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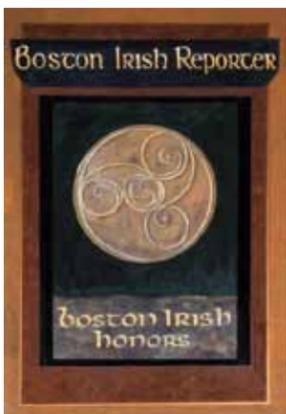
BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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BIR Observes Its 20th with Gala Event Introducing Irish Family Honors

The Boston Irish Reporter will observe its 20th anniversary on October 7 with a gala celebratory luncheon at the Seaport Hotel/World Trade Center in Boston.

The newspaper was founded in October, 1990 by publisher Ed Forry and his late wife, Mary Casey Forry, who announced that the publication's mission would be to "Tell the Stories of Boston's Irish." The first issues of the BIR were contained as small supplements to the Dorchester Reporter, a weekly newspaper covering the Dorchester and Mattapan communities.



"In those years, despite Boston's status as 'the most Irish city in America,' there was no Boston-based journal of news and information to report on the burgeoning local Irish diaspora," said Forry. "Mary and I saw an opportunity to celebrate our own heritage, and we began a journey of great

discovery telling the stories of our neighbors and our family. The story of the many Irish-born people who braved the trans-Atlantic journey to find freedom and prosperity for themselves and their children in America is always inspiring, and in fact, never gets old."

The birthday luncheon is serving a second function. It will feature the debut of a new annual event for the BIR, the awarding of the Boston Irish Family Honors.

"The Boston Irish Reporter is one of the region's few remaining family-owned and-operated publications," Forry said. "In saluting our own heritage, the newspaper will make presentations to two Boston Irish individuals for their special achievements in public service and business, and to three exemplary Irish families who share our common roots in Boston and Ireland."

The initial honorees are Congressman Edward Markey, Arbella Insurance CEO John Donohue (Profile, Page 8), and the family honorees are the Bretts, the Geraghtys, and the Hyneses.

BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

Celebrating 20 years
"Telling the stories of Boston's Irish"

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BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

Celebrating 20 years
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Registration 11:30 a.m.
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Joe Derrane recorded his new album in the house where he's been living for more than 50 years.
Sean Smith photo

The Music Master of Grove Lane

Joe Derrane Delivers from Heart and Hearth

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

"Grove Lane" is to Joe Derrane what "Abbey Road" was to The Beatles.

No, you won't hear Boston's legendary accordion player doing covers of "Maxwell's Silver Hammer" or "Here Comes the Sun" on his new CD, which will be out this month. But as the Fab Four memorialized the London recording studio's influence on their music, so Derrane has likewise paid tribute to the place that has had a significant impact on his vocation — and his life.

Located in Randolph, south of Boston, Grove Lane is the street the 80-year-old Derrane has called home for 51 years now, where he and his beloved, steadfast wife Anne, who died in 2008, raised their family. The house on Grove Lane also has borne witness to the ebb and flow of Derrane's musical career, including its remarkable rebirth in the 1990s and continuation to the present day.

So, appropriately enough, during the summer of 2009 Grove Lane served as a recording studio for Derrane and his friend and accompanist, guitarist John McGann. The two put together 12 tracks, showcasing Derrane's distinctive accordion style — marked by a penchant for expertly employed triplets and masterful chord progressions and substitutions — through an assortment of jigs, reels, hornpipes and other tunes, seven of them composed by Derrane.

The result is, quite literally, a homespun affair — music that feels straight from heart and hearth, because it is, and has been for so long. That's why "Grove Lane" has an obvious, and deeply felt, dedication.

"This one was for Anne," said Derrane, interviewed during one recent early autumn afternoon, of the Longford-born woman to whom he was married for 53 years. "She was always there for me, she was the one who kept encouraging me to practice and play, she told me I could do it, even when I wasn't sure I could.

"It was not unusual for me to play a ballroom gig on a Thursday, a wedding on Friday night, two weddings on Saturday, a ballroom gig on Sunday — and then I'd get up Monday and go to work [at the MBTA]. She never complained."

Derrane unhesitatingly credits Anne's presence and support for his re-emergence in the Irish music scene, a story that has been widely told but remains as fresh as ever: Son of Irish immigrants becomes a mainstay of Boston's famous Irish dance halls in the 1940s and 50s, but after the scene begins to dry up is forced to forsake Irish music for pop music. Then in 1994, a record company releases new versions of 78s he'd recorded back in the day, rumors of his death or incapacitation prove exaggerated, and he's back doing gigs and introducing himself to new generations of Irish music lovers.

