid" — and with the ability, he adds, "to turn something so mundane as exhaling into music."

"Muscle-y," is Shannon Heaton's assessment of the flute. "Immediately responsive, and capable of expressing a wide variety of moods."

"And one of the best things about it," she notes, "is that it's portable."

These and other qualities will be on display when Heaton, Buckley, O'Shea and fellow woodwind wizards Lisa Coyne, Teddy Davis, James Hamilton, Larre



Flutes, singular and plural, will be the focus of this month's BCM Fest Celtic Music Monday concert in Club Passim. Photo by Sean Smith

Reeves, Jeremy Ball and Kara Lochridge team up for a "Flute Salute" at the June 12 BCM Fest Celtic Music Monday concert in Harvard Square's Club Passim.

The concert, which begins at 8 p.m., will showcase different styles and settings for the Irish flute, solo or accompanied by other instruments. Shannon Heaton, for example, will be joined by her guitarist husband Matt; fiddlers Tina Lech and Armand Aromin will play with Davis and O'Shea, respectively, while Ball and Lochridge will team up for flute duets; Lisa Coyne will get bouzouki backing from her husband John, who also will sit in with Reeves (the two played as a duo for 17 years, but this will be their first-ever appearance together in Boston). The Coyne's fiddle-playing daughter Josie is expected to join in the festivities, and there also is the possibility of a special guest or two.

Lisa Coyne, the concert's chief organizer, quips that she became a musician because "I got tired of being the designated driver" at the Irish sessions she attended. Starting out on whistle, she subsequently met Reeves, who encouraged her to take up the flute; to her, the instrument has "the same flexibility, nuance, depth and soul as the human voice."

Coyne points to flute players like Jack Coen, Kevin Crawford, Catherine McEvoy, and Josie McDermott as among her major influences. But some of her best teachers, she adds, have been "pipers and fiddle players who have taught me how to listen, and how to have a conversation with other instruments."

The teacher-student dynamic is another aspect of "Flute Salute." O'Shea, who started out taking whistle lessons at age 13 with Andrea Mori — who helped steer

her from classical to Irish flute — later worked with Shannon Heaton and Hamilton. Buckley, while drawing inspiration from luminaries such as Matt Malloy, Seamus Tansey, and Nicky and Ann Mc Cauliff, also had an at-home mentor in his father, Pdraig.

"We've all come to the flute through different paths, and it's always fun comparing notes — literally — to see what our interests and influences are," says Coyne. "What we're aiming to do in this concert is to show how versatile and expressive the flute is, and the unique textures it lends to Irish music."

Admission to BCM Fest Celtic Music Monday is \$12, \$6 for members of Club Passim, WGBH, and WUMB. Club Passim is located at 47 Palmer St. in Harvard Square. For reservations and other information, see [clubpassim.org](http://clubpassim.org) or call 617-492-7679.

**Cruisin'** — It's almost time for the fifth annual BCM Fest Music Cruise, which this year will take place Sun., June 13, at 3:30 p.m. in Gloucester. Join a "crew" of BCM Fest performers for a floating fun(d)raiser and sunset sail onboard the schooner Thomas E. Lannon. Your donation of \$50 reserves a spot on deck of the 65-foot schooner as it sails around beautiful Gloucester Harbor, while some of the Boston area's finest Celtic musicians fill the air with tunes and songs, all to rev up for and benefit BCM Fest. The line-up for this year includes Michael O'Leary, Bob Strom, Steve Levy, Lin Swicker and David de la Barre — more names to come.

Info and reservations: [schooner.org](http://schooner.org) or 978-281-6634.

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

## Transition For Cape Bretoners

(Continued from 10)

Bretoners, is a classic example of assimilation and adaptation.

When you walked down the street in Cape Breton, says Judy McKenzie — who lived there as a child — "you could point to one house and say, 'That's a fiddling family,' or point to another and say, 'That's a step-dancing family.' The music was so tied in with the dance, and both were such a big part of life there."

Certainly, the men and women who moved down to Boston to find work brought the music and dance with them. But some of them felt that perhaps getting settled and making good in their new surroundings was ultimately a bigger priority than keeping up the family music and dance traditions with their children.

"And if you're a kid, think about the peer pressure you faced in the US," notes Jimmy McLeod,

whose late father Herbie was a well-respected collector of Cape Breton music (and memorialized in a waltz written by Jerry Holland). "You didn't want to say, 'I can't play ball, I have to go practice the fiddle.'"

"If the kids don't pick up an instrument, they just won't get into the music, or the dance," says McKenzie. "It's not so much that they don't like it or appreciate it, but they feel more that it's 'Mom's mu-

sic' or 'Grandpa's music' than theirs." McKenzie, like Mary Lamey, is quick to add her kudos for latter-day musicians like Doug Lamey and Kimberley Fraser — "They've got the drive," she says.

Over time, explains McLeod, the Cape Bretoners who had emigrated — and especially their sons and daughters, when they had grown up — left behind the city, and the usual gathering places for the (Continued on page 13)

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# Worcester Irish Musical Festival Gears up for Third Year June 11-13

**BY SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR**  
Starting a new Irish music festival just a few months before one of the biggest financial meltdowns in modern history occurred might seem an inauspicious beginning, but the organizers of the Worcester Irish Music Festival are singing no laments.

The June 11-13 festival will take place for the third year at the Worcester Hibernian Cultural Centre grounds at 19 Temple Street, highlighted by such major Celtic music performers as Solas, the Makem & Spain Brothers, and The Glengarry Bhoys. A diversity of dance and music events, family and children's activities, as well as the festival's unique "Boiled Cabbage O'lympics" are also on the bill.

Festival co-chair John Creedon Jr. acknowledges that, given the economic downturn, there was good reason to wonder if last year's event would come close to duplicating the encouraging results of its 2008 debut. In fact, he notes, attendance actually increased, from about 2,500 to 3,000. What's the reason? Creedon thinks it might have something to do with the ticket prices: \$12 for one day (\$15 at the gate), \$25 for a three-day pass (\$30 at the gate) and no charge for kids under 12.

"When the economy went south, obviously, all of us had to scale back," he says. "But June comes around, it's the end of the school year and the beginning of summer, and I think we all look for a good family event that's a bargain.



Solas is one of the headliners for the third annual Worcester Irish Festival June 11-13. Photo by Sean Smith

"This festival appeals to a wide range of people, from those who are experienced in, and knowledgeable about, Irish music to those who aren't necessarily familiar with it but enjoy the sounds and the atmosphere. And while most of those attending are from Worcester and the surrounding communities, we've found others who come not only from Boston but Maine and even upstate New York."

As one of the most enduringly popular contemporary/traditional Irish groups of the past two decades, Solas will undoubtedly thrill Irish music newcomers and veterans like, Creedon says. The Makem & Spain

Brothers and Glengarry Bhoys, as well as Prince Edward Island fiddling sensation Cynthia MacLeod – making her festival debut – also invariably create new fans wherever they play, he adds.

Elsewhere on the musical front, Creedon continues, are The Granitemen, playing a mix of Irish classics and contemporary American favorites ("As the Light Declines," "Belle of Belfast City" and even "Sweet Caroline," among others), Boston's premier U2 tribute band The Joshua Tree, and The Boys of the Town. For those who want to do more than listen, there will be Irish music sessions during the course of the

festival. Dancers from the McInerney School of Irish Step Dance also will perform throughout the weekend.

Storyteller and singer Kate Chadbourne will be the featured children's entertainer on June 12. Kids and families also can take part in face-painting, arts and crafts, miniature golf and other games.

And then there's the "Boiled Cabbage O'lympics."

"It's bizarre, but hysterically funny," Creedon explains. "Teams of two race against other teams of two through an obstacle course that starts with one teammate pouring a can of Guinness -- shaken, of course -- into a plastic pint cup, kicking

a head of boiled cabbage through a course of orange cones, with pint cup in hand, then throwing a rubber snake in a basket à la St. Patrick, followed by bobbing for a potato, then passing the cup of black goodness to their partner to race back down the course.

"At the end, depending on how much Guinness spilled out of the cup, seconds will be tacked onto a team's final time. The winning team will be awarded the famed 'Cabbage Cup.'" (Creedon points out that participants must all be at least 21 years of age and that no consumption of Guinness, necessarily, will occur during the activity.)

Creedon notes that proceeds from the festival will benefit the 501(c)(3) Worcester Hibernian Cultural Foundation Inc. to enable the organization to underwrite events that promote and preserve the Irish heritage and culture of Worcester.

"A major goal of this festival was to showcase the Hibernian Cultural Centre, and make it a centerpiece for the area Irish-American community. We've been very happy to see the response."

For more information on the Worcester Irish Festival, see [worcesteririshmusicfestival.com](http://worcesteririshmusicfestival.com).

## Transition For Cape Bretoners

(Continued from 12)  
music and socializing, and went off to the Arlingtons and Belmonts. There were still people to carry on the traditions, he says, just not as many as there once had been.

