

BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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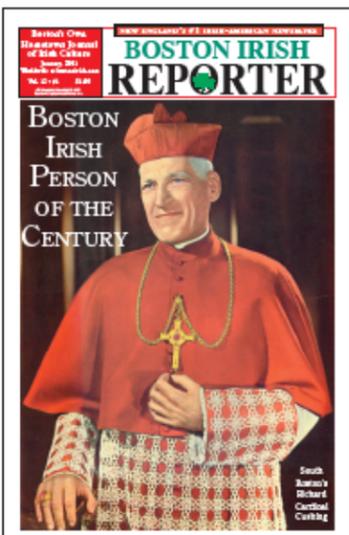
We're Turning 20!

Join us as we celebrate two decades of telling the 'Stories of Boston's Irish.'

We will observe this occasion with a Celebratory Luncheon on Thursday, October 7, 2010 at Boston's Seaport Hotel/World Trade Center, with several honored Boston Irish business and civic leaders.

The Boston Irish Reporter is one of the region's few remaining family-owned and operated publications and, in keeping with our own heritage, that day we will debut a new special anniversary, the Boston Irish Honorees, recognizing two Boston Irish individuals for their special achievements in public service and business, and three exemplary Irish families who share our common roots in Boston and Ireland. The inaugural honorees are: U.S. Congressman Edward J. Markey, John Donohue, CEO, Arbella Insurance, and three exemplary families: the Brett family, the Hyers family and the Geraghty family.

Your pledge of support helps to sustain a strong, vibrant and independent journal of Irish-American culture for Boston and New England.



The 2010 Boston Irish Honorees

U.S. Congressman
Edward J. Markey

John Donohue, CEO
Arbella Insurance

The Brett Family

The Hyers Family

The Geraghty Family

BIR 20th Anniversary Luncheon
Thursday, October 7, 2010
Boston's Seaport Hotel/World Trade Center

'The Real Thing from Day One'

Sean Patrick O'Malley as Priest

BY GREG O'BRIEN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

When Sean Patrick O'Malley was ten, growing up in rural Pennsylvania, he embraced the road less traveled. He drove with his father to a Franciscan retreat house to gather his older brother after a weekend stay. They came upon an old friar working the rocky fields. "We talked to him for a long time," the son recalls. "When I was back in the car, my dad turned to me and said: 'That's the happiest man in the world!' This man didn't

BIR Profile

have a beautiful wife, he didn't have a fancy car, he was hoeing the field under the hot sun, but somehow I knew my father was right. The feeling never left me."

That passion prevails today as Cardinal Archbishop of Boston Sean Patrick O'Malley prepares for yet another pilgrimage—a mixed blessing of sorts: a return to Ireland, where he spent blissful visits as a boy, but a country today paralyzed by a shameful sex abuse scandal in the heart of the Irish church. Sadly, it's an all-too-familiar pastoral landscape for a man who found bound-

(Continued on page 6)



Cardinal Sean O'Malley greeted young people in the newly renovated St. Peter's Teen Center during a ceremony held there in February of 2009.

Photo courtesy Catholic Charities.

ICCNE's Festival Offers Fine Tastes of Irish Culture

September 17-19
at Canton Campus

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

One of Greater Boston's most enduringly popular Irish music and cultural events will pass a significant milestone this month when the Irish Cultural Centre of New England (ICCNE) hosts the 20th annual Irish Festival at its campus in Canton Sept. 17-19.

Highlights of the festival will include performances by the internationally renowned ballad group The High Kings; the band McPeake, which carries on the tradition of one of Ireland's most famous music families; acclaimed Irish-American singer Andy Cooney, whose repertoire ranges from classic Irish ballads to more contemporary sounds; Canadian Celtic rock band Glengarry Boys; and contemporary singer-songwriter Padraig Allen and The Whole Shabang.

In addition to music — the line-up also includes local performers Erin's Melody, The Gobshites, the Andy Healy Band, Curragh's Fancy and Erin Og as well as Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann, and Ceol Tradisiuntana hEireann — the festival will feature dancing, films, cultural exhibits and children's activities.

The ICC Festival began at Stonehill College in Easton,



Families and children will find plenty of enjoyment at the Irish Cultural Centre festival in Canton this month.

then moved to its present-day location in 2004, when it took on a more international and musically diverse character as the Irish Connections Festival and later the ICONS Festival. Last year, the festival was organized on a smaller scale and with more of a local and regional focus.

"The ICC's festival is a wonderful family event and it draws

people from all over North America," says Festival Chairman Seamus Mulligan. "It's affordable, easy to get to, offers free parking, is handicapped accessible and gives people a real taste of greater Boston's rich Irish cultural heritage."

This year, the festival's local-regional flavor will be supplemented by the five headline

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From a Dream to Reality, Making Our Irish Music CD

(Three Days in the Dream ... Ten Months in the Doing)

BY SUSAN GEDUTIS LINDSAY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

We do things differently at the Lindsay household. Last October, when most respectable couples were booking leaf-peeping vacations in Vermont, my husband Steve and I booked three days at Sounds Interesting Studios, a professional recording facility in Middleborough, Mass., to record an Irish music CD. We thought that would be plenty of time to get most of it done. Oh, sure. ... Now, it's ten months later and we're just about finished! Following is an account of the making of our first studio CD, "From the Green to the Blue," a world-music-influenced take on Irish traditional and contemporary music.

The Planning Stage

We began planning for this recording last year, at the release of our first CD. That one was a live recording, but now we yearned for more: the truly creative challenge that only a professional studio presents. So we called our friend, recording engineer Rob Pemberton, who has been at this for 24 years, and in that time has recorded more albums than he can count,

in genres ranging from classical, jazz, top-40, to heavy metal. If you are a fan of Celtic Fiddle Festival's groundbreaking *Rendezvous* album (Johnny Cunningham, Kevin Burke, Christian LeMaitre), then you know Rob's work. He's really good.

The Recording

There are many ways to record a CD. Some folks do it live, meaning the musicians play all at the same time, in the same room. Usually, they'll play the same song numerous times, and keep only the best takes. We tried this approach first, but quickly abandoned ship. "Listening back, you and Steve would find flaws that you couldn't live with," Engineer Rob said. "You were actually looking for more perfection than I was — and it made more sense to record you individually so that we could isolate each person's sound and punch in fixes [correct errors]."

I had expected that since we were going for a natural and edgy sound, we wouldn't need to be so persnickety about details, but I was wrong. When Rob said "We're rolling..." it felt like we were positioned precisely be-



Susan and Steve Lindsay hard at work on their CD.

tween a magnifying glass and the sun's hot rays: Suddenly, all that heat was focused on us and we were the proverbial leaf, ready to burst into flames. Ouch! Live, one can get away with a few wrong notes, an out-of-tune instrument, a mixed up vocal line. But a recording must stand up to repeated listening, and those little mix-ups can really burn you up over time.

Rob has recorded several Celtic records and he says that recording Irish music is no different than any other style; his

(Continued on page 13)

BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

Celebrating 20 years
“Telling the stories of Boston’s Irish”

You are Cordially Invited to Attend a

20th Anniversary Luncheon

Introducing the First Annual

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For Leadership in Public Service
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BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

Celebrating 20 years
“Telling the stories of Boston’s Irish”

Boston Irish Honors Anniversary Luncheon

Boston Seaport Hotel

Thursday, October 7, 2010

Registration 11:30 a.m.
 Luncheon 12:15 p.m.

Please reserve _____ seats @ \$125 each, total _____

Table(s) of ten @ \$1250 each, total _____

I am unable to attend the luncheon event _____

Send more information about Sponsorship Opportunities _____

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Please complete and mail by September 27, 2010 to:
 Boston Irish Honors Anniversary Luncheon
 c/o Boston Irish Reporter
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ON THE TOWN WITH THE BIR

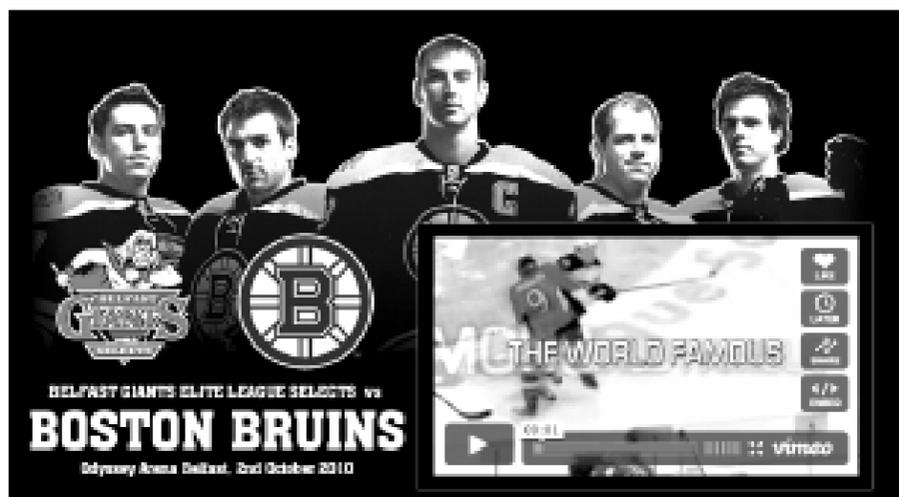
BIBA, Under New Prez, Plans Breakfast Sept. 9

Paul Dwyer, who this year oversaw the conversions of the Boston chapter of the Irish Chamber of Commerce/USA (ICCUSA) to the Boston Irish Business Association (BIBA), has stepped down as president of the business networking group. His successor, Patrick Bench, was elected by a unanimous vote of the board of directors, assuming the role on July 1. Bench, the former director of Business Development at the Massachusetts Office of International Trade and Investment (MOITI), is vice president for public affairs at Rasky Baerlein,

"After three years as President and six years on the Board of Directors, my tenure at the helm of the Boston Irish Business Association has come to an end," Dwyer wrote in an open letter to his members. "It has been a great pleasure to work with you all, I have truly enjoyed every minute of it. The past three

years have been unprecedented in the history of Boston, Massachusetts, and Ireland. I hope the work that we have done has in some small way helped you reach your goals – your support has been key our forward momentum, thank you. "BIBA is an organization of volunteers, and I would like to say thanks to everyone who has been involved during my time as President, especially our Board of Directors who are tireless in their efforts to drive our organization forward. We have done many great things in the past three years and our success is in part due to the work that they do."

BIBA will kick-off its fall programs on Sept. 9 with an 8 a.m. breakfast at Boston's Algonquin Club, with guest speaker Governor Deval Patrick. More information is available at bibaboston.com.



Bruins Will Play in Belfast This Fall

The Boston Bruins, one of the six original professional ice hockey teams in the National Hockey League, will make a stopover in Belfast, Northern Ireland, on the way to the Czech Republic, where they will play two games to officially open the 2010/2011 NHL season.

In Belfast, the B's will play an exhibition match as a final wrap-up to the teams' pre-season matches. The game will be hosted by the Belfast Giants, who compete in a European league. Giants general manager Tdd Kelman is reaching out to "get the word out" about the first-ever NHL team appearance on the island.

"The legendary Boston Bruins of the National Hockey League (NHL) are coming to Belfast for the first time in

history," Kelman said. "On Saturday the 2nd of October, the Bruins will play the Belfast Giants Elite League Selects, a unified team made up of the best players from the Belfast Giants, together with the best players selected from other teams in the UK Elite League. ... "This is a once in a lifetime chance to see one of the world's greatest ice hockey teams play against the Belfast Giants Selects who celebrate their 10th anniversary of playing at the iconic Odyssey Arena, Belfast, which opened a decade ago."

More information about travel and accommodation packages for the Boston weekend visit are available online at discovernorthernireland.com, and gotobelfast.com. Game tickets are priced between \$62 and \$110.

Folklore Laid Out in McGowan Novel

All descendants of Ireland know the stories of folklore from the Island. The



stories passed down around ancient hearths from generation to generation weave a warm tapestry that continues to fuel the imaginations of our little ones, who listen eagerly to fairytales and marvel at the legends.

And so it is with L.J. McGowan's new novel *Queen of the Mountain: The Legend of Arthur's Seat*. The author tells the story of Kathryn and Billy Murphy, American siblings who find themselves living with their grandfather in Ballyrun, Ireland. As they become familiar with their new life, they listen as the men of the town tell the stories of Arthur's Seat, a great mountain dominating their landscape – and the *Otherworld* that it holds.

Entranced by the stories, the youngsters discover great truths behind the myths – and have great adventures along the way. Using ingenuity and harnessing the spirit that the mountain holds, they discover the magic of the land – and the great truth of their own family.

Queen of the Mountain: The Legend of Arthur's Seat by L.J. McGowan. Infinity Publishing



Sister Marguerite Kelly, Executive Director of the Irish Pastoral Centre, and Steve Greeley, Executive Director of The American Ireland Fund.

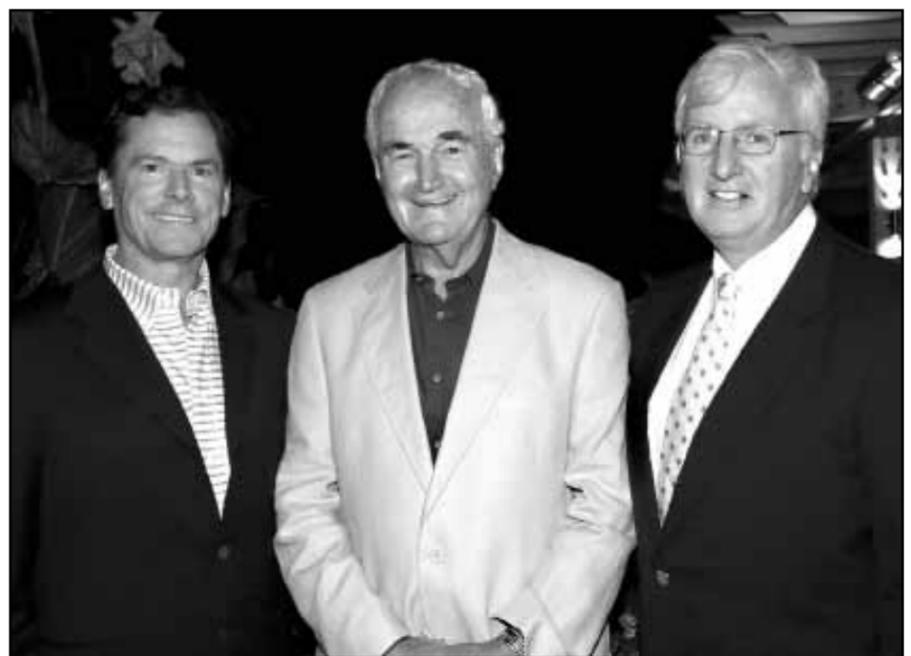
Photo by Bill Brett.

American Ireland Fund Donates Minibus to IPC

The Irish Pastoral Centre, with assistance from The American Ireland Fund, has purchased a 13-passenger minibus that has been adapted to serve the transportation needs of older and frail members of the community.

At the dedication last month, Pastoral Centre director Sister Marguerite Kelly said, "Thanks to the generous support of The American Ireland Fund, we are delighted to offer a vital transportation service to older community members living in the Greater Boston area. With the new minibus, our volunteer drivers can now provide free,

reliable transportation to an array of Irish Pastoral Centre activities as well as to activities in the wider community. The camaraderie of traveling on a bus keeps community connections alive." Steve Greeley, Executive Director of The American Ireland Fund said, "While we focus primarily on projects in Ireland, North and South, we are always seeking to help our local community as well. The Irish Pastoral Centre provides a much-needed support to elderly members of the community and we are happy to be of assistance."



A gathering at the "Irish Night": Jay Hooley, President & CEO of State Street Corporation, Joe Corcoran, Chairman of Corcoran Jennison Companies, and Steve Greeley, Executive Director of The American Ireland Fund.

Photo by Lynn Gonsalves.

American Ireland Fund Holds Fete on Cape

On Fri., Aug. 13, the American Ireland Fund (AIF) held its first "Irish Night on Cape Cod" event on the Ocean Terrace at Ocean Edge Resort and Golf Club in Brewster. The event was hosted by Joe Corcoran, Chairman of Corcoran Jennison Companies, and his wife Rose.

Among the guests attending were Jay Hooley, President & CEO of State Street Corporation and his wife Linda, John Mahoney, Vice Chairman & CFO of Staples, Inc. and his wife Rose, John Hailer of Natixis, John Grady of Moelis & Company and his wife Ann, Scott Powers of State Street Global Advisors and his wife Nancy, Dave Greaney of Synergy and his wife Kathy, Dr. Michael Collins,

Chancellor of UMASS Medical Center and his wife Maryellen, Jack Sebastian of Goldman Sachs and his wife Alissa, and Steve Greeley, Executive Director of The American Ireland Fund and his wife Jan.

Over the past 35 years, The American Ireland Fund has helped advance the work of more than 1,200 organizations that counter sectarianism, preserve Irish culture, strengthen community development and assist those in need in Ireland and US. Today, The Ireland Funds have raised over \$350 million. They have a presence in 12 countries and host over 100 events per year attended by over 40,000 people.

Publisher's Notebook

Look to our colleges as affordable option, Ireland is saying

By ED FORRY

High school seniors and their parents looking for another, more affordable option for college should consider the colleges and universities in Ireland. That's the message being delivered by Ireland's Minister for Education and Science, Tánaiste Mary Coughlan, who will be in Boston late this month to promote an Irish government marketing effort to attract American high school students to enroll in Irish colleges and universities.



Ed Forry

A one-day "Education Ireland Student Fair" is set for September 27, at the Newton Marriott. The mission is being organized by Enterprise Ireland, a government agency that promotes educational and business ties.

Nick Marmion, the Toronto-based Enterprise Ireland's senior vice president for Education Services in North America, said the student fair is targeting high school seniors to enroll full-time in a college or university in Ireland.

"The focus in Boston is on four things," Marmion said in an interview. "Meeting Irish masters students from MIT and BC and US university contacts of the Irish Universities at a reception; a visit by the Tánaiste to Boston College; a breakfast briefing for high school counselors to tell them more about undergraduate study in Ireland; [and] an Education Ireland Student Fair so that students and parents can find out more directly from the colleges about studying in Ireland."

He says the event "is the start of a two-year push to promote Ireland in the US as a destination for junior year abroad, undergraduate studies, and masters programs."

The Boston Irish Consulate is assisting in organizing the mission and getting word out to high school seniors, parents and counselors. The education trade fair will be "a key part of (the Tanasite's) visit for students who may be interested in pursuing third level studies in Ireland," said Vice Consul Deirdre Ni Fhallúin "There are some great opportunities for US students and I'm sure this will be of interest to many in the community." Fourteen Irish colleges and universities will be showcased in Boston. Participants include:

Dublin City University, NUI Galway, NUI Maynooth, Trinity College Dublin, University College Cork, University College Dublin, and the University of Limerick; Institutes of Technology in Athlone, Blanchardstown, Sligo, Letterkenny, and Waterford; the National College of Ireland and Griffith College of Dublin. Also participating is IOTI, a representative body for Ireland's university-level institutes.