While "Grove Lane" does have its fond reminiscences — with tributes to Anne, late Cape Breton fiddling master Jerry Holland, and Derrane's mentor Tommy Sullivan among the compositions included — there also is a definitive move forward, something that has characterized Derrane's work for several years now.

"What I've been trying to do is to elevate the status of the accordion," he explains. "It's capable of a lot more than some might think — even the trad-heads. I'm a great believer in stretching yourself beyond the limits of the instrument. So I think I've learned more since I started back up again in 1994 than in all the previous years."

Derrane puts his belief into action on the album's third track, a strikingly intricate tango he composed. "I wanted the use of full-bodied, right-hand chords and the more extensive use of the accordion's left-hand bass buttons," he says of "Tango Derrane." "But with the Irish button-accordion it's all push-pull, which has its limitations. So I just decided to write a tango that fo-

(Continued on page 15)

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THE BIR

Family Goes 'Home'
to the Isle of Myths
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Poetry and Grief:
James Joyce's 'Tilly'
Page 18

"Wet Day, Dingle"



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ON THE TOWN WITH THE BIR

A Dozen Years on, Lacrosse Finds Foothold in Dorchester

ANN LEAHY MCGOUGH
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

The Dorchester Youth Lacrosse program is in its twelfth year and is going stronger than ever thanks to founder Mike Devlin. After graduating from Salem State College, the Savin Hill native went to work for the City of Boston's Parks and Recreation Department. He saw a fledgling lacrosse program in Charlestown and thought it would be something that would interest kids in his own neighborhood.

"I saw it starting in other parts of the city and wanted to start a program here. At first we did not have that many kids, but now we are up to 100 boys and 50 girls in the program."

Devlin was not surprised that lacrosse appealed to the kids in Dorchester.

"It is a very fast-paced sport," Devlin notes. "It is a lot like hockey, which is very popular here. It is a very physical game; it takes a lot of hand-eye coordination."

Devlin adds that lacrosse is the fastest growing sport in the United States and that there is an increasing amount of scholarship opportunities, especially for girls who play the sport.

Dorchester Lacrosse, which is geared towards players in third grade through

high school, starts with indoor practices in March.

"We start holding practices at places like the Leahy-Holloran Community Center, just to give the returning players a chance to get the rust off and the new players a chance to see if they like the sport. In mid-April we take the practices outside and start playing games."

Devlin continues, "The kids are awesome. They have a blast on the field. There is no pressure. Score-boards are optional. Our league has no standings, but the kids stay competitive. They have fun, but they don't like to lose!"

The program is valued by the players' parents, as well. Tom Leahy's two daughters, Kaylen, age 10 and Erin, age 8 both play for Dorchester Youth Lacrosse.

"Kaylen has been playing since she was in K-2. The kids don't usually start until third grade, but they didn't have many girls back then so they let her start," Leahy says. "Kaylen, who will be in the fifth grade in the fall, has continued to play and she loves it and she has become quite good. Erin plays too and she really enjoys it, as well."

Leahy is very grateful for the experiences that the program has given his daughters.

"I really like the program. The kids

practice twice a week and play their games, even if it is raining. Both girls will be returning to the program."

Joanne Sweeney has three children in the program, Andrew, age 9, Anna age 13 and 15 year-old Kevin, who was one of the first players in the league. She has nothing but accolades for the program and Devlin.

"He does so much for the kids and he doesn't even have children of his own. Kevin started when he was only five and he is still playing."

This summer Devlin started a Wednesday and Friday night Lacrosse program at Neponset's Garvey Park for high school age players. Sweeney says of this summertime endeavor, "Mike really got it right when he started the night program. It keeps the teenagers active and it keeps them off the street corners. There are a plenty of organized activities for the younger kids, but not a lot for the high school kids. I always thought Dorchester Youth Hockey should do the same thing. Instead of having the older kids play early in the mornings on the weekends, they should play on Friday and Saturday nights to help keep them out of trouble."

Conor Boyle, 18, says it's been a great summer to play.

"There are 4 teams with 10-15 kids on each team. So every Wednesday and Friday night this summer there has been at least 40 kids playing lacrosse at Garvey Park. The more practice you get the better," Boyle says.

Conor started with Dorchester Youth Lacrosse when he was seven years old and went on to play the sport for Catholic Memorial in the Division II Catholic Conference League. In the fall he will be attending South Carolina's Coastal Carolina University where he plans to continue playing lacrosse.

"Having played in Dorchester definitely gave me a leg up when I went to play at CM," Boyle says. "Mike Devlin



Conor Boyle, a standout lacrosse player for Catholic Memorial, got his start at Dorchester Lacrosse.

has done so much with the lacrosse program. I don't think many kids from around here would be into lacrosse if it wasn't for him. And now, there are so many kids who play." Boyle states that some of the added benefits of the program have been the friendships that he has made learning to be a leader.