The path from Cape Breton to Boston also became less traveled, say the Cape Bretoners, whether because of the Vietnam War ("If you got your citizenship papers, you'd wind up getting drafted," says McLeod), changes in the US economy, or, more recently, post-9/11 restrictions on travel and immigration to the US. Young people decided to stay on the island, and if they did opt to leave, they were more likely to head to the other side of Canada.

As a result of all this, the Boston Cape Breton community – McLeod estimates that at one time the local Cape Breton population might have been as high as 100,000 – simply hasn't been replenished in terms of numbers, and the music and dance traditions were not as strongly rooted in the generations following after the one

which arrived in the 1950s and 60s. "It skipped a generation" is a commonly used phrase.

Which is not to say there haven't been, and aren't now, plenty of people within the Cape Breton community who work to keep the music and dance going – including the people, old or young, who support and frequent the Canadian-American Club, not only for their dances but for the informal music performances Friday nights.

Still, the future for the Cape Breton music and dance scene in Boston might be young people like Dominique Dodge, who has no familial connection to Cape Breton but fell in love with the tradition.

"I feel strongly that the tradition can stand on its own," says Dodge, a Celtic harpist and singer from New Hampshire now living in Concord. "Whether it's in your blood or no, when you play the music you are part of the tradition. And where that music is really expressed is at a dance like this one."

Northborough resident

Pete MacDonald and his family might represent an even brighter hope for the Cape Breton community. The grandson of a former Canadian-American Club president, "Red" Jack MacDonald, Pete and his wife Tammie have four children, none of them out of their teens, who are intensely involved in the music and dance their ancestors so loved.

"The music kind of skipped my father's generation," says MacDonald, who plays guitar. "He didn't come here to the club that often, because as a first-generation American he wanted to embrace his new culture. But our kids absolutely love the Cape Breton music. They really know about their heritage and they're not afraid to express it."

"The music is around if you look for it," says McLeod. "It won't be like it was, but it's there if you want it."

For information about Canadian-American Club events, see the club website at [canamclubofboston.com/](http://canamclubofboston.com/).

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## Traveling People

# Aillwee Cave in Co. Clare Still Entices; Those Birds of Prey on Site an Extra Treat

BY JUDY ENRIGHT

## SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Times change and trends and fads come and go in Ireland as they do everywhere. With that in mind, I've found that when you visit the Emerald Isle, you really can't go wrong visiting some of the tried and true attractions and events.

**Aillwee Cave** – Many years ago, we took the kids to Aillwee Cave in the Burren in Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare. The cave tour was fascinating and we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. The kids marveled at the other-worldly shapes of spotlighted stalagmites and stalactites and, being boys, they also loved the darkened passageways and the overall eeriness of being inside a cave.

This year, I decided to visit again – sans kids – to see if the Aillwee allure was still there. Again, the guided tour and narrative was fascinating and informative. I enjoyed a homemade snack in the cozy tearoom and a stroll through the well-stocked craft shop in the Cave Access building as I waited for the tour to begin.

The story of the cave's discovery is so interesting. It seems that Jacko McGann, a Ballyvaughan native and herdsman, discovered and crawled through the cave in 1940 with only a flickering candle to light his way. He explored much of the cave over the ensuing years but didn't share his discovery until 1973 when he talked with a group of cavers from Bristol University.

In 1975, the Aillwee Cave Company bought the land and began work to create a show cave that could be opened up and made safe to welcome the public. Blasting cleared much of the way through narrow caverns, handrails were installed as was extensive lighting and a pathway was paved with locally-quarried Liscannor flagstone. Parking lots, roads, and a mountain walk were added over the years.

In 1988, Aillwee Cave welcomed its millionth

visitor

Down the hill from the cave – and new since my last visit – is an outstanding Birds of Prey Center and a farm shop where you can try some of the award-winning Burren Gold cheeses. I bought two flavors: Nettle with Garlic and Oak Smoked, and both were much enjoyed back at my accommodation.

When you're at the farm shop, do enjoy the cheeses and check out local produce such as pickles, jams, pestos, oils and spiced vinegars, fudge, jams, and bread mixes. These make nice gifts to take home and I usually pack a jar or two of very well bubble-packed jam inside a shoe in my suitcase to keep it from breaking. I have to say that method has worked great so far.

The show presented at the Birds of Prey Center was well worth the price of admission. Mark Barrett, the presenter on the day I visited, put owls, hawks and an eagle through their paces and talked about the birds and their attributes, diets, and habits. After the show, you can walk through the center and see all sorts of birds of prey – vultures, falcons and many types of owls – in cages that replicate their natural habitats.

Aillwee Cave and the Birds of Prey Center is a fun way to spend a day in Ireland with your family or on your own. For more information, go to [aillwee-cave.ie](http://aillwee-cave.ie).

**Burren Centre in Kilfenora** – As I drove around the Burren this spring, I passed through the Co. Clare village of Kilfenora, called "The City of Crosses" for the medieval high crosses at St. Fachtnan's 12th-Century cathedral there. I stopped at The Burren Centre, which is open daily from mid-March to Oct. 31.

I have always been captivated by the magnificent and magical Burren moon-cape so an informational centre was right up my alley. The centre features a 12-minute comprehensive film (offered in many languages) by the brilliant environmentalist and independent film producer



Mark Barrett holds a hawk named Emily at the Burren Birds of Prey and Educational Centre at the Aillwee Cave complex in Ballyvaughan, the Burren, Co. Clare. *Judy Enright photos*



Above left: Among the many birds on display at the Burren Birds of Prey and Educational Centre at Aillwee Cave in the Burren is this vulture. At right: Sika, a sea eagle, relaxes after performing at the Aillwee Cave Burren Birds of Prey and Educational Centre in Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare.



Eamon de Buitlear that traces the formation of the Burren some 320 million years ago. The images are absolutely stunning and the film has ended before you know it.

After watching the film, I walked through the exhibition, had homemade soup and brown bread in the tearoom and looked longingly at some of the wonderful items in the craft shop.

More information is available at: [theburren-centre.ie](http://theburren-centre.ie).

Before you leave Kilfenora, be sure to walk around St. Fachtnan's. The crosses are truly magnificent and the cathedral is well worth a visit. It's right next door to The Burren Centre.

**Co. Clare Area** – While you're there, be sure to:

- Stop at the former Doolin Crafts Gallery and say hello to gifted jeweler Brian Hackett, who took over the space last winter after having a studio in Wicklow for 20 years. Brian now makes his beautiful silver and gold pieces – some set with gemstones – in his design studio in Doolin and plans to set up a website soon but can be reached by e-mail at [brianhackett@oceanfree.net](mailto:brianhackett@oceanfree.net)

- Have dinner at Roadford House ([roadfordhouse.com](http://roadfordhouse.com)) and Cullinan's ([cullinansdoolin.com](http://cullinansdoolin.com)) restaurants in Doolin – both have outstanding food and offer accommodation as well;

- Stay at Riverfield House ([riverfielddoolin.com](http://riverfielddoolin.com)) in Doolin for a wonderful B&B experience;

- Take a Cliffs of Moher or Aran Island cruise aboard Garrihy's Ferries ([mohercruises.com](http://mohercruises.com) or [doolin2aranferries.ie](http://doolin2aranferries.ie)) from the pier in Doolin;

- Listen to music at one of Doolin's many pubs – our personal favorite is McDermott's ([\[spubdoolin.com\]\(http://spubdoolin.com\)\);](http://mcdermott-</a></li>
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- Stop for delicious fruit jams, marmalades, chutneys, and jellies at the Clare Jam Shop just off the coast road in Doolin and try the smoked salmon or send some home from the Burren Smokehouse in nearby Lisdoonvarna;

- Drive the coast road from Doolin to Ballyvaughan to see some of Ireland's most magical scenery;

- Check out Go Cycle Ireland ([gocycleireland.com](http://gocycleireland.com)) for short breaks for leisure cyclists, mountain bikers, and other athletes.

- Listen to great jazz at the Doonbeg International Jazz Festival June 4-7. See [doonbegjazz.com](http://doonbegjazz.com) for details.

**Blarney Woollen Mills** – I was sorry to see that Blarney Woollen Mills was closing its flagship store after more than 20 years on Nassau Street in Dublin. High rent and an inability to strike a reasonable rental agreement with the landlords was said to have caused the shutdown. Stock was discounted and if you were lucky enough to be there to cash in on some of the great deals, then you were lucky indeed. The Woollen Mills stores have always been known for quality product.

Blarney Woollen Mills stores around the rest of the country – including Galway, Killarney, Blar-

ney and others, were said to be unaffected by the Dublin closing.

Sadly, the crime and murder mystery bookstore, Murder Ink, on Dawson Street, Dublin, was also scheduled to close this spring because the owner is ill.

## ELSEWHERE IN IRELAND

There's a lot to do in Ireland in June from all kinds of water sports to equestrian activities to cycling, walking, hiking to music and art, garden, and museum visits.