The mission is the first step in a marketing effort announced in March by Taoiseach Brian Cowen to bring the sons and daughters of Irish emigrants all over the world to study in Ireland. The Ireland Homecoming Study Programme (IHSP) will offer reduced tuition costs of up to 40 percent less than the standard rate for non-EU students. The program aims to attract over 500 students over the next three years.

IHSP studies report that the current worldwide recession has reduced the cost of living in Ireland, and an over-supply of rental accommodation gives the students the power to drive rents down. It's a "win-win situation in a country where the average third-level institution tuition fees start at around \$11,000, depending on the course and duration of stay," according to Education Ireland.

After Boston, the mission delegates will continue to Chicago and St. Louis. More information about attending college in Ireland is available online at educationireland.ie.

Commentary

Reduced Corporate Taxes May Help in the North's Struggle With Finances

By JOE LEARY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Like most of the world today, Northern Ireland is facing an uncertain financial future. But unlike most countries, it is an unsettled society, just emerging from 40 traumatic years of tragedy after tragedy. Although Northern Ireland now has its local, self-governing assembly, the purse strings are still controlled in London where the new conservative government is taking severe steps to limit spending while keeping the government running.



Joe Leary

Naturally, as with all political parties, the leaders will favor their own constituencies and come down harder on those who did not support them.

The new British leadership owes nothing to the people of Northern Ireland. None of the eighteen recently elected Northern Ireland members of London's parliament belong to the party in power. In fact, eight of the elected members are Nationalists or Republicans officially committed to a United

Ireland by joining the six Northern Ireland counties to the Republic in the South.

The population of the United Kingdom is approximately 61.5 million people. England has 51.5 million, Scotland 5.2 million, Wales 3 million, and tiny Northern Ireland 1.8 million. The center of British power and leadership is in London and to most government and community leaders, Northern Ireland is simply a problem. It is largely the attention and support from Irish America that mandates London's actions in Northern Ireland.

It is generally agreed that Northern Ireland cannot sustain itself as a separate entity. Therefore, since the six counties were partitioned from Ireland in the early 1920's, the British government has funded its public sector costs. As a result, nearly one third of all jobs are in public service. In most countries that number is about 20 percent. It has also been estimated that

almost 70 percent of the North's economy is generated by London spending. Obviously these are not sustainable conditions and the suspicion is that the new Conservative government, faced with damaging deficits, will try to bring change.

Prime Minister David Cameron has warned of "painful decisions" that must be made, that will mean cutting, "some things that we genuinely value." He claims he has a "duty to cut back." This year, for instance, government spending in Northern Ireland has been cut by over \$800 million. Perhaps not so much by American standards but massive to the Northern Ireland ministers who make the cuts at home.

The Belfast Telegraph newspaper reports that Peter Hain, former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, has warned that public spending cutbacks will be an "absolute disaster" for the North - with potential dangers for the peace process.

The Conservatives are now working on the 2011 budget, which will be published on Oct. 20.

The silver lining in all this, is the distinct possibility that what are now called "Regional Assemblies (including Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) might be allowed to set their own corporate tax rates in order to attract new investment from both the United States and the rest of Europe. Leading businessmen in Northern Ireland - most notably Sir George Quigley, a Unionist and former Chairman of the Ulster Bank, have advocated for several years that in order to compete with the Republic, Northern Ireland must have the same tax rate. Ireland's corporate tax rate is 12.5 percent while in the North the tax rate (the British system rate) is 28 percent.

Although Unionists have for years fought any sort of equalization with the South, the Belfast Telegraph reports that Executive Minister Arlene Foster, a hard-line Unionist member of the DUP, confirmed that despite negotiating with her department, 21 potential investors had located in the Republic because taxes were lower in the South.

Equalization steps might be difficult over the short term in the South, but any moves to bring North and South closer would be welcome.

Off the Bench

In the End, No Big Deal

By JAMES W. DOLAN
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

OK, so I was wrong.

The acceptance of gay marriage in Massachusetts has been swift and seamless. The earth didn't shake, the sky didn't fall, and skeptics, like me, must admit there have been no adverse consequences.

A supporter of civil unions, I believed marriage was a term that should only be applied to heterosexual unions for historic, moral, and religious reasons. That for obvious reasons the union between persons of the same sex was different; not less loving or lasting or fulfilling, only different.

It was their use of the term "marriage" that I objected to but I have changed my mind. I understand now how important the use of that term is to those who sought the right to be married. Anything less would have placed them in a separate class - one that despite equal rights - would connote inferiority.

In a secular society that would have been unfair. Validation required something more than just equal rights; it required acceptance and that could not be achieved with a different label.

For heterosexuals of my generation, it was cataclysmic, a shredding of ancient traditions and beliefs. The world would slip on its axis if the natural order of things was challenged. But then nothing happened. It made no difference to us but so much to them.

The new order was accepted in the commonwealth with nary a blip. What was thought to be revolutionary quickly became routine. Many benefited and nobody

was harmed. People of good will soon realized that tolerance and love are inseparable. You cannot love without accepting things you may not understand.

With marriage as a civil right, I remain puzzled how it can be restricted only to persons who have a sexual relationship, be it heterosexual or homosexual. If it provides legal benefits to them, why should it not also be available to persons with committed, loving relationships that do not involve sex; for example relatives or friends who live together and enjoy a longstanding, devoted, loving relationship?

Is sex between the parties implicitly required for them to secure the benefits available to married couples? What is the public policy behind mandating a sexual component to marriage?

I will leave that conundrum to the courts to decide when Rose and Kathleen, two spinster sisters who have lived together for a long time in a supportive, loving relationship decide they wish to take advantage of the legal advantages available only to married couples. Perhaps the courts will call them "civil unions."

It is remarkable how quickly gay marriages have been absorbed into our local culture particularly when you consider the turmoil surrounding other civil rights struggles. Apparently we were ready for it.

The lesson to be learned is the elevation of gay relationships in no way has diminished traditional marriage. They are just different branches on the same tree. So get over it. I did. It's here to stay.

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

Lowell Dig Seeking Irish Settlement

Six UMass Lowell students have joined with an archaeological team from a Belfast university to investigate the site of an early 19th century Irish settlement at St. Patrick's Church in Lowell. The archeological dig, part of a series of international centers under development at the university, is the result of a collaborative agreement between the Center for Irish Partnerships and Queen's University in Northern Ireland.

"Our priority with these centers is to provide our graduates with a global perspective, one that will contribute to their career success. The opportunities the centers provide will deepen their understanding of multiple cultures, which in today's shrinking world, is no longer optional, but required," said Chancellor Marty Meehan. "This archeological dig is one of many concrete ways that students are already benefiting from our agreements with notable universities around the world."

Led by visiting archeologists from Queen's University, the students began excavating and cataloging artifacts at the church site. Irish canal workers lived on the land while they built St. Patrick's, beginning in the year 1831. The excavation team was expecting to find

dishware and hearth remnants that will provide clues about the lives of the Irish who emigrated to Lowell looking for work during the Great Famine, a period of mass starvation, disease and emigration in Ireland between 1845 and 1852.

"The team chose the lawn of the church since early records state the Irish were building their shanties and developing their community in the spot as early as 1822," said UMass Lowell spokesman Dave McKean. "The team hoped to uncover some vestige of those pioneer Irish. In one week, in 2 small pits, they found 1352 artifacts. They range from clay marbles, to oyster shells, to pottery, to a clay pipe."

"These early Irish people established a community that survived discrimination and socio-economic limitations to become an integral part of Lowell's development in the 19th century," said Frank Talty, director of academic programs in the College of Arts and Sciences and co-director of the Center for Irish Partnerships. As part of the exchange program, the students will also excavate an abandoned rural settlement in County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, next summer.



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150 Mt. Vernon St., Suite 120, Dorchester, MA 02125
news@bostonirish.com www.bostonirish.com

Mary C. Forry, President (1983-2004)

Edward W. Forry, Publisher

Thomas F. Mulvoy Jr., Managing Editor

William P. Forry, Contributing Editor

Peter F. Stevens, Contributing Editor

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

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

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Boston College and the Irish Way: Connected at Birth, and Still At It

By MATTHEW DELUCA
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Today, it sits just outside the most ethnically Irish of American cities, but in the mid-19th century, Boston College was basically a local school in Boston's South End neighborhood providing a Jesuit-Catholic education to the sons of recent Irish-Catholic immigrants.

Though other races, creeds, and religions have always been represented at BC, the university has from its beginnings been proud of its Irish-Catholic heritage. In the early 21st century, however, with the full flow of Irish immigrants to America a chapter in the history books, the question of just what that Irish-American heritage means at Boston College has taken on new

dimensions.

For Niamh Lynch, who moved to the United States from Ireland with her family when she was in high school, maintaining a link between Boston College and Ireland is part of her job description. Lynch is a director of the university's Irish Institute, which brings intellectuals, students, public officials, and other Irish citizens to the United States for ten-day tours. "The Irish Institute provides a sort of professional development and educational programming for people from Northern Ireland and from the Republic of Ireland," Lynch said. "The Institute's work is sort of creating this living link between Ireland and Boston College."

Lynch said that programs such as those run by the Irish Institute help to ensure that the connection between Boston College and its Irish roots do not become a matter of pure reminiscence. The Institute's programs create a flow of people and information, she said, "so that there are not just nostalgic times, and so there are links along which information and best practices can be shared and transferred."

Joseph Nugent, who was also born in Ireland, is a professor in the English Department at BC, but his work, which includes teaching courses on James Joyce, Irish language, and Irish modernism, overlaps with that of the Irish Studies department. Created in 1978, the Irish Studies program allows Boston College students to take classes with faculty who specialize in aspects of Irish history and culture.

"The Irish Studies program at Boston College maintains a very high profile within the local Boston community through a series of public events open to all," Nugent said. "The program keeps in close touch with Ireland through student and faculty exchange with Ireland and by regularly inviting the most important intellectuals from Ireland to speak on campus."

Nugent completed his PhD at UC Berkeley, then became an assistant professor at BC five years ago. He said that Boston College was more enthusiastic about Irish heritage than other universities he knew. "My interest in twentieth-century Irish literature, particularly the writings of James Joyce, and my work in teaching the Irish language fitted perfectly with BC's needs," Nugent said. "Teaching BC's exciting and demanding students is a privilege."

Grainne McEvoy is a student in BC's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and a native of Newry, County Down.

A student of American and Irish-American history, she said BC appealed to her in part because she knew it had a strong connection to Ireland. "When I was coming here I knew that BC had an office in Dublin, and I've been there before and talked to them," McEvoy said. "If I want to go back to Ireland some day, BC is known there."

McEvoy said that while BC today could probably be more accurately characterized as Catholic than Irish, there is plenty on campus that reflects the school's Irish heritage, from the names of virtually all of its Jesuit presidents to the names on the buildings to performances of Irish music. In other ways, she said, Irish and Irish-American culture have diverged, and that, too, is reflected on campus. "In ways there are certain things that are done at BC that would be similar to, say, some of the lectures, the same sort of discussions that are going on in Dublin," McEvoy said. "I have been to the musical nights and they are very pleasant, but they are a certain type of Irish culture. I liked a certain traditional music as I was growing up, but that wasn't all I listened to."

For some, finding Irish culture at BC means starting it themselves. Kyra Shekitka founded the BC dance team as an undergraduate three years ago, when she noticed that there wasn't any formal group on campus with which she could indulge in the occasional jig or reel. "I competed in Irish dancing since age five, at regional competitions and national competitions," Shekitka said. She did not plan on continuing to dance seriously in college, but at an event on campus she happened to sit behind another undergraduate, Eileen Cobos, whom she recognized from her time spent dancing competitively. The two joined with Matt Mara, another student interested in Irish dance, and founded a team that has since grown to include 32 dancers.

One does not have to be an expert or scholar of Irish history to participate in the Irish culture at BC, Shekitka said. "It's not like you have to be a major or a minor, an experienced Irish fiddle player or tin whistle player," she said.

But for Ellen Regan, Class of 2011, the sound of a tin whistle is a perfect metaphor for Irish culture on campus. "In my sophomore year I lived with someone who played the Irish tin whistle - I grew up listening to Irish music and it was very nice," Regan said. "I don't know how much our neighbors enjoyed it."



Shown here in black and white are two of the colorful works of art that are part of the "Literary Lives: Portraits from the Crawford Art Gallery and Abbey Theatre" exhibit that is opening Sept. 4 at the McMullen Museum of Art at Boston College and running through Dec. 5. Above, Edward McGuire's "Portrait of Anthony Cronin, 1977. Oil on canvas, 60 x 72 cm. Crawford Art Gallery, Cork. Below, Robert Ballagh's "Portrait of Laurence Sterne." Oil on canvas, 74 x 156 cm. Private collection.



BC's McMullen Museum Offers 'Literary Lives' Exhibit

The McMullen Museum of Art at Boston College is the exclusive venue for "Literary Lives: Portraits from the Crawford Art Gallery and Abbey Theatre, Ireland." Organized by the Crawford Art Gallery in Cork, Ireland, and the McMullen in collaboration with BC's Irish Studies faculty and Burns Library, the exhibit will be on display from Sept. 4 through Dec. 5.

Over the last several centuries, a number of Irish artists have produced compelling portraits of Irish writers in painting, sculpture, and photography, according to exhibition organizers. Many of these portraits were either commissioned or purchased by various Irish national collections. This exhibition comprises more than 50 of the finest examples from two of the most significant of these collections: the Crawford Gallery in Cork and the Abbey Theatre in Dublin. Literary Lives combines visual portraiture with a wide range of rare books, manuscripts, letters, illustrations and objects selected from Boston College's John J. Burns Library of Rare Books and Special Collections to explore questions about the literary life, both personal and professional, and reveal how different materials offer windows onto various aspects that life.

Says Crawford Art Gallery Director

Peter Murray, "Often the portraits are an expression of respect. Jonathan Swift is depicted by his friend Francis Bindon, while over two centuries later, the poet Michael O'Shiadhail is painted by his friend Michael O'Dea. Patrick Hennessey's portrait of his friend Elizabeth Bowen is clearly a celebration of the writer's home and heritage, while Norah McGuinness's image of Frank O'Connor is an intimate portrayal of one of Cork's greatest writers.

"Such details as clothing, accessories, and backgrounds add information about the person depicted, Murray notes "The materials of which the portrait is made are also important, as are some of the less tangible aspects, such as the time taken in creating the work of art. A swift snapshot by photographer John Minihan can be a telling portrait, while an oil painting by Edward McGuire, created slowly over many sittings, gives a different but equally compelling insight into both artist and sitter."

On Sept. 5, the public is invited to join BC community members at an opening celebration at the Museum from 7 to 9 p.m. Live Irish music will be featured during a coffee and dessert reception. The event is free of charge. For more information, please call 617-552-8587.



Simon of Cyrene Breakfast

"Every time I think of you I thank God... God is the one who began this good work in you..."
- St. Paul. Letter to the Phillipians

The annual Simon of Cyrene Breakfast will be dedicated in memory of Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. McDonnell, co-founder with Sister Peggy Youngclaus. Father Tom passed away on June 14, 2009.

The Breakfast will be served

Sunday Sept 12, 2010

Anthony's Pier 4

9 a.m.- 12 noon



The committee will continue the mission that Fr. Tom initiated, "Making the Goodness of God alive by sharing, instructing, advising, consoling, feeling and praying with the community of people who are disabled and their families."

The Society continues the monthly Days of Prayer in Somerville at the Little Sisters of the Poor, and the Family Masses in South Boston. This summer, some 125 persons from 25 families were able to enjoy the Cape Cod vacation houses in Brewster.

We do realize that there are many demands on your goodness and generosity in this difficult year, and we appreciate the faithful support in the past and hope that it can continue. Please join us at Pier 4 on September 12.

Breakfast tickets are \$35, Donations may be made to the Simon of Cyrene Society, P.O. Box 54, South Boston, MA 02127.

SIMON OF CYRENE SOCIETY



BIR Profile

As Priests Go, Sean Patrick O'Malley 'Was the Real Thing from Day One'

(Continued from page 1)

less happiness many years ago sweating under sizzling summer skies.

Next month the cardinal will travel to Rome to prepare for his additional duties as an "apostolic visitor" to the abuse-wracked Dublin archdiocese—an assignment from Pope Benedict XVI that entails exploring "more deeply questions concerning the handling of cases of abuse and the assistance owed to the victims." A Vatican statement issued in late May said that O'Malley "will also be asked to monitor the effectiveness of, and seek possible improvements to, the current procedures for preventing abuse." He has been monitoring the situation by reading the Irish Times on his Kindle. In all, Pope Benedict has named nine prelates to investigate reports of widespread child abuse in Ireland's Catholic institutions.

For O'Malley, now 66, this is the fourth time in his ecclesiastical career that he has been sent to a diocese severely wounded by clergy abuse. In the 1990s he was confronted with abuse cases as the bishop of Fall River, a diocese then reeling from the unrelenting pedophilia of the Rev. James P. Porter, accused of molesting more than 100 children. In 2002, he was named bishop of Palm Beach in Florida where his two immediate predecessors had admitted sexually abusing minors. Less than a year later, he was named archbishop of Boston, the fourth largest see in the U.S., replacing Cardinal Bernard F. Law, who had resigned in disgrace over his failure to remove sexually abusive priests from ministry.

Before facing the problems of clerical abuse, he was the bishop of the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, assisting the poor and disenfranchised on that Caribbean isle. Years ago in a homily, he joked in jest about his sun-drenched assignments caring for the disenfranchised in "lovely vacation spots," noting that his Capuchin friar mentor often asked, "When will you get a real job?" Upon his appointment to Boston, he asked back, "Does this count?"

The young man who went to that retreat house in Pennsylvania so many years ago surely would have been staggered to know that one day he would be appointed by the Vatican as a healer of souls and minds within the clergy and with hundreds of abuse victims and their families. "Growing up, I was oblivious to this problem," the soft-spoken prelate said in a lengthy interview in his simple office at the archdiocese's Pastoral Center in Braintree, the site in stark contrast to the archdiocesan splendor of earlier years. "If you had asked me then what pedophilia was, I wouldn't know—much less how to spell it. I was raised in a religious family and never heard of it. We had nothing but trust for the priests and religious who were our teachers and mentors. To hear later of those cases was horrifying. Having held priests in this regard would have been inconceivable."

Equally inconceivable to him was the conclusion of the report late last year by the Irish government-appointed Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse: "The Dublin Archdiocese's pre-occupations in dealing with cases of sexual abuse, at least until the mid 1990s, were the maintenance of secrecy, the avoidance of scandal, the protection of the reputation of the Church, and the preservation of its assets. All other considerations, including the welfare of children and justice for victim, were subordinate to these priorities."

So how does a cardinal-archbishop explore "more deeply questions concerning



Cardinal O'Malley blessing the remains of Edward M. Kennedy at his funeral at the Mission Church in Roxbury last year. (AP Photo/Brian Snyder)

the handling of cases of abuse?"