Devlin says that the program he established is only as good as its volunteers.

"We have great people who coach and volunteer their time. We are always looking for more hands. You don't need to have played before to help."

The programs current sponsors include Baby Cakes Bakery in Quincy, the Boston Police Athletic League and Thomas M. Finneran Charities and new sponsors are always welcome.

Registration for next year will begin this month and online registration will be available. The fee for players is about \$125. More information can be found by visiting dorchesterlax.org or calling 857-221-1646

"Irish Network Boston" Schedules Launch in City Nov. 3



David Greaney

"Irish Network Boston" (IN-Boston), a new networking organization that will be open to anyone in the Boston area who is interested in participating more actively in the Irish/Irish American community, in connecting professionally, or just looking to expand their social scene is scheduled for a formal launching next month at the city's historic Faneuil Hall.

Heading the new organization as chairperson will be David Greaney, founder and president of Synergy Investment and Development, which is based in Boston. Greaney is active in the Irish-American business community and has received the Entrepreneurial Award from the Irish Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, he has been recognized in Irish America Magazine's "Business 100" and named one of Business & Finance Magazine's "Most Influential US-Irish Business Leaders".

In talking with the Boston Irish Reporter, he explained how this initiative came about: "As one of the actions to come out of the Global Economic Conference held last year in Dublin, the Irish government was determined to create a network of people with common interests — business, cultural, and social — in major cities with Irish populations either by birth or descent. Boston, the most Irish city in America, should be in the forefront of this development."

"We are hoping," said Greaney, "that IN-Boston will become a networking hub for friends of Ireland, both Irish-born and Irish-American. IN-Boston will become part of a national network, IN-USA, which has branches in New York, Philadelphia, Washington DC, Chicago, San Diego, Denver, and San Francisco, with more expected to launch over the coming months. IN-Boston connects its membership with existing branches, and through them with Irish people and people of Irish heritage all over the United States and in Ireland."

"There are many successful Irish organizations here in Boston," said Greaney, "but this is about creating something that will be both new and complementary. IN-Boston will not be focused on any one area, like business or culture or sport, but rather will seek to include everyone in this city and beyond who is interested in matters Irish. I am hoping that this new organization will bring all the different strands together, and, with its connection into similar networks across the U.S., will succeed in attracting

membership across the city.

"IN-Boston will hold events throughout the year and it will use its website to promote other events taking place in the city which have an Irish flavor," Greaney said. "We will invite and urge other Irish groups to let us know of their events which we will publicize on our website, irishnetworkboston.org."

The venture has the full support and backing from Irish Government representatives in Boston, Greaney noted. In particular, the Irish Consul General to New England, Michael Lonergan, believes this is an exciting new opportunity in Boston.

"The Irish Government is very mindful that our most important bilateral relationship is with the United States," said Lonergan. "Now more than ever we are conscious of the importance of our Diaspora and our friends here in the U.S. and we are hoping that endeavors like this will create a bond between Irish people living here, with people of Irish descent, and with those who are simply interested in things Irish. Similar organizations have been successfully launched in other cities and I am confident that the capital of Irish America will take a leading role in this initiative."

"IN-Boston's board members have been chosen from across a wide spectrum with backgrounds in law, academia, business, community activity and culture," said the consul general. The aim is to have as inclusive and wide ranging an organization as possible. My colleagues here in the IDA and Enterprise Ireland are working closely with me and IN-Boston to ensure the success of this new and exciting development."

The formal launch will take place on Wed., Nov. 3, in Faneuil Hall with a number of famous faces expected and a guaranteed night of fun, hospitality and entertainment being laid on, said Greaney. The board encourages people to log on to the website at irishnetworkboston.org and join IN-Boston for a very special evening.

The membership fee will be \$50 a year with members getting invitations to IN-Boston events beginning with the launch party. Members are also automatically linked into IN-USA and can access members information and events from the other branches of IN-USA located throughout the country.

"Greaney is pleased with the planning for the launch and has great expectations for the organization. "I can honestly say that our launch event on Nov. 3 will be a major event of itself and I urge BIR readers to check out the website, join up, and come along to partake in an enjoyable night but one that will link you further into all that is best within our community here in Boston."

— BIR STAFF

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Fri- Rico Suave's Chimps In Tuxedos

Sat- Midnight Image

October 8, 9 & 10- Oktober Fest Pig Roast

Fri + Sat- Willie Lynch Showband

Sun- Peter McKiernan

October 15 & 16

Fri + Sat- Kitty Kelly Band

October 22 - 24- The Phoenix From The

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Fri- Rico Suave's Chimps In Tuxedos

Sat- Peter McKiernan

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Publisher's Notebook

Celebrating Our Heritage, Staying With Our Mission

By ED FORRY

In the fall of 1990, when my late dear wife Mary Casey Forry and I discussed the idea of publishing a newspaper about Irish Boston, we were not well informed about the land of our ancestors.