The local tourist board (marked with a big green shamrock) is a great source of information about everything from accommodation to activities in the area you're visiting.

If you're in Dublin, the Dublin City Council has announced plans to add 100 more bikes, increase the number of bike stands from 795 to 1,087, and introduce four new stations. The rental scheme has been in effect since last September and you can buy a subscription for ten euro a year or pay two euro for a three-day ticket. Wouldn't it be fun to see the city by bike?

- The so-called "Dead Zoo," also known as the Natural History Museum in Dublin, has reopened after three years of renovation work. The museum is free and open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. It's closed Mondays and bank holidays.

- The Glasnevin Cemetery, resting place of more than 1.5 million including Daniel O'Connell, Eamon de Valera and Michael Collins, recently opened a museum that is expected to attract some 200,000 visitors a year. Admission is six euro for adults and four for children.

- Do you like festivals? There are a series of such coming up for literature lovers including: Listowel Writers Week ([writersweek.ie/2010](http://writersweek.ie/2010)), June 2-6; Flat Lake Festival ([theflatlakefestival.com](http://theflatlakefestival.com)), in Co. Monaghan, June 4-6; Immrama, the Lismore Festival of Travel Writing ([lismoreimmrama.com](http://lismoreimmrama.com)) in Co. Waterford, June 10-13;

- Some 20,000 spectators are expected at the National Sheep Shearing Championships in Portlaoise, Co. Laois, on June 5-6. The event will include sheepdog trials, a food village, a carnival, arts and crafts and a free children's entertainment area.

- Achill Island hosts a half marathon on July 3, which would be fun to watch. Some 2,000 runners have entered and the field is full. Find more information at: [achillmarathon.com](http://achillmarathon.com).

## TRAVEL PLANS

Enjoy your trip to Ireland whenever you go and don't forget to check the internet for the latest travel specials. Aer Lingus offers web deals on flights and ground travel as do other airlines that service Ireland.

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# Thirty-Two Counties

**Antrim:** A young student has proved himself to be one of the strongest of the male race in the British Isles by breaking both Irish and British records for clean and jerk of 131kg- more than 20 stone. The six-foot-two, 16-year-old from Randalstown weighs in at 18 stone and has been lifting since he was fourteen. Matthew McCoy, who attends St. Benedict's Secondary School, also boasts the same record for snatch and holds the Irish Senior title and the British schoolboy title.

**Armagh:** The Archbishop has put his foot down and is insisting that he will be remaining as cardinal even though he has been under pressure to hand in his resignation. As so many new child abuse cases are coming forward and priests, bishops and archbishops are being asked to step down, Cardinal Sean Brady, head of the Catholic Church, is refusing to abandon his flock. Brady was present at meetings in the seventies when kids signed vows of silence in relation to the abuse they suffered. He has promised to work to ensure that past mistakes never happen again.

**Carlow:** The county, which already lays claim to the young, amazingly talented actress Saoirse Ronan, now has to make room in their hearts for a new rising star. Six-year-old Holly Gregg has landed the lead role in a big budget Hollywood movie *The Last Furlong* -- about a young cancer patient, meaning the young girl will have to cut off all her hair. The very young actress, whose mother hails from Hacketstown, is expected to set the screen alight in this heart-warming tale of a young cancer victim.

**Cavan:** Young boys and girls had a Garda-escorted Holy Communion after the breaking out of a fight before the beginning of the ceremony. One of the most important and memorable days in a child's life is his or her First Holy Communion and this year at the Cathedral of SS Patrick and Felim, that memory was tainted because of a vicious fight between two traveler women. The row began between two different families on the steps of the cathedral and over-flowed into the church. The police were called and were forced to stay and supervise the service.

**Clare:** Minister for Health John Moloney officially opened a new drop-in centre in Kilmamona that will give support to cancer sufferers. *Sláinte an Chláir* at Tir Mhuire promises to be a 'home away from home' for the victims of cancer with councillors and volunteers at hand to give a helping hand or sympathetic ear. Dr. Grealley of Cancer Care West and a nurse have pledged to visit the centre once a month and had already given the staff of *Sláinte* on site training. The centre will also work closely with cancer survivors in the area giving the visitors a view of the light at the end of the tunnel.

**Cork:** The official launch of Cork's largest one-day dress sale was kicked off by Lady Mayoress Tanya Murphy and Munster rugby wives Jessica O'Gara and Monique Howlett. 'Buy My Dress' charity fundraiser were selling one thousand dresses of all different colors, shapes and sizes in aid of Down Syndrome Ireland on May 20. This is the second year of the event which last year raised 35,000 euros. The ladies of Cork are asked to donate one of their favorite dresses for this extremely worthwhile charity.

**Derry:** The Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum helped a woman to put down

a deposit on a new flat for her daughter. Anna Griffin quit smoking after attending a group at the health forum. She smoked for years but the help of the hard working staff she was able to give up the cancerous habit and save money while also saving her life. Griffin didn't realize how much money she spent on cigarettes and, by quitting, she managed to save enough money to put a deposit down on a flat for her daughter.

**Donegal:** A young Donegal boy lovingly made a gift for his dying grandfather, who unfortunately passed away last week and in the process, he helped the people of Haiti. Jack Richards of Errarooney would play the guitar to his grandfather, residing in Wales, over the phone. When his health started to deteriorate, Jack decided to make a CD for his Grandfather Bernard and it was after the CD was made that Jack had the idea of selling it in the local shops and to his neighbors all in aid of Haiti. The CD *Songs for Haiti* raised 2,350 euro which the young philanthropist donated to Concern.

**Down:** Pedestrians using North Down Coastal Path can happily walk their usual routes without fear of seeing unwanted views once more. A man was arrested by the local PSNI after three incidents of a cyclist indecently exposing himself in the Coastal Path and Strickland's Bay area, were reported over the last few weeks. The 25-year-old exhibitionist's lurid campaign had left seafront strollers shocked and appalled but order has been restored thanks to the local police in Bangor. The arrest was announced on the station's Facebook page and over 30 Facebook users have commented on the great news.

**Dublin:** A singer from Dublin will be travelling to Oslo in the hopes of saving the Irish Eurovision legacy. Nikki Kavanagh of Swords is the backing singer for this year's Irish entry Niamh Kavanagh, no relation. Ireland has won the competition more than any other country but since the change in the voting system, has held a firm position at the bottom of the leader board and didn't even make it in to the final show last year. The two Kavanagh ladies will be hoping to avoid the volcanic ash and succeed in returning the title to its rightful home.

**Fermanagh:** The beautiful Julianne Elliot will be representing Fermanagh at this year's Miss Northern Ireland finals. She was picked to represent her home county after competing against a slew of other charming ladies for the title as Miss North West 200. The 18-year-old is a graduate of former Miss Northern Ireland Judith Wilson's School of Modelling, where another aspiring model from Fermanagh has reached the final ten of a competition to be the new face of DV8. Alana Elliot, no relation to Miss Northern Ireland hopeful, is competing against nine other girls but is tipped to win the top position.

**Galway:** The Blasphemy Man arrived in the city last month on his trip across the country in opposition to the Blasphemy Law contained in the recent Defamation Act. The Donegal man started his walk from Mizen head on Thurs., May 6, and arrived in Galway City the following Monday. The law, which came into effect on January 1, makes "blasphemous libel" a criminal offense. Gill believes the content of the law is an extreme censorship of free speech and is being supported by Atheists Ireland both of whom are calling on Ireland



to vote "Yes" in the upcoming referendum to remove this law.

**Kerry:** Tommy Tiernan, Ireland's resident funny man who is famous for shocking the viewers of the *Late Late Show*, made his legions of fans in Kerry happy when he kicked off his "World Tour of Kerry" last month. The Navan native has been cracking up the people of Ireland for nearly ten years and now he is returning to his roots by playing in small venues. He will visit Dingle, Listowel, Tralee, Killarney, Kilorglin, Sneem and Ballybunion popping into the local spots and finding himself a good place to perform his new material.

**Kilkenny:** The lucky students and teachers from St. Leonards National School, Dunamaggin, were the guests of honor at the first official function to take place at Dublin's Aviva Stadium. The school was the overall winner from the All-Ireland competition *Fit Factor*, which pitted five schools against each other in a bid to find the school with the fittest students. Third and fourth class of St. Leonards took home the top prizes, the title of All-Ireland *Fit Factor* competition and 5,000 euro worth of sports equipment for the school. The competition's aim was to educate children on the importance of being healthy.

**Kildare:** A large mast that has been erected in Athy's Emily Square has been met with anger from all corners with the local council furious with the new edition to the square, placed by the county council without any discussion with local council. The mast, which is home to a CCTV camera, has a bird's eye view of the goings on of Athy's residents. Local councillors said that the erection of the mast without their consent was arrogant, that it was grotesque looking and that the new structure was "corporate vandalism." The local council has appealed for its removal.