It's hard to explain asking for a "collective forgiveness from those who have suffered abuse and from their families," said O'Malley. "The whole Catholic community is ashamed and anguished because of the pain and damage inflicted on so many young people."

Dressed in the humble 500-year-old trademark rough brown robe and open sandals of a Franciscan order dedicated to serving the poor, Cardinal O'Malley is an individual who bridges generations—a Renaissance man who has studied seven languages, a no-nonsense, what-you-see-is-what-you-get servant of God who knows instinctively that to get redemption, you must give it.

His devotion to this scriptural principle has been tested in O'Malley's work as his simple faith has grown expansively. A fellow seminary student once told the *Boston Herald*, "Most of us were ballplayers hoping to be priests one day. Sean was a little priest the whole way through... He was the real thing from Day One."

The cardinal has the standing of a disciple as he asks for forgiveness and tries to persuade those who have turned away from the Catholic community to come back. "Beyond the abuse scandal, many people have drifted from the church not because of any particular issue," he says, pausing to collect his thoughts. "For some, it's inertia or the commitments of family and work life. We are anxious for people to rediscover the community of faith and the sacraments in the Catholic Church. It's a path to holiness. We live in a culture that is extremely materialistic, with an evil gravitation to the New Age. Christ came to establish a church. Discipleship is not something we can do on our own."

He has questions of his own: "Some people say they don't go to church, but they are spiritual. What does that mean? A little music, a little poetry, a little ritual. Jesus didn't come so we could have the warm and fuzzies! He came to

establish a community of believers. We have responsibilities to each other and to the church. The only way you can do this is to be part of a body. You can't be a free agent out there. It is very difficult, if not impossible, to live a life of righteousness on one's own without the support and witness of a community of faith."

"Walking in the mission to evangelize and make disciples of all nations is not a suggestion. It's a command. When we cut ourselves off from the community of faith, we deprive ourselves of the strength that comes from the witness of the community."

While the Almighty is surely at the core of the cardinal's faith, he drew much strength and encouragement as a boy from his devout parents. Born on June 29, 1944, in Lakewood, Ohio and raised in western Pennsylvania, he entered the Saint Fidelis Minor Seminary at age 12. His father Ted, was a hard-working second generation Irish American with roots in County Mayo, and his mother, Marie Louise (Reidy), belonged to a family that came from Clare. "My parents were very religious and involved in the parish," he recalls. "We always prayed together as a family, went to Mass together, and had family meals together where we shared our lives with each other. The family dinner table is the altar of the home. I always worry when I hear stories of families who do not gather to share."

At 21, he was professed into the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, and at 26, ordained a priest. After earning a master's degree in religious education and a Ph.D. in Spanish and Portuguese literature from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., he taught at the school, and established the Centro Catolico Hispano (Hispanic Catholic Center) in the capital. It's an organization founded to offer medical, educational, and legal assistance to immigrants.

The young friar's early work in D.C. is legendary in the immigrant community,

particularly in the late 1970s at The Kenesaw, a decrepit apartment building sited in one of the district's most destitute areas that attracted low-lifers. When the building's owner refused to provide tenants with essential services like heat, hot water, and pest control, then served them with eviction notices after deciding to sell the structure, O'Malley moved into the building himself, taking two rooms—one to sleep on the floor; the other for a chapel. He then helped tenants fight the eviction, paint and repair the building, and organize it into a cooperative, which ultimately secured enough funding from public agencies to purchase the building on behalf of the tenants.

"He wanted to make a statement that not only was he going to help these people, he was going to share their needs and anxieties," a Kenesaw community activist and attorney told the tenants told the *Washington Post* in a 2002 interview.

"God does not force us," says O'Malley. "He invites us. It's a matter of love. Love is not a shotgun wedding. Love is laying down your life for a person. Mother Teresa once said, 'Give God permission.' What a profound statement. God is waiting for us to give Him permission to come into our hearts. It's a matter of free will. He doesn't force Himself. The scary thing is that we are free to say no. If we never discover the Lord, we don't find that compass. It is very precious, and can help us in every way to understand who we are. God loves us more than we can imagine. His will is the best thing that could ever happen to us."

Clearly, Sean Patrick O'Malley has given the Lord permission in his life, and surely, like the ancient friar of his youth, he considers himself fulfilled in his work and his church.

Greg O'Brien, a former political reporter at the *Boston Herald* and senior writer at *Boston Magazine*, is president of *Stony Brook Group*, a publishing and political/communications consulting company based on Cape Cod.

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BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett

Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

With more than 45 teams registered in the Boston area, the ICCNE/Irish Cultural Centre 45 acre campus in Canton MA is home to the North East Division of the GAA. Saturdays and Sundays during the summer are busy, with up to ten games being played in one day.

The North American County Board (NACB) of the GAA promotes the sports of Hurling, Gaelic Football and Camogie. It is the governing body for those games for men and women, in all 50 states of the US. Last month, the BIR's Harry Brett spent a warm weekend late August day in Canton to tell the story of the spectators who spend a family fun-filled day at the games.

1.) The McAnespies vs The Celtics - Junior A; 2.) John O'Farrell, Brighton (chairman of Northeast Board of GAA); 3.) Charles and Kathleen Waldron, Medway; 4.) Bridget Fleming, Canton; Tom Gallagher, Needham; 5.) Karen and Tom Burke, Berwick, ME; 6.) Phil Maguire, Mansfield; John M. Connolly, Canton (past president ICC); 7.) Ashley Flowers, Milton; Barbara Fleming, Braintree; 8.) Jeff Hunt, Quincy; Kacee Evitts, Harrisburg, PA; 9.) Aidan Murphy and Shauna McGuigan, Norwood; 10.) Teresa Doherty, Aaron Jenkins and Shona McGonigle, Dorchester; 11.) Niamh and parents Tom and Lisa Stokes, Needham; 12.) Phil Maguire and Tom Gallagher (IIC director) selling tickets for the \$30,000 Grand Prize; 13.) Denise and Tom Conlon, Dorchester; 14.) Bernie O'Reilly, Newton (honorary president of North American Country Board); Mike O'Connor, Milton, Boston GAA; 15.) Brendan and Michael Fleming with their mothers Sunny Fleming and Katie Fleming all of Weymouth.



Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By BILL O'DONNELL

Maureen, Majestic At 90—Ireland's most celebrated screen actress and one of its most enduring exports, **Maureen O'Hara**, celebrated her 90th birthday last month at home in Glangarriff, Co. Cork. A parade of friends and family called into her home of 40 years on August 17 to mark the longevity, warmth, and affection that the former Maureen FitzSimons has enjoyed with her legion of fans and those she has kept close to her over an adventurous, fulfilling lifetime.



Bill O'Donnell

Discovered at age 18 by the actor and director **Charles Laughton**, and a full-fledged movie star before she was 21, Maureen, from Ranelagh, Dublin, would go on to star in more than 60 Hollywood films and become the iconic face of Ireland instantly recognizable across the globe. Of all the films that Ms. O'Hara has made, she has identified her favorite movie as **John Ford's** "The Quiet Man," (1952), and her favorite leading man as **John Wayne**. But throughout her six-decade plus screen career, she shared top billing with leading men such as **Henry Fonda, Errol Flynn, Alex Guinness, Tyrone Power, James Stewart, Anthony Quinn, Rex Harrison, John Forsyth** and a host of others.

In 1989, Maureen O'Hara came to the Hub to accept the Gold Medal Award from the Eire Society of Boston. At the time she was a few months short of her 69th birthday but the lady—up close—looked to be 30 years younger. A tallish 5 feet 8, with a warm smile and an easy laughter, she captivated the society members, including yours truly. She was easily one of the more accommodating medalists that the society had ever honored, but she had one request that told us much about Maureen from Glengarriff. She inquired if we might ask the American Ireland Fund, for whom she was a staunch supporter, if they would make a modest donation in her name to a small community of Catholic nuns who were doing great work back home in Co. Cork. I called the fund's genial executive director, **Bill McNally**, at the Ireland Fund's Boston headquarters and because it was Maureen O'Hara, Bill instantly said yes. So instead of the modest donation we had expected, the Ireland Fund contributed a merit grant to the good sisters in Ireland of \$5,000 in Maureen's name.

Maureen has said often that amidst all the honors and success that she has enjoyed, she is most proud, and publicly so, at being identified as Irish. Brand Ireland has never had a better ambassador. May she long reign.

Burren Pub Taps Magazine Honors—The Burren Pub in Davis Square (247 Elm St.), Somerville, has been recognized with the Best of Boston Award in the August Boston Magazine. The pub, which will mark its 15th anniversary at its Davis Square location this coming January, is the fulfillment of a dream shared by traditional musicians **Tommy McCarthy and Louise Costelloe**. Named for the Co. Clare Burren, a rocky expanse of land in western Ireland that has unique ancient ties, its local name-sake features live traditional Irish music along with a great pint.

As an old Somerville lad who doesn't get back home all that often, I recall as a pre-teen setting pins in a bowling alley not too many yards away from where the Burren is today. Maybe I'll find my way back to Elm Street in the not too distant future. Congratulations!

SDLP Has It Right—The party of **John Hume** is demanding that intelligence operations on the ground in Northern Ireland be taken away from MI5, British military intelligence in Britain, and transferred over to the local police in the North, the PSNI. The SDLP claims that the super secret MI5 will not be able to defeat the dissidents operating from a remove in London and their intelligence-gathering operations should be handed over to the Northern police where operations will be based locally and the PSNI will be accountable to the elected Stormont leadership and

assembly.

Sinn Fein is adamantly opposing the SDLP plan, accusing its nationalists rivals with seeking a reincarnation of the dreaded special branch. It could be that Sinn Fein has merely begun early campaigning for next year's local elections, or perhaps they fear that finding a home for intelligence-gathering within the PSNI structure might unearth some future republican ops that **Adams-McGuinness and Co.** would prefer not to see bubble to the surface. Stay tuned.

Irish Casino Fortunes Decline—While the debate over the presumed future riches have been hotly argued in the Commonwealth, the Irish may have a "teachable moment" for those who have been pushing multiple casinos here for Bay State gamblers. The latest reports out of Ireland is that the global recession, which has been ripping the hide out of the Irish economy, is taking an equally serious toll of Ireland's casinos.

Early last month one of Ireland's premier casinos, Silks Casino Club in Dublin's City Centre, threw in its chips and called the liquidator. Busted. But Silks is hardly alone among the country's gaming palaces; many of the plush table game casinos are in deep trouble. The Newbay Casino in Wexford recently closed its doors after a steep decline in business. One of Ireland's largest and best known casinos, the Fitzwilliam Casino & Card Club is showing a 30 percent drop in revenue in the past year, while the Sporting Emporium, backed by high-profile financier **Dermot Desmond**, has racked up over \$5 million in losses since its 2005 opening.

There are about 50 casinos operating in Ireland, most of them opened in the past decade. The question today is one that asks if the country's once booming casino industry is playing a bad hand, or can it come back along with an invigorated Irish economy, whenever that happens?

THE QUOTE BOARD

"Mr. Bloomberg is right. New York must not pander to those who insist on associating all of Islam with the crime of 9/11. To do so, to promulgate that lie, would be the greater insult to the memory of those who died. And, most importantly, it would be to undermine the critical task of reaching out to majority, moderate Islam, not only in the U.S. but around the world, of which **Mr. Obama** spoke so eloquently in Cairo last year. The U.S. does not need a 'Swiss' moment. It is bigger and more generous and its commitment to inclusiveness is more profound than that."

— Editorial, The Irish Times, Aug. 17.

Bible In Irish A Click Away—The Bible in Irish is now available free on the internet. It can be downloaded on your computer, viewed online in pdf format, or even viewable on your cell phone. The Bible, or An Biobla Naofa, which was translated from English to Gaelic in 1981, can be used with free software for research and for viewing verses in Irish and English at the same time as an aid in learning Irish or improving vocabulary for Irish speakers.

Project leader **John Duffy** said "the Bible has been a source of inspiration and faith in Ireland. While it has only been available in print in the Irish language in recent centuries, the release of 'An Biobla Naofa' on the internet is a significant step forward in making God's word more widely accessible in the Irish language." Amen.

Debate On Galway Christmas Market—If the Galway business association and Bord Failte have their way, the city of Galway will host a gigantic Christmas Wonderland Market. The proposed holiday event would run from Nov. 19 to Dec. 19 and be similar to ones currently operating successfully at holiday time in Vienna, Copenhagen, and Dresden. It is hoped that the Galway Christmas market would attract 300,000 pre-Christmas visitors to the city and generate some \$13-\$14 million in new revenue.

However, the elected mayor of Galway, **Councillor Mike Crowe**, has expressed some early concerns about the plan to transform Eyre Square into a holiday marketplace. Crowe's reservations focus on the \$130,000 initial capital investment and concerns that the market could economically hurt local businesses. Yet, considering that the city council, the city manager, and the local business association are all in favor of the Christmas

market, it would seem that the mayor could well be outvoted.

Northern Lights Shine Bright—First off, following the disastrous four days of rioting in mid-July there were fears that the Apprentice Boys Parade in Derry last month could mean similar problems. To that end some 600 PSNI officers were on hand and the recreational rioters and others, thankfully, were elsewhere. A peaceful march with no incidents and a relief for all concerned.

Also last month, the Ancient Order of Hibernians from across the globe met in West Belfast and for the first time in 30 years the Hibernians had their annual parade in Belfast, walking down the Falls Road to Milltown Cemetery to Clonard car park. The city was a blaze of sunshine, color, and music as families lined the streets to cheer on the parade. Later, national AOH president **Jim Crossan** condemned the break-away or dissident republican violence, and reaffirmed the goal of achieving a united Ireland "through peaceful means and dialogue." I can only imagine how much the late **Dave Burke** of Lawrence would have loved to have been in West Belfast that day. Maybe he was looking down after ordering the good weather. Way to go, Dave.

To dress up Derry, chosen, as most readers know as "The City of Culture 2013," the historic Guildhall is getting a multi-million euro rejuvenation, and those who should know are predicting that NI tourism has the potential in the next decade to generate \$1.35 million to the NI economy. All of this followed the Saville Report.

Ireland Voted 'No' on New Baby Citizenship—Each sovereign country has to determine for itself regarding citizenship on how it will treat children born of resident parents. There is a right wing/Republican movement aided by some vocal tea-partyers in this country to amend the 14th Amendment to the Constitution to repeal the granting of automatic citizenship to anyone born here regardless of status. Personally, I think the amendment should stand as is, but the protracted scapegoating of immigrants and the vindictive assault by some on illegal and, yes, legal immigrants in general has given buoyancy to this going-nowhere, dead end proposal.

All of which is prelude to noting that in 2004 the Republic of Ireland in a referendum voted overwhelmingly (79 percent public approval) to amend the Irish Constitution and change the law that had allowed anyone born on Irish soil to automatically be an Irish (and EU) citizen. There was no serious public debate, no heated political arguments for and against what one Irish public health official called "maternity tourism." The "no" side made some claims of racism but the two main parties supported the law change and the current Taoiseach, **Brian Cowen**, was publicly critical of the 'No' vote campaign as Minister for Foreign Affairs.

There will be no change in the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, for good reason. It is a difficult process and the thunderstorms that are presently hovering overhead vis-a-vis our unresolved immigration dilemma will ease somewhat as the economy improves, it says here.

THE QUOTE BOARD

"The [Eirigi] council calls on the Dublin government to abandon its plans to invite the British head of state to Ireland and on behalf of the proud citizens of this city we declare that **Elizabeth Windsor** is not welcome in Dublin."

— Councillor **Louise Minihan** expressing Irish republican sentiments of the impending visit to Ireland by **Queen Elizabeth**.

At Risk In The Republic—In the past year more than 1,000 rural pubs have not renewed their licenses. Hardest hit counties have been Donegal and Cork, outside of Dublin. The closure rate for pubs, especially in rural Ireland, is roughly one pub a day. Reasons for the disappearance of so many local pubs has been attributed to the recession, the smoking ban, stiffer drink-driving limits, the increased availability of cheap alcohol in supermarkets, and a subtle movement away from the pub social structure so familiar over the years in Ireland.

Crisis at the K Club—The new but

almost instantly famous K Club, which hosted the Ryder Cup in 2006, and is a monument to gracious styling and championship golf, is owned by one of Ireland's richest men, **Michael Smurfit**. But he is facing enormous financial problems. He and the owners of surrounding properties are trying to defer repaying bank loans in the face of devastating losses. Loans used to underwrite the development total a staggering \$70 million, with recent losses of over \$10 million.

RANDOM CLIPPINGS

Interpol held an international "find the fugitives" conference in Lyon, France, this summer to coordinate efforts to locate **Whitey Bulger** and 450 other fugitives. Boston law officials were there and had no complaints about the food in Lyon, considering that it is the gourmet capital of France. Bon Appetit! ... Galway's famed Druid Theatre will stage **Sean O'Casey's** "Silver Tassie" until Sept. 7 and then tour with it to Dublin, Cork, Portlaoise, and Ennis. ... Tourists over 66 traveling in Ireland may make use of the free rail service (up to four free trips) by contacting the Irish tourist board.

The Congressman from Hell and the only GOPer from New York, **Peter King**, predictably has joined the chorus lambasting **President Obama** for his Islamic Center position. King has firmly planted himself on both sides of that issue. Have his constituents no sense of evil and ignorance?

A feisty lady of 80 from Clonakilty, Cork, is urging Irish women nationally to boycott Sunday Mass on Sept. 26 to protest the Catholic hierarchy. ... **David Trimble**, now Lord Trimble, who helped negotiate the Belfast Agreement, doesn't like how it has affected his former party, the moribund Ulster Unionists, so he's attacking the St. Andrews peace accords. What a stiff. ... **Pope Benedict XVI**, who was making some sounds that suggested he had "gotten it," just moved a couple of steps to the rear with his refusal to accept the resignations of two Irish bishops who shared blame for ignoring child abusers.

In early August another body was discovered in the sea below the Cliffs of Moher, the third such find in a two-week period. They need to build higher fences or call in the Samaritans. ... Startling statistic re the Irish weather: There were only 85 hours of sunshine during the month of July. ... Despite the turmoil that DUP leader **Peter Robinson** has been through in the last eight months (wife busted and bent, his defeat as MP, charges of financial disorder for both him and his embattled wife), he remains the leader of the DUP, and he insists he has no intention of quitting as First Minister. Astonishing! ... **Rupert Murdoch's** Sky Television has agreed to a multi-year deal with Home Box Office (HBO) to screen their U.S. TV shows beginning later this year for Irish SKY subscribers.