**Laois:** A great day was had by all the visitors, workers and clients at the RehabCare's open day. The centre, which runs programs from money management to art, opened its doors to show the public the great facilities they have to offer with clients from 23-70 finding something within the walls to suit their needs. There was a master chef competition between Andrew

Carter of Ballyroan and the double team Portlaoise's Brigid Kelly and Mary Wall of Borrissin-Ossory that ended in a draw as a clear winner could not be chosen. There was also a show put on for the visitors by some of the centre's clients.

**Leitrim:** A proposed wind farm at the foot of the Dough Mountains has been refused. The planning permission, which had been granted by Leitrim County Council, was given on a basis of 19 conditions that had to be complied with. The planning permission was appealed by an Taisce and Kevin Deering on grounds of habitat, visual amenity, and fauna with the department of Environment acting as observers. The decision made by the county council was then overturned by Bord Pleanála as the national body refused permission for the construction of the eight wind turbines sighting that it is within the mountain range henceforth a priority habitat.

**Limerick:** The residents of Stenson Park, High Road, Thomondgate, only have to walk out their front doors for a good game of pitch and putt as the road which runs through their estate has so many potholes. The residents are sick and tired of the potholes and have been waiting for the matter to be fixed for years. The holes have been causing major damage to the cars of road users and has even caused tire blowouts. The residents still haven't received news that the road will be fixed.

**Longford:** The pope has officially accepted the resignation of Bishop Colm O'Reilly. A native of Colmcille, O'Reilly had been Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois for 27 years. He handed in his resignation immediately after he turned 75 in January and it has now been officially accepted by Pope Benedict. The Bishop will now have to wait for a replacement to be found which could take up to 18 months. O'Reilly is currently involved with the restoration of the St. Mel's Cathedral and encouraged the children of the area to get involved in the time capsule as part of the project.

**Louth:** Two sisters set out on a journey to visit the middle child in the family, their sister Aine Treanor, in London. The aspiring fashion designer attending fashion school in

London hails from Peninsula, Louth. The 19-year-old has made a big splash in the young fashion scene in London and is sailing through college with flying colors. As her older sister Mairead, 21, and younger sister Cáit, 17, were grounded in Dublin on their way to visit Aine, as a result of the volcanic ash and like so many others thought their holiday was ruined but luckily they flew to London to spend time with the future fashion designer.

**Mayo:** The so called visionary Joe Coleman has finally been denied access to the churches in Knock. When he and his followers tried to enter the churches at the shrine in Knock they were told that they could not pray out loud in the church or even enter and he and his groupies were forced to recite the rosary in the rain. He claims to have received word from "Our Blessed Mother Queen of Peace" that she will appear on July 14 at 2 p.m. in Knock. He demanded that he be allowed into the church on this date.

**Meath:** A Navan native has hit the big time in the Hollywood hills thanks to a little help from the stars of *Sex and the City*. Brian Byrne, a composer, conductor and pianist from Navan now living in Los Angeles, arranged and played piano on the soundtrack for the new *Sex and the City 2* movie. The sequel to the wildly successful first movie, an adaptation of the television series, sees the friends jetting off to Dubai for an all expenses paid trip, all to the musical backdrop composed by one of the Royal County's very own.

**Monaghan:** The popular weather woman from GMTV's morning show arrived in Clones in search of her family roots. Kirstin McCabe is in the process of making a film about her search to find her Irish family roots from her paternal side of the family. Fáilte Ireland has been facilitating her travels around Ireland in her bid to gather as much information about her Irish ancestry as possible. In Clones she was helped by the well-known writer Eugene McCabe, who enlightened her about the history of their namesake in the area. The film will be broadcast on GMTV in June.

**Offaly:** A regular lotto player has finally hit the jackpot after all these years of checking her numbers. A woman from Birr, who wishes to remain anonymous, was the lucky one and only winner of the Lotto Plus 2 draw. The ticket was bought for four euros in Patti Nees, Main Strett, Birr, and the Birr native that won it took home a check of 250,000 euros.

**Roscommon:** The members of the anti-head shop celebrated last month when High Times head shop closed its doors and shut down shop. The celebration was short lived, however, as the shop re-opened on Saturday and restocked its shelves with new products described as herbal based and not containing BZP. This means they are not illegal according to the new law that Minister for Health Mary Harney brought in recently. The anti-head shop group will not give up its efforts to shut the shop down, however, and dusted off their signs to continue their protest.

**Sligo:** The people of Sligo recently took part in a mystery record breaking attempt. RTE's *The Afternoon Show* came to the Sligo Regional Sports Centre located on Clevaragh Road. They had one aim and one reason for their journey from RTE studios in Donnybrook to the wild west

(Continued on page 20)

# NEWS DIRECT FROM IRELAND

**Ash disruption continues** -- Thousands of Irish passengers faced delays during the first three weeks of May as the volcanic ash cloud closed airports. Dublin airport was closed for periods of time, on one day affecting almost 200 flights. Galway, Knock, Donegal and Sligo airports were also shut. Passengers in Cork and Shannon airports suffered disruption due to flight cancellations at the other airports.

**First anniversary of Ryan Report** -- Last month saw the first anniversary of The Ryan Report into clerical abuse within the Catholic Church in Ireland. When it was published on May 20, 2009, it caused both shock and outrage at the extent of the abuse, both physical and sexual, but also for the way in which victims had been handled over the years. Thousands of children were physically beaten and sexually abused by priests while in state institutional care.

There is an added poignancy in the description often used of victims of clerical abuse in Ireland - "survivors of clerical abuse" - reflecting the fact that many victims committed suicide because of the way in which both police and church officials either did not believe claims or chose to ignore them. There were many instances detailed in the report of victims who had altered police and priests and no action was taken or else the church was left to find its own solutions to the allegations.

One of the most outspoken advocates of the survivors, Christine Buckley, Director of the Aislinn Education and Support Centre and herself a survivor of clerical abuse, said that the day the report was published will always be a significant date for her. "It took 25 years for us to be believed and vindicated".

**Prominent author dead at 74** -- Breandán Ó Buachalla, a prominent Irish language academic, passed away on May 21. Prof Ó Buachalla, widely held to be the leading authority on Gaelic poetry and writing in early modern Ireland, was described by Minister for Tourism, Sport and Culture Mary Hanafin as a giant among his peers. He was published extensively on subjects including history, Gaelic poetry, and linguistics. The 74-year-old lectured at Queens University Belfast and University College Dublin where he was Professor of Modern Irish Language and Literature. He also held visiting professorships at Notre Dame University, New York Univer-

## Ireland Today: Discounts for Tourists with Irish Heritage

A tourism initiative to target the 70 million people worldwide who claim Irish ancestry is being drawn up by the Department of Foreign Affairs. Tourists with Irish roots will soon be able to get discounts at some of the country's most popular visitor attractions with a "certificate of Irish heritage." Those hoping to qualify will have to prove their claims to Irish ancestry by producing documents such as birth certs, church records of death or wills, or land records. The program will be overseen by the department but run by an outside agency. It will run on a trial basis for a year and renewed annually after that. The document will not entitle the holder to citizenship or other legal rights but the credit-card style card will entitle them to massive savings at tourist venues.

sity, and Boston College. Prof Ó Buachalla is survived by his wife Aingeal, his daughters Bridóg and Clíona, and his son Traolach.

**Firearm deaths rate up five fold** -- The number of gun related killings in the Republic has increased from 8 per cent of murders and manslaughters to over 38 per cent between 1998 and 2008, a study has shown. During the same period gun killings in England and Wales remained about the seven per cent mark.

**New PM visits Northern Ireland** -- The new British Prime Minister, David Cameron, met the First and Deputy First Ministers at Stormont last month during his first visit to the North. He indicated that cuts to the North's budget will be deferred for a year with any shortfall made up of the sale of government assets. The First Minister, Peter Robinson, said that should the required savings the UK need to make be divided equally the North's portion would be in the region of 200-million pounds. He also said the ministerial Executive will make the final decision on when the cuts will take place. Cameron singled out Northern Ireland's high levels of public spending during the recent election campaign. Cameron also had a meeting with the Ulster Unionist leader, Sir Reg Empey. It was announced during the visit that a meeting between Mr Cameron and An Taoiseach, Brian Cowen, is to take place to discuss the North. No date has been set for the meeting.

**Bomb factory discovered in Co. Louth** -- Gardaí believe they have uncovered a bomb-making facility near Dundalk, Co. Louth. Gardaí had been monitoring the two houses just off the M1 motorway for a

number of days. The modified gas cylinders discovered in the shed are thought to be part of a bomb to be used by the Real IRA on security forces in the North. Two men were arrested at the scene on Saturday evening May 22. One man is in his fifties, the other is in the mid-20s. The Minister for Justice, Dermot Ahern, has said that the raid has saved lives and also pointed out that the dissidents pose a severe threat. His Northern counterpart, David Ford, also welcomed the Garda operation.