Some interesting programs at the JFK Library & Museum in September: Novelist & Globeman **Jim Carroll**, MSNBC's **Chris Matthews**, columnist **E.J. Dionne**, and author **Shaun Casey** discuss politics and religion on Sun., (2-3:30), Sept. 12. On Sept. 22 (5:30) **Ted Sorensen, Marty Nolan, Russell Baker, and Sander Vanocur** discuss the Nixon-Kennedy debates, and on Sept. 29. (5:30) **Justice Stephen Breyer** talks with **Jeffrey Toobin** about Breyer's new book. To get a seat you have to call in advance and make a reservation (617-514-1643). ... Motorists can now drive on a continuous motorway between Dublin and Belfast in 90 minutes flat following a \$240 million bypass and road construction. ... How delightful to learn (belatedly) that Boston Theatre maven **Carmel O'Reilly** was the Monan Professor at Boston College in this past spring semester. Wouldn't she add some heft to the already stunning BC faculty in its theater arts section? Glad to hear that newlywed **Chelsea Clinton's** Stanford thesis on the Irish peace process will remain under wraps. She's a private citizen, let's give her some space. ... Does Newsweek know something the Irish people don't? The editors of the troubled newsweekly in August included Ireland's embattled **Brian Cowen** as one of ten heads of state in the world specially mentioned as leaders who have "managed to win serious respect."

NOTES FROM THE IRISH IMMIGRATION CENTER

An agency accredited by US Department of Justice



100 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110
Telephone (617) 542-7654 Fax (617) 542-7655

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

Community Counseling & Education Services – The Irish Immigration Center's Community Counseling and Education Services offers counseling, free health clinics, job skill workshops, and other resources to Irish immigrants. Director Danielle Owen, a licensed substance abuse counselor, can assist you if you are experiencing issues such as substance abuse, domestic violence, anxiety, depression, lack of access to healthcare, or homelessness. For assistance, contact Danielle, in confidence and without judgment, at the IIC at 617-542-7654, Ext. 14 or at dowen@iicenter.org.

Q.P.R. Suicide Prevention Workshop, Tues., Sept. 28 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the IIC Office (Brought to you in partnership with the South Boston Youth Assets Campaign & the Department of Public Health) – Suicide is preventable, so come and

learn how you can offer hope to those who might be at risk and learn how best to respond to them.

CPR Workshops, Tues., Oct. 19, at 6 p.m. at the IIC offices – Knowing when and how to perform CPR can save a life. Receiving CPR is an essential link in the chain of survival for someone in cardiac arrest. Learn this simple and valuable skill to protect your friends and family, and if you are seeking employment in the public safety, childcare, home care, or medical fields.

Free Health Screening Mon., Oct. 25 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the IIC offices (Brought to you in partnership with Cathedral Cares Ministries & CARE) – A free screening can help identify health problems before emergency care is required. It's also a chance to find out the best way to access health care and health insurance, thanks to our partnership

with HealthCare for All. Dental and dermatological screenings as well as blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol are on offer. As always, our health screenings are free, confidential, and open to all, so do your health a favor and drop by.

Call Ciara at 617-542-7653, Ext. 14., to sign up or for further information about any of our programs.

Visit our Facebook page to learn about classes, workshops, and more – Look for us on Facebook for up-to-date information about classes and workshops planned for the fall from IIC Community Counseling and Education Services and CARE. We hope to offer more computer skills and employment preparation classes as well as an Employment & Education Open Day in the next couple of months. If you are interested in smoking cessation, substance abuse education, or any other wellness topic, please call Ciara at 617-542-7654, Ext. 14.

ADVOCACY UPDATE

The Irish Immigration Center collaborates with partners to secure comprehensive immigration reform and to advocate for the rights and opportunities of immigrants and refugees. We appreciate the great diversity that immigrants bring to our communities.

On Sept. 14, a naturalization ceremony will induct 6,000 new citizens at Fenway Park. This

means 6,000 voices adding to the discourse at a critical time. We look forward to pivotal elections in November as well as to the prospect of Comprehensive Immigration Reform in the next legislative session. Have you registered to vote? sec.state.ma.us/e/e/.

Immigration and Citizenship – The Irish Immigration Center provides comprehensive, professional, and confidential legal assistance on visa options, immigration and citizenship issues. IIC operations include a mix of outreach and education to the immigrant community, as well as specialized, individual consultation and immigration case assistance. 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. Upcoming dates for our community clinics include:

Tues., Sept. 7, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the IIC offices: 100 Franklin St. in downtown Boston (Enter from the side entrance at 60 Arch Street or 201 Devonshire Street).

Mon., Sept. 13, 6:30 p.m.: The Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington St., Brighton.

Tues., Sept. 28, 6 p.m.: South Boston Labour Center, 275 West Broadway, South Boston.

IMMIGRATION Q & A

Overstaying Visit to U.S? A Bad Idea

Q. I came to the US for a visit under the Visa Waiver Program and was given permission to stay here for 90 days. I was thinking of staying on for a while longer and maybe getting a job to support myself here. I heard that staying past the 90-day limit could result in a bar on my reentry to the US in the future. Is this true?

A. If you entered the U.S. on the Visa Waiver Program, as most visitors from friendly countries do today, you normally are given 90 days to remain in this country, but you are not allowed to work here. If you overstay this 90-day period by 180 days to one year, you face a three-year bar from reentering the U.S.; overstaying the 90-day period by one year or more subjects you to a ten-year reentry bar.

Do not misinterpret the 180 days as any kind of "grace" period that allows you to remain in the U.S. beyond the 90 days granted under the Visa Waiver Program. Any period of overstay may affect your ability to reenter the U.S. at a later date.

Aside from the problem of the three and ten-year reentry bars, if you overstay a visit under the Visa Waiver Program even by a few days you no longer would be allowed to reenter under that program in the future. Instead you would have to make a formal application for the B-2 visitor visa at the nearest US Embassy, which requires a fee and can take considerable time. You can expect close scrutiny of your application, and if you have a compelling reason for a prior brief overstay, you should include evidence of it with your application. Holders of visitor visas usually are admitted for up to six months and may, before the expiration of the visa, apply for an extension if they have a good reason for wanting to stay longer.

Employment in the US, either while in status under the Visa Waiver Program, while here on a visitor visa, or during an overstay, is another issue. People temporarily in the U.S. are not allowed to have employment without specific authorization from US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), either with a work visa (such as H-1B), or with an Employment Authorization Document issued, for example, while an application for adjustment of status to permanent residence is pending. If you do work here without authorization, you render yourself inadmissible to the US in the future in almost all circumstances.

Note, finally, that the 90-day Visa Waiver period of admission to the U.S. normally cannot be extended. Only in extreme situations where you could document the reason with compelling evidence would you be granted an extension. An example of such a situation would be hospitalization in the US following an accident or serious illness. If you have questions about this or any other aspect of immigration law, you can have a free, confidential consultation at one of our weekly legal clinics.

Remember: It is far better to get legal advice before taking a step that might have lifetime consequences for you, rather than going ahead and then trying to fix a situation that may have no solution.

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

2010 FALL SCHEDULE

Home Health Aide Classes (brought to you in partnership with CARE) – Classes will take place at the IIC offices in downtown Boston and in Canton at the Irish Cultural Centre of New England at 200 New Boston Drive. Those of you who have registered for our September class should have received your registration letter by now. If you have not, please call Ciara. Don't forget to get your book, *Providing Home Care: A Textbook for Home Health Aides*, which you can get online very easily. Be sure to have read Chapters 1-3 and Chapter 14 before the first class on Sept. 7.

Matters Of Substance Depression and Suicide: Awareness of the Risks

BY DANIELLE OWEN

"I'm finding it tougher to get up in the morning, and I'm not eating or sleeping well. It's hard to concentrate, and I'm using more sick days from work than usual. I have stopped going out with the lads because I don't enjoy it like I used to. I just want to be left alone. I can't talk to anyone because they won't understand. If I say anything to my family at home, they will be worried sick and insist on coming over. My friends usually tell me to snap out of it, or that I need another pint! I went to the doctor and he gave me tablets but they don't work. What's wrong with me? I just heard about a cousin of mine at home who took tablets to kill himself, and I'm scared I might do the same. What should I do?"

As immigrants, it is very normal to experience periods of feeling low, sad, lonely, or upset, espe-

cially as all our family and friends are at home. Some experience these symptoms for longer periods of time, which could indicate that they have a major depression. Medication can be a great start, but it's usually more effective when used with counseling. It really sounds like you might find it helpful to talk to someone who will listen, support, and understand, but who is not family.

If you do have major depression, it doesn't go away on its own, and you can't just "snap" out of it.

Depression is an illness that affects the brain and the body's ability to create biologically, and to balance, a normal range of thoughts, emotions, and energy. There could be a host of reasons why you are experiencing these symptoms now. By talking to a supportive, objective person, you get the opportunity to work

out what might be causing your difficulties before your symptoms can begin to feel overwhelming. I am saddened to hear about your cousin's death by suicide and cannot guess as to what brought him to the point where suicide seemed like his only option. It does not sound like you think suicide is an option for you right now, which means you still have an opportunity to get the help you need. Depression is a treatable illness, once you get help. Having depression does not automatically mean you will choose suicide. Suicide is completely preventable but help is available. You don't need to find recovery alone!

Do you have similar questions about your own or another's depression or other emotional problems? If you do, contact Danielle at the IIC's Community Counseling & Education Services. We can chat,



Danielle Owen

without judgment, about these or other related issues. Call in complete confidence at 617-542-7654, Ext. 14, or send an e-mail to dowen@iicenter.org.

We are also holding a QPR Suicide Prevention Workshop on Tues., Sept. 28, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. the IIC. Visit our IIC Facebook group page and click on Events. Also check out this link: <http://depression.emedtv.com/depression/symptoms-of-depression.html>.

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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.

BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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



Billy Meleady and Colin Hamell are father and son in "Trad"
Jane Messinger photo

'Trad' Returns Tir Na Hit Transfers To Gloucester Stage

BY R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

When a theatrical production truly connects with an audience, the emotional experience can be indescribable. That was the case this past April when Boston's Tir Na Theatre Company presented Mark Doherty's poignant comedy "Trad" to great success at the Boston Center for the Arts.

Word of mouth was so strong and the reviews were so glowing that every ticket for the run was snapped up, leaving the box office to deal with one disappointed patron after another.

Carefully tended by director Carmel O'Reilly, the production starred Tir Na's Producing Artistic Director Colin Hamell, Billy Meleady, and Nancy E. Carroll. As a result of their original success, the director and all three actors will reunite to present "Trad" at Gloucester Stage Company for a two week run beginning September 2. The question now is: Can lightning strike twice? By all accounts, the chances are very good. With a fiddle and a guitar providing soft accompaniment, the quirky tapestry of "Trad" centers on a 100 year old man (Hamell) and his feisty "Da" (Meleady). When the father bemoans the family line dying out, the unmarried and already ancient son reluctantly confesses that he fathered a child some 70 years before. And so the two old men (one with only one leg and the other with only one arm) hobble off on a journey from their humble west Ireland home in search of that child, now an old man himself. Along the way, they run into a crotchety old woman and a hard-drinking priest, both played by Nancy E. Carroll.

"Trad" has had quite a history on its own in productions from Australia to New Zealand. The play won the Fringe First Award at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and when it was presented at the Galway Arts Festival, it was hailed as "bold, brilliant and funny."

Regular readers of the Irish Reporter will recall that I spoke with Colin Hamell to present a preview of the Tir Na production last April. As a result, I was invited to see the play. While I was looking forward to attending, I was not prepared for just how mesmerizing the play and the cast would be. One minute they're drop dead funny, and the next your heart is in your throat. Of their original production, Hamell said, "I couldn't have been happier with the response to 'Trad.' Even though I was sure of the quality of the piece and of the cast and director, I was afraid that we might not get the crowds we deserved as theaters, in general, are struggling. It was great to see that it still rings true that if you make the right decisions and produce quality work, that word gets around and people come out in droves."

Hamell, who last performed at Gloucester in 2002 in a production of "The Weir" by Conor McPherson, got together with "Trad" playwright Mark Doherty just two weeks ago in Dublin. He said, "(Mark) is obviously delighted to have his work produced in America and was very chuffed with the reviews we got in Boston."

Eric Engel, now in his fourth season as Artistic Director at Gloucester Stage Company, saw the Tir
(Continued on page 22)

Annalivia Has Become Comfortable in Its Own, Fascinatingly Diverse Skin

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The September 2008 ICONS Festival was a memorable event in many ways – not least for the performances by Liam Clancy and Jerry Holland, among the last either would ever give – but particularly so for the Greater Boston-based "alt-trad" band Annalivia.

It was at ICONS 2008 that Annalivia – heretofore a quartet of Flynn Cohen (guitar, vocals), Liz Simmons (vocals), Brendan Carey-Block (fiddle) and Stu Kenney (double bass, five-string banjo) – officially welcomed fiddler-vocalist Emerald Rae into its ranks, and in so doing marked the start of a new direction for the group.

Not that Annalivia hadn't already drawn notice for the unique blend of Irish, Cape Breton, American, and contemporary folk music it showcased on its debut CD, released earlier in 2008. But the two years since Rae's arrival has seen Annalivia begin to realize the full extent of its considerable potential. Their new CD "Barrier Falls" – its formal release takes place at a Sept. 30 concert in Harvard Square's Club Passim – represents a benchmark for this period of growth and development within the quintet, a maturation that has been almost as much interpersonal as musical.

While the addition of Rae's talents as musician,

composer and arranger has exceeded expectations, she and other members feel the big difference is that Annalivia has simply become comfortable in its own, fascinatingly diverse skin.

"I think that's what happened is that we've become more settled, more stable, and have been able to really think about how we put our various interests together," says Simmons, who co-founded the band with her husband Cohen in 2007. "Annalivia was born of a love for different kinds of music. We didn't have the privilege of meeting in college, so we had to take more time and effort to get together and find our identity."

That identity is tied to some quite impressive credentials. Cohen, for example, has played with Irish music luminaries such as Cathie Ryan (as did Rae), Aoife Clancy, and John Whelan, but his resume also includes bluegrass and old-timey (Boston City Limits, Adrienne Young) and contra dance (The Sevens). Simmons studied with former Solas vocalist Karan Casey and also has sung with Aoife Clancy. Block, like Rae a former National Scottish Fiddle Champion, was a member of the Glengarry Bhoys. Kenney is a stalwart of the New England contra dance scene with much-revered Wild Asparagus as well as The Sevens.

Still, their individual and collective biographies offer
(Continued on page 11)



Annalivia is (front, L-R) Liz Simmons and Emerald Rae, (back, L-R) Flynn Cohen, Brendan Carey Block and Stuart Kenney. "Annalivia was born of a love for different kinds of music," says Simmons. "We didn't have the privilege of meeting in college, so we had to take more time and effort to get together and find our identity."



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

— SEAN SMITH

Coloring the music – Susan and Stephen Lindsay often quite literally take Irish music to a whole other world, blending instruments, rhythms and textures from other cultures. The Plymouth couple's Irish/world music fusion will be in the spotlight at this month's BCMFest Celtic Music Monday concert, "Green and Blue: Irish Music in a Different Hue," on Sept. 13 in Harvard Square's Club Passim.

Susan, who plays flute, whistle and saxophone, and Stephen, who plays guitar and sings, will be joined by upright bass player Sean Farias, percussionist Salil Sachdev – on a wide range of world instruments from Pakistani frame drum to African water drums – as well as trumpeter Chris Barrett and vocalist Kate Connell.

"What we do, in many ways, is very Dublin – a mix

of trad tunes, Irish ballads, and contemporary songs that generally take a hard look at Irish life and culture today," explains Susan. "Steve came here from Dublin in 1994, but grew up around the ballad sessions in and around the north side, including great song sessions in Howth, a fishing village that is part of Dublin.

"I always found Dublin song sessions to be very inclusive, ranging from traditional to the popular ballad bands like the Dubliners, to Christy Moore, the Pogues, and then more contemporary and world-music influenced sounds from songwriters Johnny Mulhern and especially Wally Page – and then someone throws in a Jimmy Buffett or Eagles song, and the crowd goes wild."

The Lindsays' Celtic Music Monday concert coincides with their newly completed CD, "From the Green to the Blue," that reflects their wide-ranging tastes, from Irish to blues to jazz to world and beyond.

"For both Steve and me, the greatest inspiration for our music comes from authenticity," says Susan. "It's fair to say that we both love almost any kind of music, as long as it's 'real.' We spend a lot of time listening to Wally Page. Steve is a big Christy Moore fan, and if I have a choice, I might listen to either Irish flute player Catherine McEvoy or sax giant John Coltrane. And since we have a four-year-old, I also listen to a lot of great kids' music. That diversity comes out in what we do."

As the author of a well-received book on Boston's Irish dance hall era (*See You at the Hall: Boston's Golden Era of Irish Music and Dance*) as well as a musician in her own right, Susan is more than a little aware of the lingering tradition-versus-innovation controversy
(Continued on page 22)

Annalivia Has Become Comfortable in Its Own Skin

(Continued from page 10)

only a hint of Annalivia's range of interests. Both Cohen and Simmons, for example, have a strong affinity for music produced by the 1960s folk revival, and artists like Richard Thompson, Anne Briggs, and Pentangle (Cohen studied under Pentangle guitarist John Renbourn). Block has become increasingly involved in the contra dance scene, playing as part of the trio Matching Orange, and in recent years Rae has explored not only the Irish but the old-timey/Appalachian music traditions. And don't be surprised if you hear Kenney evoke his days as an accompanist to legendary Cajun musician Dewey Balfa.

Annalivia's development has been as much a function of its members' increased familiarity with one another. Rae, in addition to her ties with Cohen and Block, a childhood friend, has found a kindred spirit in Simmons — they lead a weekly session at John Harvard's Brew Pub in Cambridge ("It's a very sisterly relationship," says Rae. "If she drinks too much coffee, I get on her about it."). This summer, Cohen and Simmons moved from to New Hampshire to Gloucester, where Rae lives, and have been able to reaffirm their links to the Boston music scene. Although Block lives in New Hampshire, and Kenney is out in Western Massachusetts,

the quintet has developed enough of a rapport to make their get-togethers enjoyable and productive.

The band's progress in the past two years is immediately apparent on "Barrier Falls," which opens with an energetic version of the classic dangerous-lover ballad "Reynardine" — the band calls it "a metaphysical love song" — that is associated with the English folk tradition (although Simmons says the melody was likely Irish). The fiddles periodically enter, stir up the supernatural romance, then hand the proceedings over to Simmons, in as fine a voice as she ever has been, and Cohen.

"When we did the first CD, Brendan had to double-track some of the fiddle parts to get the effect we were looking for," says Cohen. "But we couldn't recreate it on stage. Now with Emerald, we have that fuller more dynamic sound, plus the creative depth from another musician. So we're realizing and building on the vision of that first CD."

It is in the instrumental sets where the Rae-Block combination truly comes to the fore, and never more than on the title track, which comprises jigs composed by Cohen, Rae, and Block, and features an appearance by accordionist John Whelan (the fiddle-accordion harmony on the first tune, with Kenney's folky-funky bass underneath, is a thing of

unusual beauty). Rae and Block lead splendidly into Rae's emotional "Wanderlust," Cohen and Kenney masterfully splicing and re-splicing the rhythm, before easing into Block's "Dawning Dark," with its sudden ascensions on the B part.