**Cowen backs Derry for 'City Of Culture'** -- Brian Cowen has backed Derry for the UK City of Culture 2013. Derry is one of four cities bidding for the title. US economic envoy to Northern Ireland, Declan Kelly, has also backed the bid, saying that dissident republican activity will not affect the city's chances by attacking the issue directly. Other backers include Nobel Laureates John Hume and Seamus Heaney.

**Teacher unions divided on Croke Park deal** -- Teachers' unions are split down the middle on the Croke Park pay and reform deal as primary teachers, represented by The Irish National Teachers' Organisation, voted in favour of the pay deal for public servants by 63 per cent to 37 per cent. The two second-level unions, the Teachers Union of Ireland and the Association of Secondary Teachers Ireland, rejected the deal. Resistance to the deal is focussed on the plan to renegotiate their contracts and a requirement to work an extra hour per week. Taoiseach Brian Cowen described the rejection by the two unions as "disappointing." The majority of public servants who voted have backed the deal and it will be passed if SIPTU and Impact members vote in favour.

**Over 117,000 hospital falls reported since 2004** -- The State Claims Agency said over 117,800 slips, trips, or falls in hospitals have been reported over a six-year period. Falls are in the top five incidents nationally, representing 38 per cent of all adverse events reported, according to a review by the agency, covering January 2004 to December last year. Many falls occurred when a patient was on the move without supervision and 1,784 fall events occurred when patients were having a shower. The Health Service Executive said every effort is being undertaken across the health service by multidisciplinary teams focusing on falls and fractures prevention. It added that the development of national guidelines to implement a strategy is a priority this year.

**Irish separated twins return to Cork** -- Hassan and Hussein Benhaffaf, twins born joined together, returned with their parents, Angie and Azzedine Benhaffaf, to a tumultuous welcome home, after the successful operation that separated them in London, when they landed at Cork Airport last month. They flew home on an Irish Air Corps aircraft. Catching the mood at the airport, Angie Benhaffaf shouted "Up Cork! Three cheers for the little fighters!" Among those waiting to welcome them were members of her family. The two boys, now five-months old, were born joined at the chest and were separated after a difficult 14-hour operation at a London hospital. Mrs Benhaffaf's sister, Shirley O'Leary told a local newspaper that the homecoming was better than winning the Lotto. The twins were taken to Cork University Hospital for tests.

**Sinead O'Connor calls on Pope and top hierarchy to resign** -- Sinead O'Connor called last week for the pope and top Vatican officials to resign over the issue of the clerical abuse scandals that have rocked the Catholic Church worldwide. She made her call on PBS News Hour hosted by Jim Lehrer. "I want the entire regime to go. The entire top echelons of the Vatican should be fired, every single one of them", the singer said, adding that there also ought to be "a criminal investigation of the Vatican" and its role in covering up the scandal. O'Connor reaffirmed her faith in Catholicism, but not the institutional church, on the US television show hosted by Rachel

Maddow via satellite link. "I feel the Holy Spirit is being held hostage by the people who are currently running the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church is full of beautiful people, men and women ... who have given up their whole lives, to serve human beings. But these people are also being betrayed by the people who are running the church."

**Boyzone's Ronan Keating to split with wife** -- The news last month that popular Boyzone singer Ronan Keating and his wife of 12 years, Yvonne Keating, a former model, were to separate came as a major shock, even to those close to the couple. Keating's former manager, the pop impresario, Louis Walsh, said he knew nothing about the separation until it was announced. A statement issued on the couple's website described the separation as amicable and that they would "continue to work together in order to provide the best for their children." However, in the aftermath, rumours, subsequently confirmed, indicated that the real reason for the split was an alleged affair the singer was conducting with one of the dancers on the current Boyzone tour. A source told an Irish newspaper that the singer's wife refused to tolerate his infidelity, adding that though she was heartbroken, she was "not the sort of person to forgive and forget."

Ronan Keating, both as a member of Boyzone and in his solo career, is one of the most successful Irish musical artists in the world, having sold over 22 million records in his solo career alone, along with sharing in the global success of Boyzone. The Guinness Book of Records lists him as the only artist to date to have had 30 consecutive top ten singles in the UK pop charts. One of his most popular records is "When You Say Nothing at All," which featured in the hugely successful film 'Notting Hill' as well as "Life is a Rollercoaster."

**Rare painting to be sold** -- A rare Irish painting, "John, 5th Earl Spencer, with Ward Union Hunt, 1877" by Waterford born Michael Angelo Hayes is to go on sale at Christie's of London. The painting is one of hundreds of items to be sold by the Spencer family of Altorp, Northamptonshire. The family hopes to raise 20 million pounds from a series of sales. The painting is estimated to be worth between 15,000 pounds and 25,000 pounds.

## THIRTY-TWO COUNTIES

(Continued from page 19)

of Sligo and that was to set a Guinness World Record. They have been appealing to the people of Sligo to help them out but they have not revealed what record they are looking to set.

**Tipperary:** The town of Roscrea is rife with rumors and its people are keeping an eye out to see if anybody seems to be splashing the cash more than usual. One of the town's residents may have won the jackpot in the National Lottery and will bring home a check worth 2,726,590 euro. The ticket was purchased in Mike's 'Goodnews Shop' owned by Michael Keane and his partner Evelyn Reid for nearly eleven years. This is the first time in the 25-year history of the national lottery that a shop in Roscommon has sold a winning ticket.

**Tyrone:** A local councillor is calling for the community to come together and tackle the vandalism and anti-social behavior that is on the rise in Coal-

island. Cllr. Jim Cavanagh was speaking after 30,000 pounds worth of damage was caused to the home of a local architect's premises in the Lineside area of town. The councillor is suspecting the teenagers of the area as the culprits of this heinous crime as a group of 12 young people wearing masks were sighted in town around the time of the incident. He is asking the parents of the area to be more vigilant of their teens.

**Waterford:** A popular restaurant on the Dunmore Road in Waterford City went up in flames in what Gardaí are saying is not linked to the high rise in vandalism and arson attacks on private property in the city. A fire started at the Fan Dynasty Chinese Restaurant around 5:30 a.m. and was tackled by four fire truck crews from the city's fire station and one from the Tramore fire station. They remained until 8 a.m. along with the Gardaí, who aided in a precautionary evacuation.

There were no injuries.

**Westmeath:** A young man who survived a rare form of cancer and outlived the 18 months his doctor gave him to live can't get into many of his local bars and nightclubs in Mullingar. Kyle Haugh, now 20, was diagnosed with a very rare form of cancer in his brain when he was 16 and has undergone many operations, leaving him with life changing effects. His pupils are constantly dilated and he is unsteady on his feet, giving him the look of a drunk person and this leads being refused entry to clubs, even with a doctor's note.

**Wexford:** Bailiffs have been pre-warned that they might be making a trip to White's Hotel but not for a vacation. The hotel owes local authorities 1.4 million euro and, after trying to get the money from the owners on numerous occasions, the executive of the local authority may move to recoup the monies owed to both Wexford County Council

and the Borough Council. The money is owed for development levies, rates, and water charges. The hotel went into receivership in 2009 and is now run by 20 investors in conjunction with a government tax incentive.

**Wicklow:** There was a great turnout at a fundraising event held in honor of the recently deceased PJ Kearney. The money raised will go to the mourning

family of Mr. Kearney to help pay for the cost of bringing his body home from where left this earth -- in Australia. The event held at Christy's Bar raised a total 7,110 euros for the family of the young man who tragically passed away while living and working in Brisbane. The event was organized by Wayne Whelan and town councillors Nicky Kelly and Tommy Annesley.



## IRELAND'S WEATHER

REPORTED TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2010

This afternoon will bring sunny spells and a few scattered heavy showers, mainly over eastern and northern areas. Mild with highest temperatures 16 to 19 in a light west to northwesterly breeze. Dry overnight with clear spells leading to some mist and fog patches as winds decrease light variable. Turning rather cool as temperatures dip to 5 or 6 degrees in places. For June 2, Dry tomorrow with spells of warm sunshine after any early mist and fog clears. Highest temperatures 18 to 21 degrees. 3 Day Outlook June 3-5- Thursday will be another dry day, with spells of warm sunshine. Temperatures will again reach the high teens or low twenties - warmest in western and northern counties. A freshening southeasterly breeze will keep temperatures near exposed coasts in the east and south at a more modest 14 or 15 degrees. By Friday the weather will begin to change - cloud will be on the increase and will bring some outbreaks of rain, but rainfall amounts generally will be fairly small. Temperatures will only drop a degree or two, though it won't feel quite as warm due to a moderate to fresh southeasterly breeze later veering south to southwest. Saturday is expected to be mostly dry and pleasantly warm in a moderate south or southwest breeze. (Weather forecast courtesy rte.ie)

## The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

The phrase, "How much?" is **Cé mhéad?** /KEH-wet/ or **Cá mhéad?** /KAH-wet/ depending on the local dialect but you will be understood whichever you use.

We will use **Cé mhéad?**. It is usually followed by a noun in the **Genitive Case**. The **Genitive** of a **noun** such as **ticéad** /TICK-et/ is **ticéaid** /TICK-ehj/. The same phrase, **Cé mhéad?** can also mean. "How many?" The context will give you the intended meaning.