"We spent a lot of time putting that medley together," says Cohen. "It gives a very good sampling of the composing styles we bring to the band and how we work out our ideas together."

"Murphy's Shadow," which Cohen says has emerged as "a show-stopper," consists of two reels by Block, the first marked by cleverly aligned accents and syncopation (with a considerable assist from guest percussionist Paddy League) and the second a delightful pell-mell romp in which Rae and Block seem to take turns chasing one another.

But Rae and Block also show their trad chops, such as on Tommy Peoples' "Green Fields of Glen Town" and on the sizable march-strathspey-reel set ("Wake Up to Cape Breton").

"What's nice is we can tailor our sets to certain gigs," notes Rae. "If it's something like ICONS, we can emphasize our Irish repertoire; if it's something like the Champlain Valley Festival, where we played this summer, we pull out our quirky, folky, original material."

The band's newest wrinkle is represented through two songs, "The Time Is Up," a Simmons composition, and "Traveling Case," written by Cohen and friend Aram Sinnreich. While Annalivia has featured contemporary songs — including "The Wind Is An Angry Friend" by local singer-songwriter Mark Simos — Simmons agrees that the inclusion of these originals is clearly another significant step.

"It is part of a confidence thing, where you're putting your stuff out there — after all, a song is usually considered an expression of something taken from

your life and experience," she says. "The question is do these songs relate to what Annalivia is about? 'The Time Is Up' isn't as up-tempo as most of our other material, but I thought it would lend itself to the more subtle elements in Annalivia: some gentle finger-picked guitar, for example, and a slow, gorgeous fiddle backing."

Even as Annalivia is already contemplating its next CD, its members are looking forward to the Sept. 30 "Barrier Falls" release show at Club Passim [clubpassim.org] and subsequent mini-tour of

New England.

"We've gotten a very good response from people who have heard the CD, or have heard us do sets and songs from it in concert," says Rae. "That's really gratifying, because we put a lot of work and care into making our sound gel. Fortunately, we have a great time trotting out our ideas and seeing what we can do with them, so it feels less like a band rehearsal and more like a gathering of friends who have this unique bond with one another."

For more on Annalivia, see annaliviamusic.com

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Imagining the Early Days of the Eire Canal



County Cork native Vincent Crotty, now a Dorchester resident, completed this watercolor depicting a stretch of the Erie Canal at Utica, New York.



Dorchester Artist's Work Featured In Exhibit on Waterway

An Irish-born Boston artist is among a team of twelve American and international visual artists whose works are highlighted in a new exhibit depicting the story of the building of the Erie Canal.

County Cork native Vincent Crotty, now a Dorchester resident, completed a watercolor depicting a canal scene at Utica, New York. It is one of 12 original paintings, along with a nine-foot sculpture of Leonardo DaVinci, assembled for an exhibit, "ReInspired – An Artistic Navigation of the Erie Canal" to be unveiled as part of the international World Canal Conference to be held Sept 19-24 in Rochester. It was Da Vinci who invented the mitered canal lock that made the Erie Canal possible.

Organized by artist Doug Lazarus of Middlebury, VT, the assembled works are sponsored by the Bronx County Historical Society, the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Canal Society. The annual conference celebrates great canals around the world, and this year's program honors the Erie.

The 363-mile-long, considered one of the "Eight wonders of the World" when it opened in 1825, employed Irish laborers to accomplish the feat. "It was primarily dug by Irish labor that was primarily brought over for that purpose," Lazarus says. "They came to work by the thousands."

Between 1817 and 1825, more than 3000 Irish laborers worked for small wages, 80 cents to a dollar a day, to construct the canal linking the Hudson River near Albany with Lake Erie near Buffalo.

Because of the connection with Ireland, Lazarus sought Irish painters to contribute original works; he enlisted Crotty and an Irish artist, Cormac O'Leary, who works in Dromhair, Cty Leitrim, and whose two-week trip to the states was underwritten by the Leitrim County Council.

After the conference, the exhibit will be moved to the campus of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, a school founded 175 years ago by canal engineers. The exhibit will relocate to the Italian Culutral Institutes in New York City in December. More info at wccrochester.org/art_exhbit.html.



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From a Dream to Reality, Making Our Irish Music CD

(Continued from page 1)

job remains to capture the sound that the artist wants. "I like to get the instruments sounding as natural as possible," he said. "Whether it's Celtic Fiddle Fest, the Irish rock band The Prodigals, or more recently, Cape Cod-based duo Stanley and Grimm, I determine what the musicians want and like and then bring out the best of what they do. Every record ends up sounding different as a result."

Sounds Interesting Studios is set up like most professional recording operations: The engineer sits at a large mixing console in the control room, amid a wall of musical equipment. The musicians record in the adjacent "tracking room," and can see the engineer through a double-paned plate glass window. They wear headphones to hear the track and themselves while recording, and communicate to the engineer through their microphones. The engineer gives instruction through a "talkback microphone" that feeds directly into their headphones. Each musician on the track listens through headphones while playing, and adds his or her part to the mix. This is called "overdubbing."

The recording happens in layers. Because the bedrock of this recording is Steve's guitar sound, that was done first. This phase included getting a good sound, finalizing the arrangement and song tempos, tuning between every take, and then lining up with a click track to get the rhythm rock solid... and then, of course, the requisite take and retake and retake... because it's not so easy to play perfectly when you *have to*.

Once we had solid guitar tracks, we recorded "scratch tracks" of vocals and sax/flute. Scratch tracks are placeholders for all other instrumentalists while they overdub their parts. The idea is that these parts will be re-recorded once the full band is present so that the vocalist and soloists can respond to the final "feel" of the piece.

After guitar tracks, we brought in our friends—eleven of them, to be exact. Most tracks have percussion, and that meant studio time with four different drummers: Salil Sachdev on African water drums, dumbek, Pakistani frame drum, and cajon; Brian Haley on conga and djembe; Peter Smith on bodhran; Rob Rudin on bones and washboard. We also added Sean Farias on acoustic upright bass on most tracks, then we added a range of color: Tom Rohde on lead guitar for some gorgeous background lines on one song, Evan Harlan on accordion on four tracks (including a soprano sax/accordion reel set reminiscent of the Dudley Street Irish dance hall sound of the 1950s), Nikki Engstrom on fiddle on some traditional reels and jigs, and Ian Hudson with some elegant grand piano on O'Carolan's "Si Bheag Si Mhor," and finally, Chris Barrett, an



Susan and Stephen Lindsay's unique approach to Irish music will be in the spotlight at this month's BCMFest Celtic Music Monday concert.

unexpected guest on one track: trumpet. Chris's partner Kate Connell added harmony vocals in places where my own voice just didn't work.

Then, it was our turn. Recording meaningful and musical parts on Irish flute, whistle, and soprano and alto saxophones was frosting on the cake, and believe me, I felt every minute of it.

Finally, it was time for vocals. Steve's approach to singing is impassioned and real, so it took time just to get the mood right. How can one sing a sultry, peaceful "John of Dreams" at 10 a.m., and then transition coolly into the aggressive, caterwauling "Sixteen Jolly Ravers," a salty song about sixteen Spanish fisherman who land on Dublin's shores and hit the nightclubs?

After Steve's vocals were finished, it was my turn to do the harmony vocals (didn't realize I sang out of tune 'til I heard it in the headphones!), and then, ten months later, we were done. But it wasn't over.

The Mixing

Then Rob started mixing. That means listening to each track, carefully adjusting the balance between the instruments, adding effects, compression, and doing other technical things that sound very Greek to me. It can take hours to mix a song; multiply that by 13.

Rob says that people don't listen like they used to. "Most people don't have a stereo system where they can sit down and devote the time to *listen* to the music. Now they'll throw a bunch of songs on an iPod and listen to whatever comes up. But iPod earbuds while jogging is no way to listen to music."

Despite Rob's lament, we conceived of this album as more than as a collection of singles. "We wanted this to stand as something bigger than just the duo," Rob said. "When a band wants to make a record that sounds just like they sound live, to me that's called a demo. Live, you're entertaining them because you're there—the entertainment is in your presence and the interaction between the two of you... There needs to be a lot more in the record, and that's where the production element comes in. When we put in a variety of instruments and tweak the sound of the record—that's what makes it entertaining." That meant that Rob took special care to ensure variety between each track while also maintaining

a consistency of sound across the whole.

On this CD, for example, Rob recorded every instrument with two mics, one placed close to the instrument and one placed farther away to also capture some of the "room" sound. He then worked with the two signals on the same performance to create a sense of physical space around the instruments. To oversimplify: When

he wants an instrument to appear on the left in the mind's eye, he will put more of the sound in the left speaker. To adjust front to back spacing, also referred to as depth of field, he'll bring down the volume of the close mic and bring up the volume of the room mic. Then, he adjusts the frequency of the vocal signal to add a lot of "air" so that the vocals soar over everything else. One of the problems for an engineer who takes such care to create both depth and breadth in his recordings is that most people listen to music as MP3s, smaller files that get that way because some elements of the original sound have been removed. Still, Rob's passion for recorded sound means that he'll cut no corners.

And that's where we are at this writing. All the songs are mixed, as of 8 p.m. on Mon. Aug. 23.

The Mastering

We'll listen to all of the tracks one more time, and decide on the order of the

songs. Once everything is just as we want it, the recording gets sent away for mastering. The mastering engineer listens to each track and ensures consistency in volume and sound between each track so that the overall record sounds like a connected whole. Like the final proofreader on a book, he also notes anything that the engineer might have missed.

The Physical Production

In the meantime, we're working on writing the liner notes for the CD, having photo shoots, and creating a cover design, as well as securing permissions for songs we perform. (Oh, and, by the way, tending to our daughter, working our day jobs, and occasionally sweeping the kitchen floor. Occasionally.) Soon, we'll listen to a copy of a master and approve it. Then, we'll send the graphic files and the mastering engineer will send the final master directly to a duplication house. The CD

duplication house will put it all together and press 1,000 CDs while we fidget nervously with our credit card. And all of this will happen within the next two weeks, Lord willing and the creek don't rise.

We feel so grateful to Rob Pemberton and the musicians who appear on the record for helping to make this recording even better than we dreamed. Buying a paintbrush doesn't make you an artist; an expensive canvas doesn't make for a better painting. Still, for artists who want a great painting—and great materials that they hope will stand the test of time—some expenses are just worth it.

We hope you'll agree when you hear the result, "From the Green to the Blue," from The Lindsays. Coming this September... or so... Visit our website irishmusic.us to find out more. For more information on Sounds Interesting Studios, visit soundsinterestingstudio.com.



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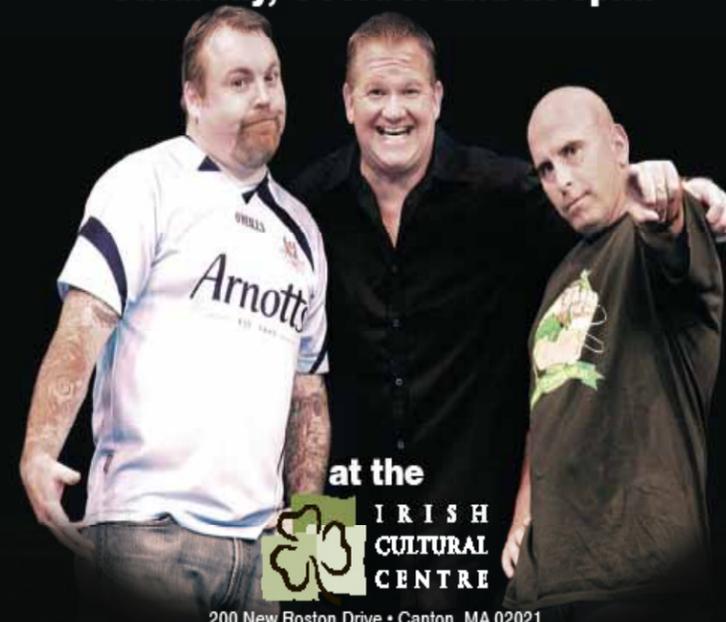
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The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

In past months you have looked at “Wh- words” or “Question Words” concentrating on Cé which can take the place of “How?”, “What?”, “Which?” or even “Who?” and “Whose?” – and how to respond to each.

Cé mhéad?

“How much is it?”

Deug Euro ‘s chúig.

“Fifteen Euros.

Cé hé tusa?

“Who are you?”

Is mise Brian.

“I’m Brian.”

Cé atá ann?

“Who is it?”

Mise Bríd.

“It’s Bridget”

Cé d’íth é mo bhriosca?

“Who ate my cookie?”

D’íth Barra do bhriosca.

“Barry ate you cookie.”

Cé leis an briosca seo?

“Whose cookie is this?”

Tá sé le Liam.

“It’s Liam’s.”

Cé acu é ann?

“Which one?”

Níl fhios agam.

I don’t know.”

Cé briosca atá uait?

“Which cookie do you want?”

Sin no seo.

“That or this.”

In Ireland (and the U.K.) the word for “cookie” is “biscuit.” In Irish, **briosca** /BREES-kuh/. In the example above, **mo** “my” requires the lenition (“aspiration”) the noun which follows do “your” and “his”, **do** and **a**.

In the July column we looked briefly at **Cén** /ken/ which is a contraction of Cé and **an**, “What?” and “the”. Here is **Cén** again.

Cén? By itself means “What? As in the sense of “I didn’t hear/understand you.”

Cén fath? “Why?” /KEN fah/ can also stand alone but may be expanded as in, “Why are you doing that?” **Cén fath tusa ag déanamh é sin?** or “Why is she writing a letter?” **Cén fath sí ag scriobh leidir?**

Cén uair? “When?” /KEN oor/ Literally “(At) What hour?”

“When does the train from Kerry come?” becomes...

“When will come the train from Kerry?”

Cén uair tiocfaidh an traein ó Carraí?

Cén aois atá agat? “How old are you?” /KEN eesh TAH ah-kuht/

Literally, “What age is at+you?”

An answer could be **Fiche ‘s chúig** but **Fiche blain ‘s chúig** would be better.

Several things are apparent in the examples above. Look at the **verbs** in them, “ate”, **d’íth-** is a **past tense**, whilst “doing” **ag déanamh** and “writing” **ag scriobh**, are “**Progressive**” in the sense that they are in “progress” at the time of speaking.

Tiocfaidh, “will come”, is a **future** form. We have had all of these before but it is time to remind you of them again.

There really is no “Present” tense. “Present” time never stands still. All “Present Tenses” are actually “habitual” verb forms. Therefore, “Progressive” forms such as “are doing” and “are writing” are more commonly used in both English and Irish speech.

To form the “**Progressive**” tenses, you take any form of the **verb**, “be”, **tá** followed by the **subject** and the **preposition** “at” **ag** plus the **verbal noun**. The **verbal noun** is a form is often marked in a dictionary as **vn**. In English **verbal nouns** are always marked by the suffix **-ing**. (We used to call them “gerunds”).

In Irish the ending is often **-adh** but this is not consistent, even on “regular” verbs. **Déanamh**, “doing” is from **dean**, an “irregular” verb; **scriobh** is a “regular” verb. You will have to learn every **verbal noun** by itself.

A bhfuil Nóra ag scriobh?

“Is Nora (at) writing?”

Níl. Bhí sí ag scriobh. Tá sí ag ithe anois.

“No. She was writing. She is eating now.”

The **Past Tense** is formed by (1.) **leniting** (“aspirating”) the initial consonant of the **verb**. Recall that **l**, **n**, **r**, and **verbs** with initial vowels cannot be **lenited**.

In the case of verbs beginning with a vowel, the verb is “**artificially lenited**” by prefixing **d’**. This **d’** is pronounced /d/ if the verb begins with a “broad” vowel (**a**, **o**, **u**) or a sound like /j/ if the verb begins with **e** or **i**.

Dhún Liam an doras.

“Liam shut the door.”

D’oscail Barra an doras é.

“Barry opened the door.”

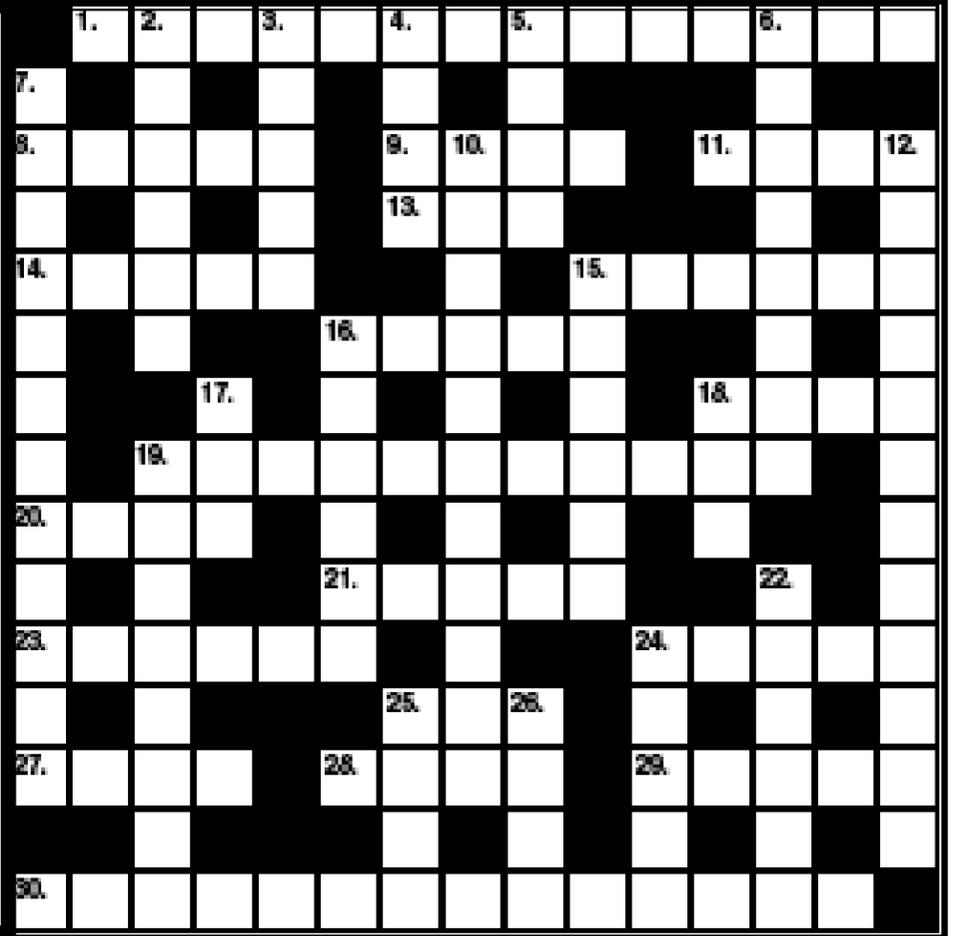
D’imir muid iomáint.

“We played hurling.”

Be sure to study and save this column. We have more to do than space allows.

CELTIC CROSS WORDS

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



IRELAND IN CROSSWORDS ©-bigwood.com

ACROSS

1. I'd be G2inger Hill. (anag.) Carlow birthplace of scientist John Tyndall in the Barrow valley. (14)
8. Vine about right for small Donegal fishing village at the mouth of the Eaney River where Tom Nesbitt, inventor of the whale harpoon was born. (5)
9. “Widg240ery didgery dok, the army ran — —. The judge said ‘No, it wasn’t so; they didn’t run they wok” Derry street rhyme following the Widgery Tribunal into Bloody Sunday in 1971. (4)
11. Join one to use one, of course. (4)
12. This produces moving air for the devotee. (3)
14. “Bernard Shaw hasn’t an — — in the world, and none of his friends like him.” Oscar Wilde. (5)
15. Lover gets disturbed after note and will plead in a self-humiliating way. (6)
16. He will put her after us when showing where the seats are. (5)
18. Mary got confused by the military. (4)
19. Kneel, try net. (anag.) Principal Donegal town near the head of Lough Swilly. (11)
20. Ireland of the poets and songwriters gets in after Queen Elizabeth. (4)
21. Search recklessly and rob firearm coming back from Listowel firing range. (5)
23. Speaks formally even though sore at mix-up in Kilfenora tests. (6)
24. Can no letters be enough for the law of the church in Lucan only? (5)
25. Of that family in Spencil kinship. (3)
27. Small metal spike fixing wood that’s lain up in Ballina illness. (4)
28. Christina comes around at last and is against it. (4)
29. Starting softly, alto goes to pieces for author of “The Republic”. (5)
30. Neil and colonel get ordered to see barrister who secured Catholic Emancipation for Ireland in 1829. (6,8)

DOWN

2. Was jealous of the end I’ve contrived. (6)
3. Nothing grey about north Wexford town near the Wicklow border with a 1798 Memorial Cross. (5)
4. Flea hops over the page in Rathkeale afterwards. (4)
5. Small number on at midday. (4)

6. Lied very badly about the birth. (8)
7. Fit women live up here in small Tyrone plantation town near the Fermanagh border. (12)
10. Her flag team wavers in Derry market town near Lough Neagh, and angling centre for Moyola River. (11)
12. Ann shall by no other means go to the largest town in south Donegal on the banks of the Erne. (12)
15. Agree certainly to include 29 across’s country. (6)
16. Speaks in truest fashion. (6)
17. Farm layer seen in Glenbeigh enclosure. (3)
18. “That passed the time. It would have passed in — case. Yes but not so rapidly.” Beckett. (3)
19. Bail into disorder and produce a drink fit for the gods. (8)
22. Settle the land and restrict its possession in tale of chaos. (6)
24. Fowl with its head covered? (5)
25. Towards the centre in Dublin town. (4)
26. A thousand times in front metrically when 49 go into knockout. (4)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 22

Irish Sayings ...

A narrow neck keeps the bottle from being emptied in one swig.
Show the fatted calf but not the thing that fattened him.
Marry a woman from the mountain, and you’ll marry the mountain.
It’s better to solve the problem than to improve the law.
The thing that is closest to the heart, is closest to the mouth.
Don’t bring your troubles to the person who hasn’t got sympathy for your case.
A scholar’s ink lasts longer than a martyr’s blood.
Take gifts with a sigh, most men give to be paid.
A country without a language is a country without a soul.
The person that isn’t strong, has to be clever.
Youth sheds many a skin. The steed (horse) does not retain its speed forever.
When a twig grows hard it is difficult to twist it. Every beginning is weak.

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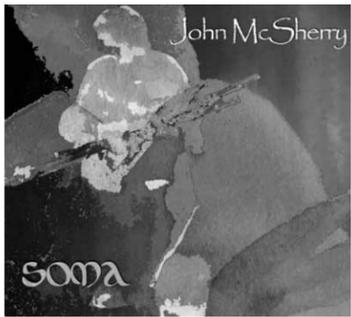
BIR Music CD REVIEW

By SEAN SMITH

John McSherry, "Soma"— Having made his mark as a member of the celebrated bands Lunasa and Coolfin, and as a contributor to plenty of other musical enterprises— including albums with Michael McGoldrick and Donal O'Connor — it's rather surprising that John McSherry never got around to recording his own CD. Consider that task accomplished, in every sense of the word. "Soma" is a grand display of McSherry's Uilleann piping, highlighted as it is by a modern-day penchant for improvisation amid more traditional techniques.

McSherry—who also plays low and high whistles—is joined by a sterling supporting cast that includes his sister Joanne on fiddle and brother Paul on guitar, along with O'Connor on keyboards and fiddle, Tony Byrne on guitar, and Ruben Bada on bouzouki and guitar.

The traditional/contemporary fusion in McSherry's work is wonderfully apparent on the second track, which begins with "Down the Back Lane," a jig from the repertoire of Willie Clancy (with Bada's bouzouki loping gracefully alongside McSherry's pipes) that segues into McSherry's "Atlantic Drive," a syncopated ode to a particularly scenic stretch of road in Donegal, from which his father's side of the family originates; Joanne McSherry and bodhran player Francis McIlduff give a subtle but significant boost to the latter tune.



"The Stone of Destiny" set is a marvelous interweaving of time signatures and rhythms, especially the middle tune "The Hop Jig," with John and Joanne offering up gorgeous harmonies; Byrne's guitar and McIlduff's bodhran put a lovely glide into the set's title

track, a reel composed by Maurice Lennon. McSherry breaks out the heavy artillery in the form of his A low whistle for the lament "Badai na Scadan (The Herring Boats)," and the hushed, remote sound evokes a lonely Donegal coast as ably as an award-winning cinematographer.

The all-traditional "Rambles of Kitty" set represents some past and present personal connections for McSherry, as he explains in the notes: the well-known title tune was one of the first he learned as a boy, while the reel at the end comes from an album by Mary Bergin that was an early entry in his childhood record collection; the reel in the middle, "Miss Ramsay's," is a staple of The Belfast Piper's Club he co-founded recently. The final track is a familial tribute of sorts, as McSherry's low whistle and O'Connor's delicate piano traipse through "McSherry's Waltz"—written by McSherry and his sister Tiona in honor of their parents—before transitioning (with the aid of O'Connor and Bada) into two originals composed for McSherry's daughter, "Over the Camels' Hump"

and "Aille's Antics"; although somewhat rhythmically ambitious, the latter two tunes convey a child's simple, uncomplicated love of adventure and activity. Seems like John McSherry has plenty of inspiration on hand, and that bodes well for his future endeavors.

Old Blind Dogs, "Wherever Yet May Be"— Can it really be 20 years since Old Blind Dogs first set their



collective paws on the floor, and then set out to remake traditional Scottish music in their rootsy yet uniquely cosmopolitan style? Yes it can. The "OBDs" have gone through a number of lineup changes in the past decade, in the process going from a quintet to a quartet.

But, as "Wherever Yet May Be" demonstrates, they retain that distinctive blend of Scots music with subtle but unmistakable hints of African and Caribbean influences, embodied in the band's longstanding pipes-and-percussion dynamic (Ali Hutton on the former, Fraser Stone on the latter).

Founding member Jonny Hardie's fiddle also has defined the band's sound, and he literally does so on the opening track, taking the lead on the air "St. Kilda" while the other members (including Hutton on flute) produce a soundscape redolent of a misty morning on the North Atlantic; they segue right into a driving rendition of the County Fermanagh song "Lough Erne's Song," Stone's hand drums spurring Aaron Jones' lead vocals.

The band's deft handling of rhythmic twists is in evidence on the next track, a medley comprising a traditional tune "Fouller's Rant" with his own composition "Psychopomps"—the former tune starts out as something between a slow reel and a bossanova until Hutton (doubling on guitar), Jones (on bouzouki) and Stone get ahold of it and sharpen the edge before finally settling into "Psychopomps," which features an outrageous jazz-like interval between Hardie, Hutton, and Angus Lyons on electric piano.

Another medley, "Portobello," builds splendidly on the eponymous tune until Hardie and Jones redirect matters with the traditional "Miss Brady's" and then on into the well-known "Hughie Shorty's Reel" before going all-out with "Kent Road" and its unusual phrasing on the B part—once again, the presence of Stone's hand drums seem to relocate the tune rather well east and south of Caledonia. The "Room with a View" set, meanwhile, starts out by cleverly meshing trombone and sax with Hutton's flute, and later behind his pipes (along with redoubtable resonator guitar by guest Nathan Jones) for the remaining tunes.

If there is one aspect of the CD that somewhat disappoints, it's the songs. Can't fault Jones for taking on Andy M. Stewart's "Where Are You Tonight I Wonder?"—which gets a country blues feel via Jones's resonator guitar—or the proud "Scotland Yet" by the late Davy Steele. But their versions of that old American paean to illegal distilling, "Copper Kettle" (with Hardie on guitar and lead vocals), and "Broken Ring," an Irish-American hybrid, just don't have the same panache as their more explicitly Scottish material, nor does "Banks of the Nile." Still, give the band credit:

Replacing a singer like Jim Malcolm is no mean feat, but by and large they've pulled it off.

Even by virtue of its title, "Wherever Yet May Be" (taken from a line in "Scotland Yet") forcefully suggests that the Old Blind Dogs have more than enough vigor and vision to sustain a third decade.

The Paul McKenna Band, "Between Two Worlds"— Another addition to the pool of excellent young traditionally-inspired Scottish bands that includes Bodega and Breabach, this group, whose recent summer tour included stops at New Bedford Summerfest and the Old Songs Festival in upstate New York, features outstanding musicianship to go with the striking voice of lead singer and guitarist McKenna. Fiddler Ruairidh Macmillan and flute/whistle player Sean Gray form the blazing melodic core of the band, with David McNee (bouzouki) and Ewan Baird (bodhran, percussion) supplementing McKenna's considerable guitar talents.

High in the register, with just the right amount of vulnerability and vibrato in the right places, McKenna's vocals certainly have pop music stylings—and in fact, he is a songwriter whose compositions form a large part of the band's repertoire—but fit comfortably nonetheless in the folk/traditional realm.

THE PAUL MCKENNA BAND



It certainly doesn't hurt matters that the first track is Ewan MacColl's masterful, if sometimes overlooked "Ballad of Accounting," which McKenna and crew do up-tempo, Baird's bodhran matching the urgency in McKenna's rendition of the lyrics, after all these years still an eloquent warning

against acquiescence to, and acceptance of, injustice. He does a sensitive, but not mawkish, turn on Robert Burns's "The Lea Rig" and, fitting his own melody to the traditional lyrics, infuses "Carnlough Bay" (of the classic boy-meets-girl-while-out-on-errands genre) with a modicum of dramatic tension, ably assisted by Macmillan's skittering fiddle. McKenna's mates give him some fine vocal backing in the band's irresistible treatment of "The Jolly Beggar" (they slightly accent the 6/8 rhythm to give the song a definite contemporary feel) and courtship-song-cum-police-report "Red Mary."

Among McKenna's compositions, the lamenting "Daylight" stands out, with its shifting key signature and poignant duets by Macmillan and Gray. The album's title song, which speaks to the danger and inevitability of desire, deftly integrates a slower, almost meditative version of the reel "Musical Priest."

Gray and Macmillan are a joy to listen to as they take the lead in the two tune sets, "The Sloe Switch" (McKenna throws in some jazzy chords to spice up the jig-to-reel transition towards the end) and "The Lobster Set," all authored by Macmillan—the first, "Lasses of Fregenal," written with Gray, is a winsome keepsake from a band tour of Spain.

It's evident that the band's arrangements and repertoire appeal to audiences less invested in the folk/trad material, but those who do fancy their Burns and ballads, as well as jigs and reels, will find plenty to like.

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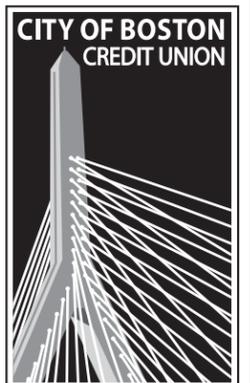
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Traveling People

Three B&Bs That Know How to Please a Visitor

By JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Did the Irish invent the concept of bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation? If not, they have certainly raised that concept to a whole new level.

There are many, many B&Bs in Ireland – you can find them on nearly every street and street corner in the larger cities and towns as well as on more remote country roads and lanes. True, many are pretty basic – you get a bed, hopefully an ensuite bathroom (but sometimes it's so small you have trouble turning around) and a plain, not especially interesting, and often greasy breakfast. And, in my opinion, there are some B&B owners who should have chosen other professions, because they are unfriendly and not even slightly interested in their guests or in helping them discover the best attractions their area has to offer.

Then there are others who are outstanding and warm and friendly and unique and colorful. I list in this latter category my favorite B&Bs: Riverfield House (riverfielddoolin.com) in Doolin and Cahergal Farm (cahergal.com) in Newmarket-on-Fergus, both Co. Clare; Gearhadiveen in Kenmare, Co. Kerry; Glasha Farmhouse (glashafarmhouse.com) in Ballymacarbray, Co. Waterford, and Heron's Cove (heronscove.com) in Goleen, West Cork.

I also include on my favorites list Heaton's in Dingle (heatonsdingle.com) even though it bills itself as a guesthouse and not strictly a B&B. I still dream about Heaton's unbelievably fabulous breakfast spread and their divine homemade bread and butter pudding.

Cahergal Farmhouse: One of my longtime favorites is Cahergal Farm, which is close enough to Shannon to make it the perfect place to stop for a snooze and an overnight stay to recuperate from that all-night flight. And, it's a perfect place to spend the night before flying out because you are literally minutes from the airport.

Noreen and Michael McInerney couldn't be better hosts at their beautifully kept farm. Every year, they plant the most magnificent gardens around their home as well as a kitchen garden beside the house with all kinds of



Horses corralled along the old bog road road in Co. Kildare.

herbs and veggies.

You can ride horseback, take a walk, enjoy a quiet afternoon under the pergola outside the breakfast room or enjoy the many attractions the area has to offer, including Bunnatt Castle, the Cliffs of Moher and much more.

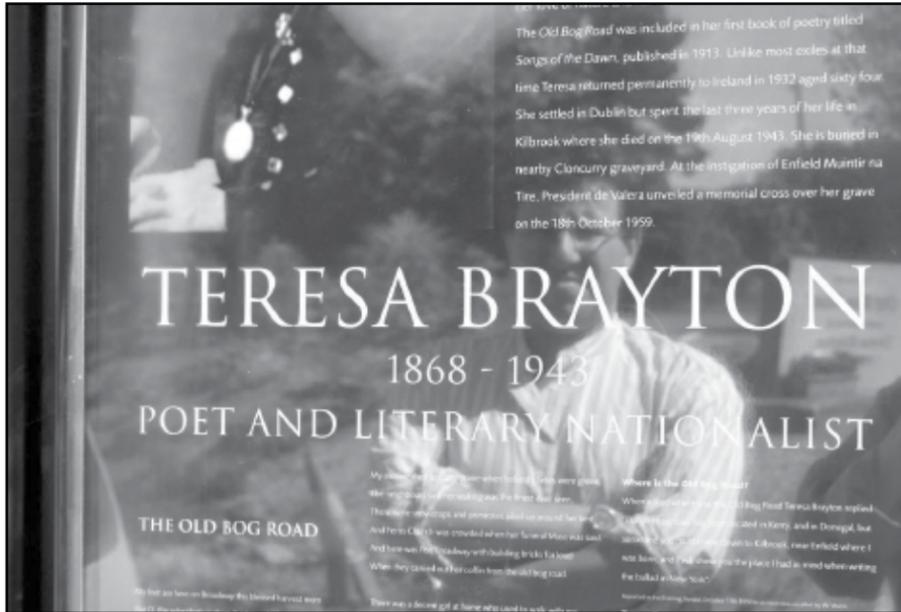
I have recommended Cahergal to lots of people and every last one has raved about the beautiful farm, the food (especially Noreen's unbelievable scones), the accommodation, and the warm welcome they get from Noreen and Michael.

Cahergal is very highly recommended.

Riverfield House: I used to hear people say that when they stayed at a B&B in Ireland, the owners became lifelong friends. Truly, that never happened to me until one spring when I stayed with Caitriona Garrahy at Riverfield House in Doolin.

I've ever met anyone quite like Caitriona, who is fun and funny and bright and witty and charming and has one of the best personalities I have ever encountered. I've been there when she has welcomed other guests or bid them farewell and you'd think they, too, were longtime friends. That's just the way she is and it doesn't matter whether you are young or a more mature traveler. She treats everyone the same – and keeps you laughing.

Caitriona is an integral part of Doolin, where she grew up, and someone



Tim Durham from Killucan, Co. Westmeath, reads the sign erected at the old bog road in Co. Kildare to honor poet Teresa Brayton. (Judy Enright photos)

whom everyone seems to know and enjoy. You witness that when you're out to dinner or in a store or pub with her.

As for Riverfield House itself, bedrooms are comfortable and bathrooms are spotlessly clean, breakfast is cooked to order from the very best local produce. Riverfield is right on the main drag in Doolin and an easy walk to several pubs if you're in the mood for a night out in the music capital of Ireland.

Riverfield is one of my favorites – probably as much for Caitriona's brilliant personality as anything else – and I stay there as often as I can. It's very highly recommended.

Gearhadiveen: Ire-

land is changing so fast that if you have not visited recently, you probably won't recognize the places that you think you remember.

Those who haven't been there for 30 years or more will be stunned. No longer are there B&Bs where everyone shares one bathroom – or at least we haven't seen one for many years – and no longer can you describe the food as horrid and bland. There is a real focus on excellent cuisine everywhere, even in many of the pubs, and there has long been a focus on lessening the carbon footprint and going green. Ireland, for instance, stopped giving away plastic bags in grocery stores several years ago and charges 15 cents or more if you need a bag and don't bring in your own!

When I was in Ireland this spring, a friend and I decided to try out an accommodation recommended on organic holidays and responsible travel websites and we came upon Gearhadiveen in Kenmare, a lovely town to visit no matter where you stay. There are several excellent independent restaurants there or you can enjoy an elegant meal at the Park Hotel, Sheen Falls, and other hotels. We enjoyed excellent dinners in Kenmare at Mulcahy's

and Packie's, both award-winning establishments.

We spent two nights at Gearhadiveen, one of Ireland's first carbon-neutral timber frame homes to be built entirely of hemp and lime inside and out. The owner, Anne Barrett, was very accommodating and welcomed us with tea and delicious baked goods served in her bright, airy living room. In addition to being a B&B owner, Anne is also the on-call therapist at the five-star Sheen Falls Hotel in Kenmare, where she specializes in massage, energy healing, reflexology and other holistic therapies and gives nutrition advice. Anne is a delightful hostess and provided a wonderful organic breakfast the next morning of freshly-squeezed juices, fresh fruit salad, salmon, homemade muesli, as well as cheeses, yogurt, and organic coffees and teas.