**Cé mhéad atá air?**  
/KEH-wet TAH air/ "How much is it?"  
**Cé mhéad atá ticéaid?**  
/KEH-wet tah TICK-ehj/  
"How much is (a) ticket?"

Remember that the first **a** of **atá** is written but not pronounced. Also recall that you don't have to specify "one" and the English "a" is not necessary in Irish. You can just say, "How much ticket?"

Again, the numbers from "two" to "six" **lenite** (aspirate) the noun following while from "seven" to "ten" the noun following is **eclipsed**.

**Cé mhéad atá trí chait?** /hat/  
"How much are three cats?"  
**Cé mhéad atá naoi ngalúin?**  
NyAHL-oon/ "How much is nine gallons?"

How can you form the **Genitive Case** of nouns? There is no single rule—or even "rules". You really can't learn a single rule since there are so many types—four main types with several subdivisions plus a number of "irregulars." Even native speakers of Irish are beginning to simplify the language and avoid formation of the **Genitive**.

A good example is the phrase "ticket machine", **meaisín ticéad**, that we learned in the last lesson. Remember, "Two nouns in a row, the second is in the **Genitive**." However, since "ticket machine" was imported from English, the second noun is not in the **Genitive** form, **ticéaid**. We will learn these forms "as we go."

There **are** some "rules" that we can learn. In a great many cases, the **Genitive** is the same as the **plural**—and the **Genitive** in the plural is the same as the **singular** when used as a subject. These fall under what Irish Grammarian call "Type 1." However, not all "Type 1" nouns follow this rule.

This is easy to illustrate using the word "cat" which is the same in Irish and English. Imagine a conversation referring to a Pet Store.

**Tá cat sa siopa.** /kaht/  
"There is a cat in the shop."  
**Cé mhéad atá an cait?** /katch/  
"How much is the cat?"  
**Tá cait sa siopa.** /katch/  
"There are cats in the shop?"  
**Cé mhéad atá na cat?** /kaht/  
"How much are the cats?"

As you can see, the **Genitive** "slenderizes" the word "book" by inserting a **í** before the final consonant, thus changing the pronunciation of the word. **Cait** is also the plural of **cat**.

Notice that it is the word for "the", **an**, which changes into **na** "these and marks the plural of the noun.

Similar words are **breac** "trout", **buidhéal** "bottle", and **milséan** "a piece of candy."

**Is maith liom milséan.**  
"I like candy."  
**Cé mhéad atá milséain?**  
"How much is candy?"

Naturally, there are exceptions to this "rule", one of which is the "dropping" of a final vowel when the **í** is inserted. Compare these words:

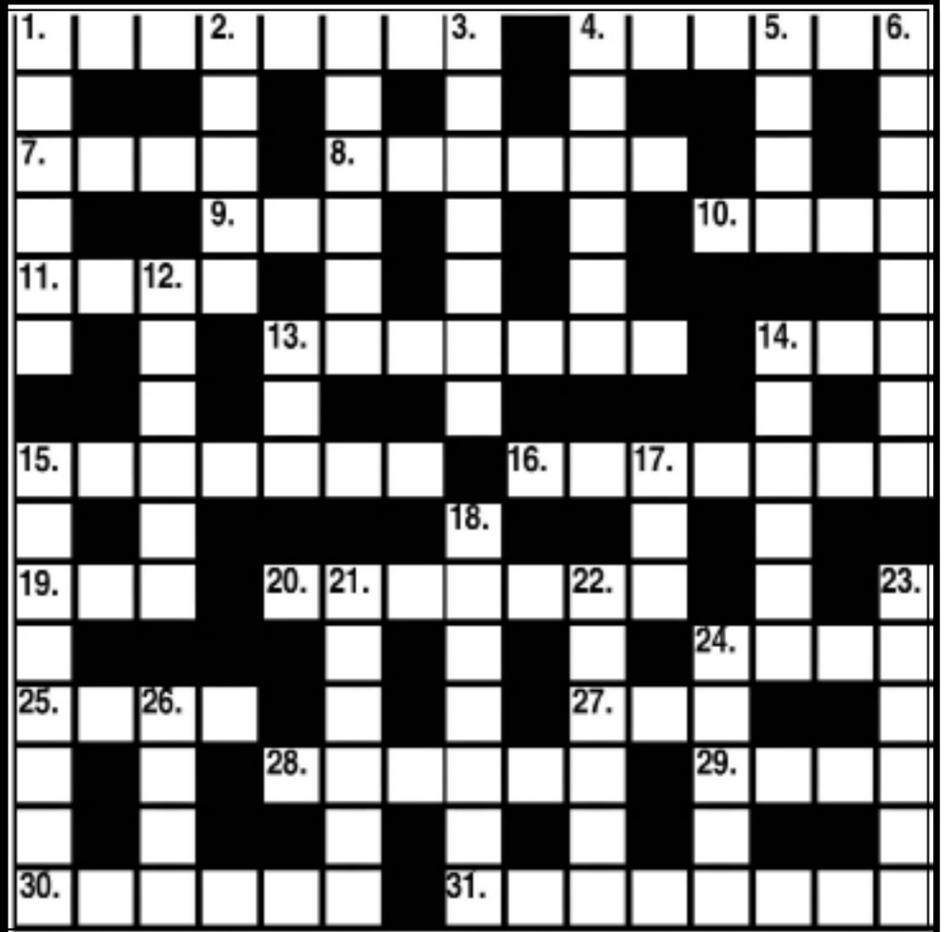
<b>scadán</b> "herring"	<b>scadáin</b> "herrings"
<b>scéal</b> "story"	<b>scéil</b> "stories"
	(vowel dropped)
<b>sáspan</b> "sauce pan"	<b>sáspain</b> "sauce pans"
<b>scipéal</b> "chapel"	<b>scipéil</b> "chapels"
	(vowel dropped)
<b>seáthan</b> "mirror"	<b>seáthain</b> "mirrors"
<b>seaicéad</b> "jacket"	<b>seaicéid</b> "jackets"
	(vowel dropped)

Now, let us see how well you can apply this new knowledge. See if you can translate these into Irish: 1.) "How much are those jackets?" 2.) "These jackets?" 3.) "No. That jacket." 4.) "Where is the chapel?" 5.) "How much is the candy?" 6.) "Two euros." 7.) "How much is a ticket to Dublin?" 8.) "I like trout." 9.) "How much are four herrings?" 10.) "Do you like coffee?" 11.) "A ticket to Waterford, please." 12.) "Where is the ticket machine?"

Answers: 1.) **Cé mhéad atá na seaicéid sin?** 2.) **Na seaicéid seo?** 3.) **Níl. An seaicéad sin.** 4.) **Cá bhfuil an seipéal?** 5.) **Cé mhéad milséain?** 6.) **Dhá h-euro.** 7.) **Cé mhéad ticéaid go Baile Atha Cliath?** 8.) **Is maith liom breac.** 9.) **Cé mhéad ceithre scadáin?** 10.) **An maith leat caife?** 11.) **Ticéad go Port Láirge, go raibh maith agat.** 12.) **Cá bhfuil an meaisín ticéad?**

## CELTIC CROSS WORDS

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



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### ACROSS

- Northern leader mixed up with fine sin in organisation founded by Arthur Griffith. (4,4)
- A dresser of hair in small Down linen town with an old distillery near Newtownards. (5)
- "— and the Man." 1898 play by Shaw. (4)
- Was her entanglement with the ship's rope? (6)
- "A man cannot be — careful in the choice of his enemies." Wilde. (3)
- Information Technology comes to the small church, causing irritation. (4)
- Troubled dynamic motion includes whirling water. (4)
- Torch is enough when he has his head under the sand. (7)
- "What's — the world to a man when his wife is a widow?" Old Irish Proverb. (3)
- Hurtles around in Tipperary town where Strongbow was defeated by O'Connor and O'Brien in 1174. (7)
- If Anne's about recall those who organised the abortive Irish rising of 1867. (7)
- Put down because one is not in church? (3)
- See clan about being able to purify. (7)
- Little Elizabeth takes article to Greek character. (4)
- Getting on in Kimmage demesne. (4)
- Public cutback, but working to a private agenda if one has it to grind. (3)
- Run ale all over in a virtual sense. (6)
- Make a home in Clones town. (4)
- Wall to be demolished in Waterford town on the Glenaboy where John Hogan the sculptor was born. (6)
- Heal tiny troubles in Wicklow village in the valley of the Derry River near Shillelagh. (8)

### DOWN

- Les, any other way to Wicklow, Carlow and Wexford river that joins the Clody in Bunclody? (6)
- "Do you know what a pessimist is? A man who thinks that everybody is as — as himself, and hates them for it." Shaw. (5)
- Sound returns from the book and T.V. film by Maeve Binchy, filmed in Dunmore East. (6)
- Row pent up in picturesque Mayo village on Clew