The newly built family home offers two double bedrooms – mine was downstairs and had a combination bathroom/wet-room that would be perfect for disabled/wheelchair travelers. The home's roof is slate made from recycled car parts and the windows are larch and triple glazed low-e glass. Heat is from a geothermal system and the floors are heated. There is also a woodstove with fuel taken from Gearhadiveen's

three-acre parcel.

Finding Gearhadiveen was a bit of a challenge as you wend your way down a private road through a wooded valley, but when you get there you'll discover that the trek was worth the trouble.

Anne is working on a website and can be reached now at annebarretto@eircom.net. She offers in-house massage/reflexology/energy healing/Indian head massage and visitors can book a treatment before bath or bed. You can also contact Anne to arrange for a week's stay to learn organic and polytunnel gardening techniques or to take walks through hills and mountains nearby or cycle the back roads. Bikes and cars can be rented locally.

Gearhadiveen is highly recommended for a very different and interesting Irish experience.

DUBLIN BIKES

Dublin City Council's successful Dublinbikes scheme had its millionth journey in August. According to The Irish Times, Dublin City Council and its partner JCDecaux (Ireland) launched the highly successful scheme on Sept. 13, 2009. More than 37,000 people have signed up so far and 450 bicycles are available to rent at 40 stations between the Royal and the Grand canals.

Plans are currently in place to increase the number of bikes to 550 and introduce four new stations, at Smithfield, Eccles Street, Harcourt Terrace, and Charlemont Mall.

What a fun way to see Dublin and not worry about parking or one-way streets. For more information visit dublinbikes.ie.

GLASHA AND HEATON'S

We have raved on about three of our favorite Irish B&Bs and don't want to give Glasha or Heaton's – two exceptional properties – short shrift, so we'll talk about them in the October column. If the readers have favorite B&Bs, it would be fun to hear about them. My email is: enrightjp@comcast.net.

TRAVEL

To find out what's going on in Ireland when you visit, go to discoverireland.com. Ireland is a great place to take a tour – and there are numerous tour operators from whom you can choose – or rent a car and drive yourself. It's a wee bit daunting to drive on the left at first, but you do get used to it pretty fast.

Whenever you decide to visit Ireland, be sure to stop by your favorite travel agent for recommendations or visit the Aer Lingus' website (aerlingus.com) for the latest in direct flights and ground deals. Flights and deals are also offered by US Airways (usairways.com) and several other airlines, but sometimes involve layovers along the way that add time to the trip but also reduce the cost.



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Thirty-Two Counties

Antrim: A bid to raise money for the North's first maritime museum is behind a new tour that gives people the chance to see the city from a vantage point. The Lagan Boat Company and Karl Properties have co-operated to offer a tour that begins with a boat trip around the Lagan, after which participants can ascend to the penthouse suite of the country's tallest building, the Obel Tower on the waterfront. The tour will include a presentation on the history of the area as well as a photographic archive. Since two of the four penthouses have already been sold, there is a limited opportunity to avail of the bird's eye view of Belfast.

Armagh: Work has begun on the amalgamation of three Craigavon community centres, Ardowen, Drumgor and Moyraverty, to provide a complex that will include a multi-purpose hall, a separate space for twenty-six pre-school children, and space for an after-school club for older children. There will also be facilities for WiFi access and hot-desking, as well as meeting and consultation rooms. The mayor of Craigavon, Stephen Moutray, turned the first sod on the site last month and the new community hub is expected to be completed at the end of August next year.

Carlow: The bridge at Rathgeran, Ballymurphy, part of which collapsed a few months ago, has now been repaired and has opened to traffic once again. The problem arose when a herd of cows was crossing the bridge, with one becoming trapped for a while. Kennedy Construction has reinstated the bridge on both sides with mass concrete and it was reopened initially to light traffic. It is now open for heavy traffic also. After the collapse a three-ton limit was placed on the bridge, which meant that all agricultural machinery had to make a ten-mile detour.

Cavan: Local vet Seán O'Reilly was called out last week to come to the aid of a swan that had been found stranded in Loreto Wood in Cavan. The swan had been observed by locals on Drumgola Lake earlier in the year, with four cygnets. After they disappeared from the lake they were later seen walking down a road in the area of Loreto Cross, and it was here that the lone swan was found, with no sign of her cygnets. On hand to observe Seán's rescue of the swan were Denise Sivakova with her daughters Gina and Jennifer. The swan subsequently had a broken wing reset and Seán is caring for her until she can be released back into the water.

Clare: The eastern part of the Burren could soon have its first tourism venture with an application by three local men to set up a wellness centre near the village of Ruan. Fintan O'Brien, Kieran Casey, and Brian O'Shaughnessy have made the application in conjunction with Clare Resorts, which would run the centre and its fifteen associated tourist accommodation units at Ranaghan. It is expected that the project will inject more than 3-million euro into the local economy and will also generate a minimum of between twelve and eighteen jobs. A decision on the application is expected to be given this month.

Cork: Government cutbacks and the recruitment embargo are responsible for the overgrown condition of St Finbarr's Cemetery on Glasheen Road in Cork city, according to council officials. Four local councillors have now decided to gather together a volunteer force to

carry out the maintenance work, establishing a Friends of St Finbarr's Cemetery association. Among the notable people whose graves are in the cemetery are Terence McSwiney and Tomás MacCurtain, former Taoiseach Jack Lynch, sculptor Seamus Murphy, and antiquarian Richard Rolt Brash.

Derry: One of those chosen to take part in a week-long return to life in medieval Ireland is Derrywoman Emma Downey, who lives most of the year in Italy. Emma was one of those chosen from one hundred applicants to take part in the experiment and last month the group was instructed in some of the skills they will need, including foraging for food. A former student at Thornhill College, Emma is looking forward to the challenge which, she says, appeals to her love of nature. The group was to convene late last month at Taafe's Castle in Carlingford, after leaving their mobile phones and internet access behind them.

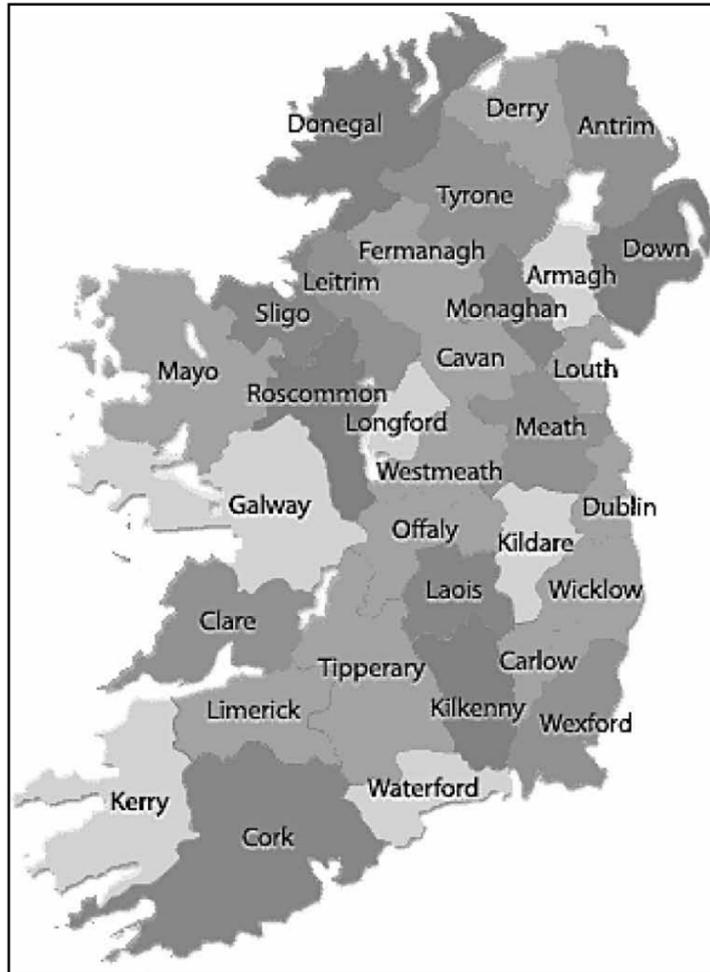
Donegal: A meeting of the county council this month will consider a proposal to develop Grianán of Aileach, which has been described by Councillor John Ryan as "the jewel in the crown" of historic Inishowen. The stone fort, which was restored in the nineteenth century, is believed to date from the late Bronze Age or the Iron Age. Up to 10,000 visitors come to the hill-top fort each year and Councillor Ryan would like to see, at the very least, a cafe and other facilities, though his ultimate aim is to see an interpretative centre located at the fort.

Down: On top of Down's triumphant win over Kerry in the All-Ireland semi-final, the team's goalkeeper added to his score by taking part in and winning two poc fada competitions. The first was the M. Donnelly All-Ireland Poc Fada held at the Annaverna Mountain, where Graham Clarke was named King of the Mountain with a total of fifty-one pucks over the five-kilometre course. With that win under his belt Graham also took part in Poc ar an Chnoc held at Stormont as part of Féile an Phobail. At this event he also took first place and he was presented with his trophy by Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams.

Fermanagh: The Fermanagh Farming Society this year celebrated its one hundred and seventy-fifth anniversary, and one person associated with the County Show, held each year in Enniskillen, marked up fifty years as a judge. Bried Britton from Pettigo was first invited to judge the arts and crafts section of the show in 1961 and has only missed one year since, when her youngest daughter was born. A retired home economics teacher, Bried began judging alongside Mrs. Rowe from Lack and took over when Rowe retired. Bried married Pettigo publican John Britton and her son Pat and daughter Trina now run the bar.

Galway: Town Councillor in Loughrea Norman Morgan, who is also an archivist and printer, has presented to Dublin City Library a collection of editions of the former Dublin Evening Mail. The one hundred and fifty-seven issues, dating from 1838 to 1855, were purchased by Morgan some years ago at an auction and are part of his private collection. He has recently donated thirteen issues of the Galway Independent dating from the nineteenth century to NUI, Galway and also has in his possession a number of rare books including works by Edward Martyn and Lady Gregory.

Kildare: Last month saw the



third Taste Kildare festival, celebrating local food and crafts, at the K Club. The venue for the festival was the Victorian walled garden where cookery demonstrations took place throughout the day. Among those scheduled to demonstrate their skills were Clodagh McKenna, Finbar Higgins from Naas who is the K Club executive chef, and Kieran Cunningham from Palmerstown House Estate. Craft stalls, wine tasting and art tours were also on offer as well as a duck race, mini golf and fly fishing.

Kilkenny: James Fennelly from Tullaroan set a world record recently when he was named All-Ireland Strongest Man as well as Republic of Ireland's Strongest Man for last year and this year. James took part in the competition in the Isle of Man and had to pull a twenty-ton truck as one of the events and he was the only one of the ten competitors to complete the pull. A qualified personal trainer and fitness instructor, he is now working towards the UK Strongest Man competition, which is due to be shown on RTE in September.

Laois: The Special Needs Rockview Walkways, at Cashel/Pass just outside Portlaoise, is to be officially opened in the coming weeks although it has been open to the public since the beginning of August. Comprising a one-mile circular track, in addition to a half-mile track suitable for wheelchair users, the walkway is the result of an initiative by Laois Friends. They are also planning to establish a sensory garden and horticultural area. The official opening will be performed by Minister for Disability and Mental Health John Maloney.

Leitrim: The Brandywell Bar and Restaurant in Dromod has taken the title of Leitrim Observer Pub of the Year 2010. A special presentation night was held recently at the Ramada Lough Allen Hotel in Drumshanbo that was attended by the owners of the bar, Michael and Marie McGuinness, and their staff, as well as family and friends. They were presented with a framed certificate, a voucher for advertising in the Leitrim Observer and a full page photographic feature in the paper. The title of Bar Person of the Year went to Catherine

Charles of O'Carolan's bar in Mohill.

Limerick: A Cappamore-based company has flourished despite being turned down on the "Dragons' Den" television program. According to Goeco bikes proprietor Marty Manning, sales of electric bikes are doubling every year and the company has now developed the Electric Bike holiday to give people a chance to decide which electric bicycle they would like to buy. They are essentially electric bike testing weekends with a trailer tent thrown in and have proved so popular on an international scale that Goeco is now considering opening up a second base in Co. Mayo, with a further expansion possible into the Isle of Man.

Longford: Father Frank Murray, originally from Carrickboy, set out last month on a sponsored walk on the oldest pilgrimage route in the world. The priest, who served in the Longford parish for thirteen years, was to begin a walk of a section of the Camino de Santiago de Compostela in Northern Spain. Now based in Ferbane, Co. Offaly, Father Murray is raising funds for the Caring and Sharing Association, which provides respite houses and also organizes an annual pilgrimage to Lourdes. He will place the names of all those who donate to the association into his backpack and has pledged to pray for them every day at Mass.

Louth: A mammoth monkfish caught by David Sharkey of Clogherhead aboard his trawler Rose of Sharon is at present in the deep freeze while it is awaiting treatment before being displayed in the Natural History Museum. The nine stone female monkfish measures six feet in length, about twice the length of the average monkfish. It was purchased by Seán Doran of Dublin and the Natural History Museum has agreed to preserve the fish for permanent display. The fish was caught off the coast of Cork on the Labadie Bank last week.

Mayo: Danny Jennings from Rockfield, Barnacarroil, is one of three young people who will appear on a poster promoting the art of turf cutting in the bogs of Ireland. The Knock National School pupil, along with Ryan Garry and Ian Cully, retained

the under-sixteen breast slean category in the All-Ireland Turf Cutting championships in Ticknevin this year, and it is a photograph from that event which will feature on the poster. Danny's father Noel has in the past also held a national title from the same competition. The poster campaign has arisen from opposition to EU and Irish Government directives that will see the end of turf cutting in some bogs.

Meath: The former swimming pool in Trim, which served the local community for thirty-three years, has been demolished and the site has now been cleared. The pool closed last year when the new pool and leisure complex opened on the Newhaggard Road and the council decided to demolish the old building on the grounds of health and safety, as well as to save the money expended on the maintenance of the facility. Salvageable equipment was transferred to the new centre, while the relatively new roof was also saved for salvage. The site will now be landscaped and returned to grassland.

Monaghan: An eleven-year-old boy who is originally from Castleblayney has just undergone groundbreaking surgery at Great Ormond Street Hospital in London, becoming the first child to undergo a trachea transplant. After Ciaran Finn-Lynch had the transplant, his own stem cells were used to build up the donor trachea and guard against rejection, and doctors have now confirmed that the operation has been a complete success. Now Ciaran has been released from hospital and has travelled back to his home in Northern Ireland with his parents, Colleen and Paul.

Offaly: Declan O'Doherty from Geashill, now living in Loughrea, Co. Galway, was the only contestant at the sixth European Transplant and Dialysis Games to have undergone a double lung transplant. Declan, who suffers from cystic fibrosis, was given his new lungs ten years ago and since that time has become interested in running, something he could not have done previously. In the games in Dublin he was to take part in the five-kilometer run, which he hopes to complete within thirty minutes, as well as the ball-throwing competition.

Roscommon: St. Nathy's College in Ballagherreen last month celebrated the bicentenary of its foundation, which has also been marked by the publication of a commemorative book compiled and edited by a teacher at the school, Father Leo Henry. Among the articles included is one by the late Dermot Earley, former chief of staff of the Defence Forces and a former student at the college. Cardinal Seán Brady celebrated a Mass in St. Nathy's to mark the bicentenary, while GAA president Christy Cooney attended a handball exhibition.

Sligo: Although a decision is not expected from the High Court until the autumn on the dispute between the owners of Lissadell and the county council, Edward Walsh and Constance Cassidy decided to reopen their home to the public. The decision followed work being carried out in preparation for the recent concerts by Leonard Cohen and Westlife, and hundreds of visitors arrived at the weekend to view the new Yeats family gallery. This included the last photograph of the poet, taken by his wife a week before he died. A Markievicz gallery and a shell exhibition also attracted a good deal of attention.

(Continued on page 20)

NEWS DIRECT FROM IRELAND

FROM THE IRISH EMIGRANT
New UPP leader to be selected next month – Sir Reg Empey has, as expected, submitted his resignation as leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, to take effect from next month. Nominations for the position will be accepted until the end of this month. So far the only person to confirm his interest is Tom Elliot, MLA for Fermanagh and South Tyrone. Basil McCrea, the party's policing spokesman, is also expected to be a candidate. The new leader will be elected at a special meeting of the party on September 22.

Passport delays called a thing of the past – Problems at the passport office, which saw huge backlogs of passport applications while staff "worked to rule", appear to have been resolved. Minister for Foreign Affairs Micheál Martin claims that the ten-day turnaround for new or replacement passports is now being met. From a high of 69,400 unprocessed applications, the backlog is now at 24,000 which is said to be normal. Fifty temporary staff had to be recruited to reduce the backlog over the past two months or so.

Gardaí record successes against drug dealers – Gardaí carrying out continuing investigations into the sale and supply of drugs in the west Dublin area were involved in search and arrest operations that resulted in the arrest and charging of 37 people over a four-day period last month. Over 60 charges have already been preferred against those arrested. This seems to have been the culmination of "Operation Reagent", a six-month covert operation targeting two significant drug distribution networks operating in the Ballyfermot and Neilstown areas. Undercover officers had been buying drugs on the streets to gather evidence against significant drug dealers in the communities. In a separate operation Gardaí in Dublin evening carried out a planned search in Ballyboughal and seized herbal cannabis with an estimated street value of 1.2-million euro. Three men, aged 44, 28 and 24, were arrested. Two days later, gardaí recovered cocaine with an estimated street value of 400,000 euro when a car was stopped at Cornmarket Place, Dublin 2. A 42-year-old man was arrested. In a follow up search, drug paraphernalia was recovered at

Ireland Today: The Latest on Pricing at Supermarkets

The National Consumer Agency has reported a 14 percent fall in the price of branded goods on sale in the country's supermarket chains over the past 18 months. It also found that there was little difference in the price of branded goods across the supermarkets. On a basket of 103 common products surveyed in Dunnes Stores, Tesco, and Superquinn the price difference between the cheapest and the most expensive was found to be 1.14 euro, or 0.4 percent. The basket of 103 items was cheapest in Dunnes Stores at 279.62 euro, most expensive in Superquinn at 280.76, while the cost of the basket in Tesco was 280.69.

NCA chief executive Ann Fitzgerald argued that, as prices are substantially the same across the supermarket chains, Irish consumers obviously suffer from a lack of competition. A spokesman for the retailing sector insisted, however, that the 14 percent decline in prices was the direct result of competition.

Fitzgerald believes that the Government should remove the floor space limit on new supermarkets to encourage the entry into the Irish market of groups such as Asda (Walmart) and Carrefour. What sounded like an independent voice saw problems with this approach. Speaking on RTE the commentator, whose name I did not catch, claimed that Ireland could only support a small number of hypermarkets and that these would be on the outskirts of larger towns and cities. As such they would be out of reach of the lower income groups who could most benefit from reduced prices. Such people would be left to make their purchases at small local outlets where prices would remain high.