- Bay under the mountains. (7)
- Churchman dismantles relic after a century. (6)
- Unruly child returns from the beginning of 19 down. (4)
- Ill herds recover in uplands of County Kildare north west of Kildare town. (3,5)
- Irish politician in Glenade put you down. (6)
- Ring 49 for the fuel. (3)
- Bar ale spilled; it's fit for tillage. (6)
- G.A.T.T. hall demolished in large Dublin southern suburb with a pyramidal shopping centre. (8)
- Born in Ballylethane early. (3)
- Bart gets mixed up with R.T.E. in Kerry town with a car ferry to the Limerick side of the Shannon. (7)
- Lax win over Kerry village, with a ruined castle, once the seat of the Earls of Kerry, near Listowel. (6)
- Joseph Dzhugashvili (1879-1953) in last mixup. (6)
- N.Y. brat comes over to West Cork town across the bay from Glengarriff, with Whiddy Island nearby. (6)
- Little Benjamin comes to church to find a seat for the magistrates. (5)
- "Better knowledge of — than — without knowledge." Old Irish Proverb (4) -something to live up to! (4)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 23

## Irish Sayings

"You are not a fully fledged sailor unless you have sailed under full sail," "and you have not built a wall unless you have rounded a corner."  
"There is no strength without unity."  
"You must live with a person to know a person. If you want to know me come and live with me."  
"Praise the young and they will blossom"  
"The raggy colt often made a powerful horse."  
"Age is honorable and youth is noble."  
"Youth does not mind where it sets its foot."  
"Both your friend and your enemy think you will never die."  
"The well fed does not understand the lean."

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# Heaney's Tollund Man Revisited

BY THOMAS O'GRADY  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Recently, I happened upon an interview with Seamus Heaney published more than thirty years ago in the literary journal *Ploughshares*. Having read countless other interviews with Heaney over the decades, most of them involving variations on the thematic territory of his poetry's relationship to the political and sectarian divide in his native Northern Ireland, I wondered if I would find much new in this one. True to form, Heaney is thoughtful, thorough, and articulate in responding to the questions posed by interviewer James Randall—and some of his answers have a conversational freshness suggesting that in 1979, still a relatively early point in his lengthily illustrious career, he had not proffered them literally “countless” times already.

One of the answers that I found particularly intriguing, in part because Heaney has his defensive hackles up, involves the poet's reaction to the skepticism that some critics expressed toward his engagement, in his landmark volume *North* (1975), with the photographs, reproduced in P. V. Glob's book *The Bog People*, of unearthed bodies that had been buried sacrificially in Scandinavian bogs during the Iron Age. “I'm very angry,” Heaney admitted, “with a couple of snotty remarks by people who don't know what they are talking about and speak as if the bog images were picked up for convenience instead of being, as I'm trying to take this opportunity to say, a deeply felt part of my own life, a revelation to me.” The most notorious critique of Heaney's focus on Glob's images was yet to come: David Lloyd's essay “Pap for the Dispossessed: Seamus Heaney and the Poetics of Identity.” Published in 1985, this provocative piece took Heaney severely to task for a general romanticizing of Irish culture, including the culture of violence, that culminated in the bog-centered poems in *North*. “This is effectively to reduce Irish history to myth,” Lloyd wrote, “furnishing an aesthetic resolution to conflicts constituted in quite specific historical junctures by rendering disparate events as symbolic moments expressive of an underlying continuity of identity.”

In “Feeling Into Words,” a lecture presented to the Royal Society of Literature in 1974, Heaney recounted how he happened upon Glob's book at the very time that he was casting about for some way by which his

poetry might have a voice in the conversation and debate related to Northern Ireland's political predicament. Invoking Shakespeare's *Sonnet 65*, which asks what force might withstand the ravages of time—“How with this rage shall beauty hold a plea?”—Heaney, like Shakespeare (who answered his own question with “in black ink my love may still shine bright”), put his faith in words, hoping that “befitting emblems of adversity” (a phrase he borrowed from Yeats's poem “Meditations in Time of Civil War”) might help to illuminate the nature of the predicament. That is, those “befitting emblems” might help his community to recognize that the conflict is more “archetypal” than the mere religious differences, themselves emblemizing social and economic bigotry, between Catholics and Protestants. For Heaney reflecting on this matter in 1974, “the religious intensity of the violence” was more complex than a simple Catholic Nationalist / Protestant Unionist “sectarian division”: it was “a struggle between the cults and devotees of a god and a goddess”—a struggle between the “territorial piety” of those loyal to a tutelary goddess (Ireland conventionally feminized) and the “imperial power” (embodied in the British monarch) of those who have “temporarily usurped her sovereignty.” For critics like David Lloyd, Heaney's engagement with Glob resulted in mere “pap,” a verbal stirabout cooked up for an audience content with being spoon-fed vague sentiment and watered-down rhetoric.

Yet, while Heaney might have been merely disappointed in the failure of certain readers to appreciate what Robert Frost refers to as the inherent “ulteriority” of poetry—poetry as “metaphor, saying one thing and meaning another, saying one thing in terms of another”—he seems to have taken altogether personally the stance of those skeptics (including Lloyd, eventually) who discredited his immediate reaction, literally visceral, when he first looked into *The Bog People*. Describing in “Feeling Into Words” how “the unforgettable photographs of these victims blended in my mind with the photographs of atrocities, past and present, in the long rites of Irish political and religious struggles,” Heaney adds that when he wrote “The Tollund Man,” the first of his poems to engage directly with Glob's book, “I had a completely new sensation, one of fear.” For Lloyd, this fear that Heaney felt in imagining a personal pilgrimage to Aarhus in Denmark to view the most famous of the exhumed bog bodies—“Out there in Jutland / In the old man-killing parishes / I will feel lost, / Unhappy and at home”—gets reduced by its “metaphoric frame” to “a writing whose dangers have been defused into pathos.”

But in dismissing Heaney's engagement with *The Bog People* as a matter of “convenience,” do Lloyd and company actually underestimate—or fail entirely to understand—the very manner in which, as Heaney explains in his interview with Randall, the images in Glob's book were “a revelation” to him not just as poet but as person? I think so, especially in light of the extent to which Heaney's initial response to the photographs in Glob's book might be understood in terms articulated by philosopher and

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cultural critic Roland Barthes in his book *Camera Lucida: Reflections on Photography*. Iconoclastic when first published in French in 1980, Barthes' study has become iconic, and his terms *studium* and *punctum*, used to describe how certain photographs catch the eye of the viewer, have become widely accepted in photography circles.

In fact, Heaney's account in the *Ploughshares* interview of how he was captivated specifically by the first photo in the book, a close-up of the head of the Tollund Man, resonates fully with Barthes' defining of *punctum* as an element of a photograph that “rises from the scene, shoots out of it like an arrow, and pierces me.” (In contrast, a photograph's *studium* involves simply the basic subject matter, not the impact of the image on an individual viewer.) Remarking how the head of the Tollund Man “has had an enormous effect on anybody who ever looked at it,” Heaney admits outright the poignant connection he felt with the shriveled but remarkably well-preserved two thousand-year-old figure excavated from the Danish bog: “The Tollund Man seemed to me like an ancestor almost, one of my old uncles, one of those mustached archaic faces you used to see all over the Irish countryside. I just felt very close to this.”

That is not to say that Heaney's discovery of *The Bog People* was pure accident: no doubt he was drawn to Glob's book by his deep-rooted fascination with his native Irish bog—his “genuine obsession,” as he put it to interviewer Randall—whose sensuous mystery he had expressed in “Bogland,” the concluding poem of his volume *Door Into the Dark*, in 1969: “The wet centre is bottomless.” But his turning the page to the photograph of the Tollund Man seems truly to have involved what Roland Barthes calls “that accident which pricks me (but also bruises me, is poignant to me).” Recalling his initial response to the images in *The Bog People*, Heaney tells interviewer James Randall: “This wasn't thought out. It began with a genuinely magnetic, almost entranced, relationship with those heads.” Indeed, a first line of defense against charges that Heaney's “bog poems” were part of some cynically conceived program proffering the “pap” of “aesthetic resolution” to his “dispossessed” readers might be the fact that his *punctum*-prompted poem “The Tollund Man” was included utterly inconspicuously in the middle of his volume *Wintering Out* (1972).

In an interview with Seamus Deane in 1977, Heaney described how the poems in *North* “arose out of a necessity to shape and give palpable linguistic form” to the “urgency” he felt regarding Northern Ireland's political complexity in the mid-1970s. Inspired (or “wounded,” as Barthes would say) by the literal lens that preserved on film the bodies preserved in the Scandinavian bogs, Heaney offered in his poems not a “resolution”—aesthetic or otherwise—to that complexity but rather an alternative lens (as it were) through which his readers might view its “religious intensity”: this was the lens of poetic “ulteriority”—of “saying one thing in terms of another.”

Thomas O'Grady is Director of Irish Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston. He will be offering a course on Seamus Heaney's poetry in the Spring semester of 2011.

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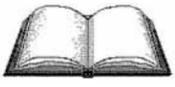
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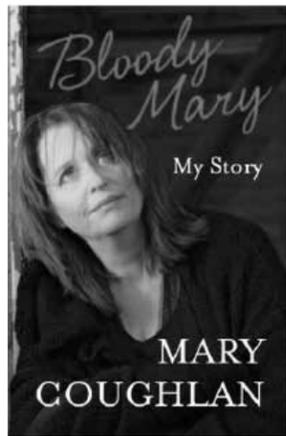
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# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER BOOK BRIEFS

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

## Bloody Mary By Mary Coughlan

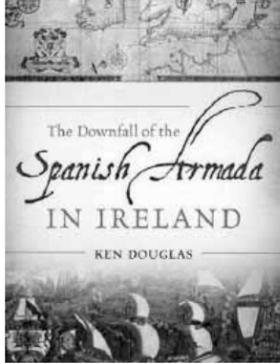


Since she rose to international fame in 1985 with her seminal Irish jazz album *Tired and Emotional*, Mary Coughlan's battles with addiction, the problems in her personal life and career have been well documented. But until now she has never spoken of the traumatic events in her childhood that led to a life of rebellion, running away, and reliance on drugs and alcohol. In this funny, moving and typically outspoken memoir, Ireland's best-loved jazz singer pulls no punches in getting to the heart of what made Mary so contrary. Detailing her battles with the bottle, her suicide attempts and her confinement in psychiatric hospitals, Mary tells of how, after hitting rock-bottom, she pulled herself out of the dregs of a vodka bottle to confront the foundations of her problems head-on. As she tells her story – with a ribald, running commentary on the highs and lows of celebrity culture – we get to experience an alternative evolution of Ireland in the '70s and '80s, populated with hippies, rock stars and movie moguls, and one wild Irish girl determined to live a life less ordinary.

## The Downfall of the Spanish Armada in Ireland By Ken Douglas

His words proved to be more than a warning: they were a prophecy, which was inexorably fulfilled. A siren of alluring beauty, the Irish coast also conceals deadly danger. Destiny was to conspire to transform it into an instrument of terrible destruction and tragic loss of life. In the Atlantic the Armada encountered continuous southerly winds and un-

known ocean currents. It was two centuries before it became possible to calculate longitude at sea, and they were unaware that they had not sailed far enough westwards to give themselves the prescribed safety margin. They became separated and lost, and when they at last turned southwards, scattered groups unintentionally descended on Ireland, arriving at fourteen different locations from Donegal to Kerry. Many found shelter, but a few were lost. But one day, fourteen ships were destroyed by hurricane force winds: the only occasion during the entire voyage when ships were completely destroyed by the weather. "A most extreme and cruel storm," the Irish described it. The Spanish recorded that "in the morning it began to blow from the west with a most terrible fury, bright and with little rain." Ships that had stayed at sea survived. In Donegal Bay the galleass Girona had sheltered with about 1,000 men. In October, Don-



Alonso de Leyva arrived with almost 1,000 more. His entourage included young men from all the noble families of Spain. After being repaired, the Girona departed for Scotland at the end of October, overloaded with 1,300 survivors. She so nearly got there, but foundered near the Giant's Causeway with the loss of de Leyva and the flower of Spanish nobility. In all, 24 Spanish ships were lost in Ireland and about 5,000 men died – far greater losses than had been suffered in the English Channel.

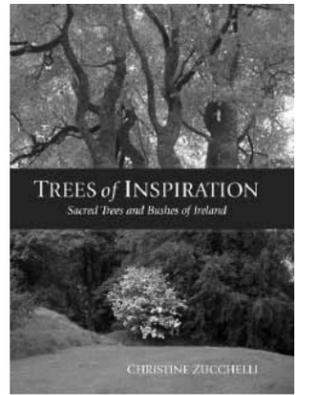
The English navy inflicted a narrow defeat on the Armada, but it

was the Irish coast that encompassed its downfall. Long before it had been surveyed and charted, when it was almost as unknown to mariners as the surface of the moon, for a few brief months in the autumn of 1588, the Irish coast was caught in the headlights of history.

## Trees of Inspiration: Sacred Trees of Ireland By Christine Zucchelli

From ancient times, people appreciated the other-worldly value of trees, often singling out individual ones for special veneration. In Ireland the roots of tree worship reach deep into pagan Celtic religion and spirituality. From Fairy Thorns to Rag Trees, from Mass Bushes to Monument, this book explores the stories and legends of all of Ireland's sacred trees. It also reveals their social and historical functions from pagan times to the present. Did you know that landmark

trees were meeting places to install chieftains or that lawsuits were often heard there? People throughout Ireland revered trees so much that they included them in their celebrations of seasonal festivals and held military, political and secret religious conventions on the sites of particular trees. Sacred trees were channels of communication with the divine, through which seers and saints, poets and scholars gained insight and sacred knowledge. In words and images, this is a rich compendium about our relationship with trees



and gathers many tree-related remnants of our pagan spiritual past and tree-related oral history into one place.

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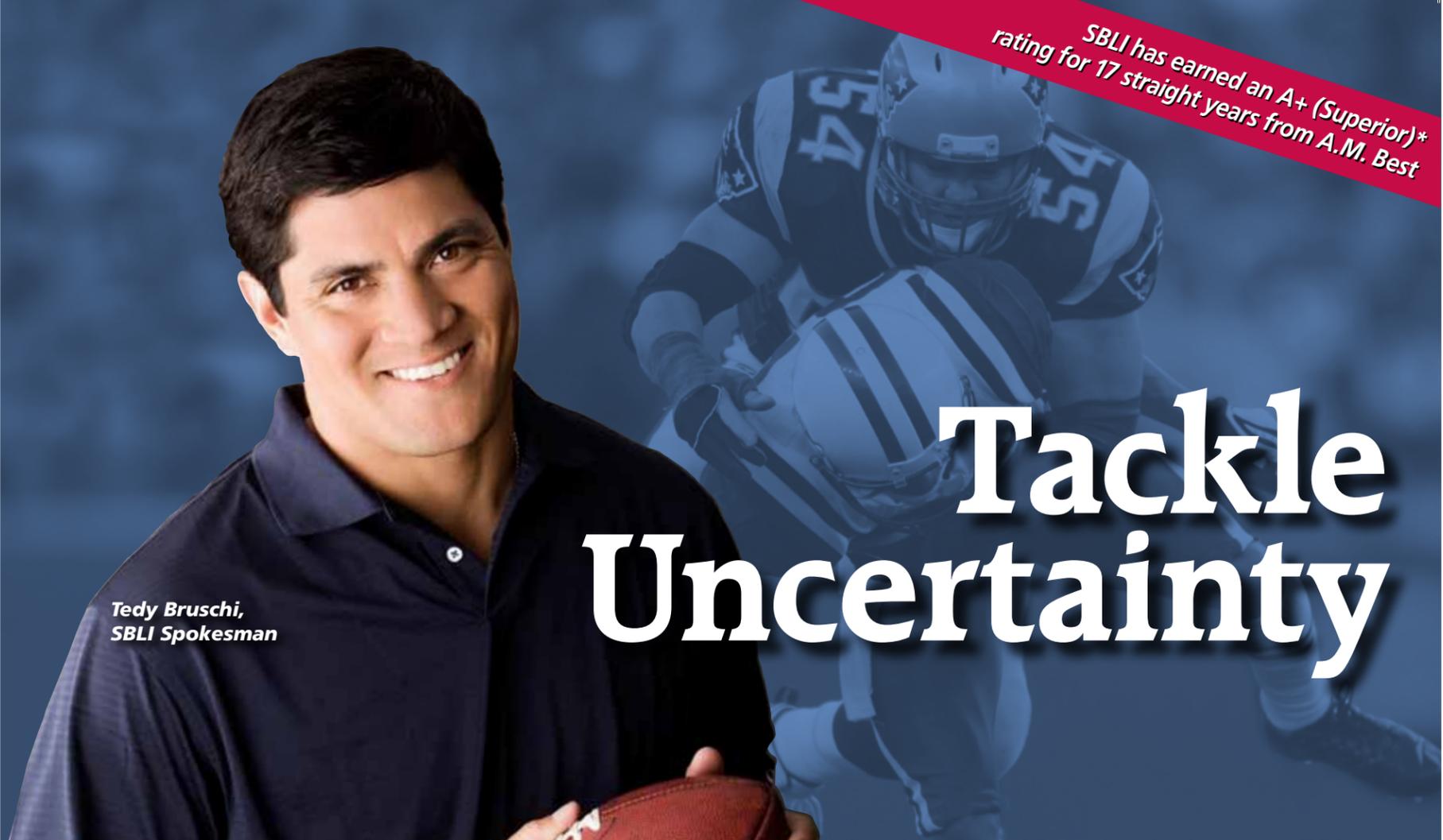
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