– LIAM FERRIE

a lock-up facility nearby.

60,000 attend Tullamore Show ... The Tullamore and AIB National Livestock Show, to give it its full title, was expected to attract 50,000 visitors last month, so the organizers were pleasantly surprised when 60,000 turned up for what is described as the largest rural agriculture event of the year. I think the National Ploughing Championships would also have a claim on that title but perhaps they don't bring as many out on a single day. More than one commentator attending the event spoke of a new-found optimism in the farming sector.

... and Puck Fair again attracts the crowds – One of the summer's biggest and oldest tourist attractions took place in Killorglin, Co. Kerry, last month. Puck Fair again attracted huge crowds to party and pay homage to a wild goat, christened Oisín, who was crowned King Puck and spent three days on a platform some 50 feet above the assembled throng. Horse trading is the serious side to Puck Fair but, like the horse fair at Buttevant Co. Cork a few weeks ago, there were plenty of horses but few buyers. Those who had money

could pick up bargains at one third of the prices prevailing four years ago.

Planning permission granted for Jurys/Berkeley Court site

Dublin City Council has granted planning permission for a scaled down development on the sites of the Berkeley Court and Jurys hotels. A previous application, which controversially included a 37-story diamond-shaped tower, was also approved by the council but subsequently rejected by An Bord Pleanála. The highest building in the new plan is 15 stories. When developer Seán Dunne, who paid 54 million euro per acre for the site in 2005, was recently granted permission for another site in the Ballsbridge area, at least one commentator suggested that he had no intention of developing the site and just wanted to maximize its value by obtaining planning permission. Whether that is a correct assessment, and whether it also applies to Jurys/Berkeley Court, remains to be seen. Already there are a number of critics who are preparing to lodge objections with An Bord Pleanála.

Calf stolen from Virginia Show – It was reported last

month that a ten-month-old heifer calf was stolen from the Virginia Show in Co. Cavan on July 31. The owner, Ivan Robinson from Ballygowan, Co. Down, left the cattle area to attend a reception and when he returned 30 minutes later the calf was gone. His two prize-winning cows were still in their place. The Holstein Friesian calf is worth an estimated 10,000 pounds, but is of little value to the person who took it as its

Transplant donor meets Slovenian recipient in Dublin – The best story of the week was accompanied by a photograph of Belfastman Terry McCreary, who now lives in Dublin, and Marina Avsenik, a 54-year-old grandmother from Slovenia. She was displaying the gold medal she won in the 3km event in the European Transplant and Dialysis Games which were taking place in Dublin. Back in 1992, McCreary was living in London when Ms. Avsenik arrived in the British capital to be treated for leukemia. Doctors established that the Belfastman would make a suitable bone marrow donor and he agreed to co-operate. The transplant was successful and afterwards Ms. Avsenik decided that she had to meet the donor. Five years passed before they met for the first time in Slovenia. Since then they have remained close and by now the two families should be touring Co. Antrim together.

Miscellany – Eighty-year-old Jennifer Sleeman has been in the news by calling on Catholic women in Ireland to boycott Mass on Sun., Sept. 26, in protest of the male domination in the church. Sleeman, who lives in Clonakilty, Co. Cork and who converted to Catholicism 54 years ago, has a son who is a monk in Glenstal Abbey. He supports her campaign. ... Last month in Dublin, gardaí arrested two would-be robbers who had tied up two members of staff at the Dublin premises of a gold wholesaler. An alarm was activated by the men and gardaí arrived in time to arrest them. A firearm was recovered at the scene. Nothing was stolen and the two staff members were uninjured. ... Thieves looking to make money from the rising price of copper have been stealing telephone cables and copper hot water cylinders. Parts of Mayo were left without a telephone service when cables were pulled down. In Galway, copper cylinders were removed from

16 vacant homes in Ballybane.

Job losses after fire at Wicklow timber company – A fire caused extensive damage to the Woodfab Timber plant in Aughrim, Co. Wicklow last month and has resulted in the lay-off of most of 65 permanent workers and 70 contract staff. The fire is being treated as suspicious as fire broke out at a former flour mill in the area at the same time. A burned out SUV was also found in a nearby wooded area.

Former priest awaits extradition to Ireland from California – Patrick McCabe, a former priest of the Archdiocese of Dublin, is in custody in California on foot of an extradition warrant issued in Ireland. He is wanted on charges of molesting young boys while he served in Dublin between 1973 and 1981. A number of middle-aged men have complained to gardaí about being assaulted as children by McCabe. While most of the complaints were made in recent years, at least one was lodged in 1987. This resulted in McCabe being questioned by gardaí but no charges were brought.

New prison in Dublin to be built on phased basis – The new prison planned for Thornton Hall in north Dublin will now be built on a phased basis as funds become available. The first unit, due to be opened in 2014, will house 700 prisoners in 400 cells. Critics have found a variety of reasons to criticize this approach. Opposition TDs were concerned that nine years will have elapsed between the conception of the project and the housing of its first inmate. The Irish Penal Reform Trust argued against the idea of having prisoners sharing cells. During this month, tenders will be invited to build the perimeter wall and the tendering process for the 400-cell unit will commence next spring. The original plan had been to build all 1,400 cells as a Public Private Partnership Emigration levels confirmed – Statistics released by the European Commission show that people are leaving Ireland at twice the rate experienced by other EU countries. In 2009 there was a net outflow from Ireland of nine people per thousand. Lithuania was the next highest with 4.6 per thousand. There is no breakdown of the figure but it is believed that the vast majority of those leaving are non-nationals who have lost their jobs and have decided to move on.

THIRTY-TWO COUNTIES

(Continued from page 17)

Tipperary: A unique event took place in the county late last month when, for the first time in Ireland, a choreographed water dance was to be performed on Lough Derg as part of the Twelfth Terryglass Arts Festival. The dance was to feature water skiers and wakeboarders from all over Ireland, curated by Grant McKay from Rex Levitates Dance Company. The festival also starred Rebecca Storm, who gave a performance in the church, and the French acoustic singing group Txutxukan, while a fireworks display was taking place on the quay.

Tyrone: Johnny McElwee, who owns Johnny's Barbers on Lower Main Street in Strabane, took the heaviest fish at the recent World Cup Trout Fly Angling Championships in County Mayo. The contest ran over five days and Johnny caught his 6 pound, 2 ounce wild brown trout with the help of his friends Frankie Elliott and John Murray, for the rod he used had been given to him

by Mr. Elliott and it was Mr. Murray who tied the fly with caught the fish. Johnny, from Bearney, was presented with a trophy, an Anglers Fancy boat and a check for 100 euro.

Waterford: Great-grandmother Moyra O'Toole from Waterford city attended the Dublin Horse Show at the RDS last month wearing a coat she had bought for her granddaughter Dawn's wedding in March. However she failed to take the prize for the Best Dressed Lady, although the winner, Yvonne Ellard from Tipperary, was wearing an identical coat. However Moyra was cheered by the fact that she was accompanied on the day by her granddaughter, Nicole O'Reilly, who had elected to wear her grandmother's cream satin wedding dress for the occasion.

Westmeath: Bishop of Meath Dr. Michael Smith was the chief celebrant at a Mass last weekend at which he made a special presentation to two members of the congregation. Sean and Cathy Meally, who have been

sacristans at St Paul's Church in Mullingar since it opened in 1987, retired last week. Sean was asked by Father Willie Cleary to take on the position after he retired from his job in St Loman's Hospital. Father Pádraig McMahon paid tribute to the dedication of the Meallys, who are to be replaced as sacristans by Paddy Wallace and Maeve Corroon.

Wexford: Planning permission has been granted to Colin McAteer of the Green Grave Company for the establishment of the country's first eco-friendly graveyard where marble headstones and hardwood coffins will be banned. The plot on a seven-and-a-half-acre site at Woodbrook House close to Killane has room for five thousand graves and is reached by a tree-lined avenue. Graves will be identified by small grave markers made from local stone or wood, and coffins will have to be made from environmentally friendly material. To date some three hundred enquiries have been received by the company, some

from as far away as Canada.

Wicklow: In Bray last month, a group of off-duty gardaí managed to break a record set by the Canadian Mounted Police by handcuffing together a total of 651 people. The previous record stood at 562. The crowds gathered on the promenade in Bray where they were linked by imitation

cufflinks and the official count was carried out by Garda John Fitzpatrick, the organizer of the event. He was assisted by the cathaoirleach of Bray Town Council, David Grant. All the proceeds raised during the event will be shared among the Chernobyl Children's Project, the Open Door disability group, and Bray Old Folks' Community.



IRELAND'S WEATHER

REPORTED MONDAY, AUGUST 30, 2010

It was a mostly dry week which improved as the days went by. With the forecast promising, Pauline and I travelled out to Inis Oírr on Wednesday evening and enjoyed two days strolling about the island in glorious sunshine.

We travelled to Moville on Saturday and met some heavy rain which was confined to the northern half of the country. Sunday was mostly sunny but much cooler than the previous few days. The cool conditions seem to be confined to the far north where we are.

Latest Temperatures:
Day 15C (59F) Night 3C (37F)

'Trad' Returns Tir Na Hit Transfers To Gloucester Stage

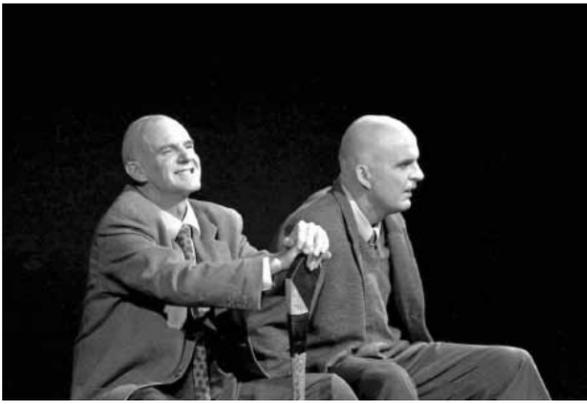
(Continued from page 10) Na production at the BCA and loved it. He said, "I actually tried to see 'Trad' a second time and couldn't get a ticket. I spoke with Carmel and Colin, and apparently their phone was ringing off the hook, and there was no possibility of an extension down at the BCA. So I produced it again so I could see it again. That's an oversimplification, but I knew there were a lot of people who wanted and needed to see it. And I thought it would be great for our space at the Gloucester... and Nancy is an enormous favorite up here."

While the story is Irish based, the parent-child relationship is one to which anyone can relate. Throughout the story, the father is constantly correcting the son and tell-

ing him what to do, even though the son is an old man himself. It's a role the father simply cannot stop playing.

Eric said, "It obviously has its Irish charm and specificity, but the themes are so beautiful and so universal. And Carmel, as a person, is one of the most wonderful storytellers in the world. And she brings that craft to this piece so beautifully."

In reaction to the outpouring of affection the original Boston production received, Hamell said, "It's always a special feeling to be on stage and have every seat in the house taken. Also, the reaction of the audience after each show was very genuine and positive. Billy and Nancy as well as myself felt that the audience was with us on



Billy Meleady and Colin Hamell are father and son in "Trad" *Jane Messinger photos*

the journey throughout the play. The incredible reaction just makes you, as an actor, keep wanting to do it again. They are very excited to be getting the chance to perform in Gloucester."

The spark for the new

engagement came as a result of a conversation between Engel and Carroll. Engel then approached Hamell who said he'd happily support the move if everyone else was on board.

Said Hamell: "Often-

happens in Irish music by those who have a firm foundation in the tradition. To me, those bands do traditional music beautifully, and have sort of 'earned' their right to experiment and expand upon it."

Susan summarizes her musical philosophy in a loose paraphrase of a

quote from Boston's legendary accordionist Joe Derrane: "Trad or not trad? I don't know. You play what you are. So, I suppose that's what we do musically: We play who we are. Making music for me is about being real."

Opening for the Lindsays will be Peg Alois, who

times it's very difficult to move a play as actors get involved in other productions. But after going back and forth for a while on the dates, we managed to pin everyone down for these couple of weeks."

As far as retaining the show's original charm at a slightly larger theater, Hamell adds, "I don't think this will be a problem. We have the same set designer and lighting designer as we did in Boston."

Carmel will be directing us for the week before we open, and with her keen eye I am very confident we can produce the same show we had in Boston."

In a way, this new production in Gloucester plays into Hamell's mission. He said, "My original idea when I formed Tir Na Theatre was to

produce plays that could potentially travel. In doing this, it's important to have a simple set and a small cast. Because we are a small company, it means we cannot transfer to larger venues on our own. But if we can get seen by producers in Boston and New York, then there's always a chance they'll pick our show up and we'll get a longer run in a different space. Even in doing the show now in Gloucester, I'll be looking to get more people in from New York to see it."

Both proud and optimistic, he said, "Maybe the journey will continue."

"Trad" by Mark Doherty, Sept. 2 - 12 at Gloucester Stage Company, 267 East Main Street, Gloucester. Tickets: 978-281-4433 or gloucesterstage.com.



(Continued from page 10)

that periodically flares up in Irish music circles. She sees her opinion on the subject as having become less "strappy" and definitive.

"I always think about tradition versus innovation when I'm playing reels on saxophone, and am very aware that there are many people who just can't stomach the idea of sax reels. It's OK, and I totally understand, because

while I have an aversion to the 'preciousness' with which some people treat traditional music, I absolutely love 'pure drop' traditional music."

At the same time, she and her husband are fans of contemporary-minded bands like Lunasa and Kila, but not simply because of their modernity. "While I like experimentation, I feel very firmly that the best innovation

Gaelic Roots Series Has Irish Theme; Irish Traditional Music is Focus; Four Concerts in Fall Semester

Irish traditional music will be the focus of the fall 2010 Gaelic Roots Music, Song, Dance, Workshop and Lecture Series at Boston College.

The series, sponsored by BC's Center for Irish Programs, has often featured music from Scotland, Cape Breton and Appalachia as well as Ireland. But there will be a distinctly Hibernian flavor to this fall's events, which take place at Connolly House (300 Hammond Street near BC's Chestnut Hill

Campus) beginning at 6:30 p.m. All are free and open to the public.

• Fiddler Oisín McAuley and flutist Jimmy Noonan will kick off the series on Sept. 30. McAuley, a member of the popular band Danu, has become a mainstay in the local session scene since moving to Boston several years ago. Noonan teaches in BC's Irish Studies Program and has played at numerous concerts and festivals with an impressive array of musicians including Sea-

mus Connolly — director of Irish music programs at BC — Louise Costello, Tommy McCarthy and Chris McGrath, among others.

• On Oct. 21, the duo of Brendan Begley (accordion, vocals) and Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh (fiddle) will make a return appearance to Gaelic Roots. Widely respected as soloists, Begley and Ó Raghallaigh have garnered praise for their collaboration, which produces music that can be equally mesmerizing and subtle as it is powerful.

• Renowned accordionist James Keane will present a combination lecture and concert, "Living in the Tradition," on Nov. 18. In addition to his superb musicianship, Keane is known as a shanachie and folk-historian who brings to life great Irish tradition-bearers through

his presentations at colleges, retreats, tours and other events. He also has performed and recorded with some of the leading Irish musicians of the age.

• Fiddler Laurel Martin and multi-instrumentalist Mark Roberts will conclude the fall series with a concert on Dec. 7. Martin, a protégé of Seamus Connolly and a former member of the BC Irish Studies music faculty, released her first CD, "The Groves," in 2006 and also has recorded with the fiddle ensemble Childsplay. Roberts, who plays guitar, banjo, flute and whistle, has recorded and toured extensively for more than 25 years; his music was featured in the John Sayles film "The Secret of Roan Inish."

For information, see bc.edu/gaelicroots or send an e-mail irish@bc.edu.

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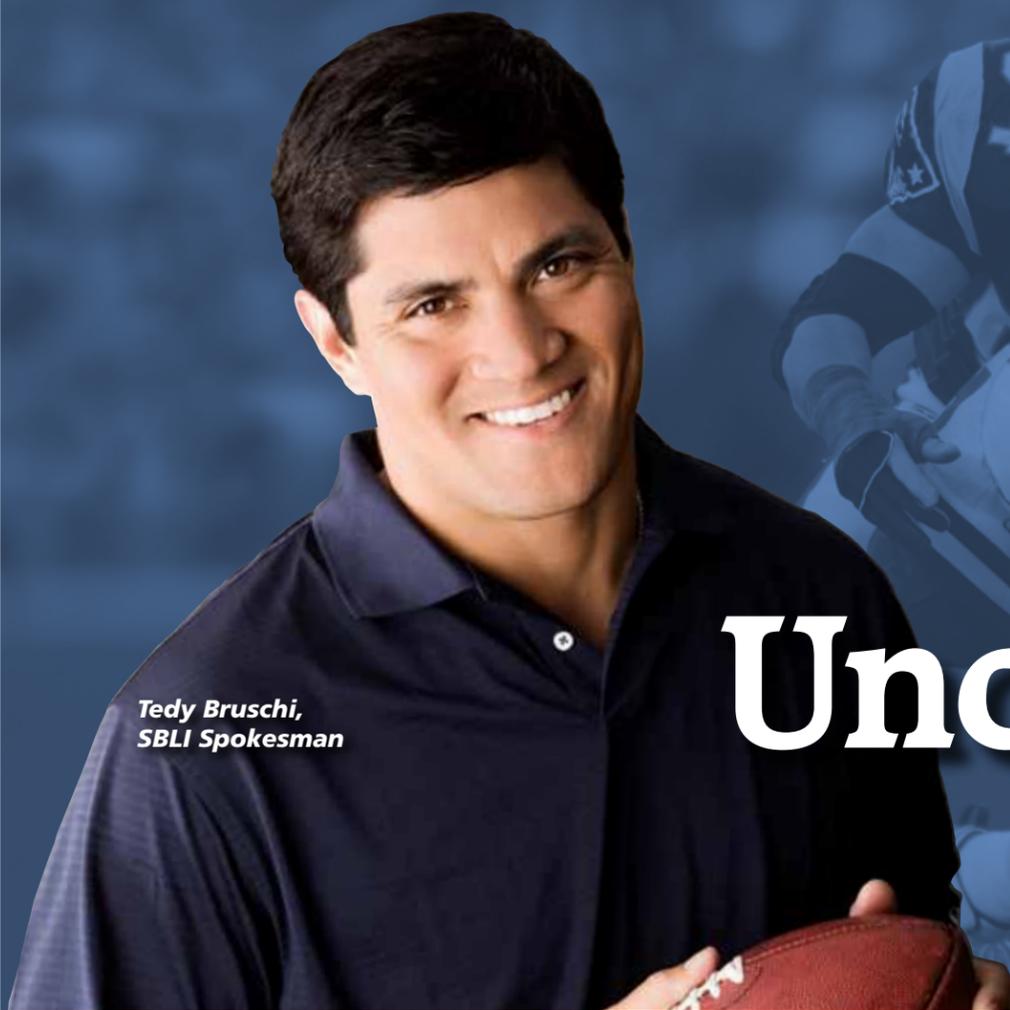
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