Ed Forry

Mary's mom and dad had come over in the 1930s – Mary Kate Kane from Mohill in Leitrim, Martin Casey from Carracastle in Mayo – and she had grown up hearing stories of the hard life that had caused her grandparents to send their children to America. As for me, the only one of my four grandparents whom I knew was Hannah Crotty Forry, and that was when I was a young child.

Mary had active ties by mail and the occasional phone call from some aunts, uncles, and first cousins, while I knew only that there were some distant relatives over there – somewhere.

In those years, despite Boston's status as "the most Irish city in America," there was no Boston-based journal of news and information to report on the growing local Irish diaspora. Mary and I saw an opportunity to celebrate our own heritage while beginning a journey of great discovery about Ireland and Irish America, with a special focus on the people we both knew best: Irish Bostonians.

And so it was in October 1990 that we formed the Boston Irish Reporter, with a mission to "Tell the Stories of Boston's Irish" ... the lives of our neighbors, our friends, our families. Collectively, they are the stories of the many Irish-born people who braved the transatlantic journey to find freedom and prosperity for themselves and their children in America. The tales are always inspiring, and in fact, never get old. And they are *our stories* – they tell who we are.

After twenty years, the BIR remains one of the region's few remaining family-owned and-operated publications in Boston and the New England region. With a pledge to continue our tradition as the region's leading chronicler of all things Irish-American, we will observe this important milestone with a noontime celebratory luncheon on Thurs., Oct. 7, at Boston's Seaport Hotel/World Trade Center.

The event will feature the debut of a new awards ceremony, the "Boston Irish Honors." Consistent with our own heritage, the newspaper will make presentations to two Boston Irish individuals for their special achievements in public service and business, and to three Irish families who share our common roots in Boston and Ireland.

The honorees are Congressman Edward Markey, Arbella Insurance CEO John Donohue, and three "exemplary" Boston Irish families, the Bretts, the Geraghtys, and the family of the late Boston Mayor John B. Hynes.

In planning our anniversary, we reached out to many friends and business leaders in Boston, and I am delighted to say they unanimously agreed to help. We formed a 40-member event committee, and we contacted every leading Irish social and business group in greater Boston.

As I write, the luncheon is almost fully subscribed, with 300 or more planning to join us at the beautiful Cityview room at the Seaport Hotel/World Trade Center.

Their support will help sustain a strong, vibrant, and independent journal of Irish-American culture for Boston and New England in the coming years.

Ireland's UN Envoy Will Speak in Hub

A senior member of Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs will visit Boston this month to deliver a speech at a UN Day Luncheon.



Anne Anderson

Ambassador Anne Anderson, Ireland's Permanent Representative to the United Nations will be the keynote speaker at an October 26 luncheon at the Boston Harbor Hotel sponsored by the United Nations Association, a Boston-based non-profit.

"The United Nations Association is best known for the Model UN program which supports international education in local schools," said UNA spokesperson Linnea Löf. "We also organize many globally focused events that engage the Greater Boston community in business, culture, and humanitarian affairs. " It will be an occasion to bring together internationally focused business, professional and academic communities of Greater Boston to engage in a dialogue about world affairs and to recognize locally the important work carried out by the UN." The organization has gathered a host committee headed by John and Diddy Cullinane, honorary chairs, and members include Aidan Browne, Sullivan & Worcester, Congressmen Michael Capuano and Stephen Lynch, Lt. Governor Timothy Murray, Senate President Therese Murray, and Ireland Consul General Michael Lonergan. Tickets range from \$100 to \$1500; more information at Unagb.org, or 617-482-4587.

– E.F.

Commentary

Should Britain Sell the North to the Republic of Ireland?

By JOSEPH F. LEARY

One of Britain's most respected commentators, Chief Editorial Writer and columnist Mary Dejevsky of The London Independent, has written a provocative article on Northern Ireland and the prospect of a United Ireland. In a column published in the Independent in August and two days later in the Belfast Telegraph, Dejevsky suggests – perhaps tongue in cheek – that Britain sell Northern Ireland to the Republic of Ireland as part of their solution to their budget problems.

Of course this would need the approval of Northern Ireland voters but the reporter was speculating on the benefits of such a move.



Joe Leary

Dejevsky said, "More and more, Northern Ireland is another country. So perhaps it is time for Westminster (Britain's government) to accept this, and even gain some benefit from it." Dejevsky claims public opinion in Britain is increasingly "unmoved" by happenings in Northern Ireland. This may make some sense when comparing the population of Britain, 61 million, to

Northern Ireland's 1.8 million (Scotland is 5.2 million and Wales 3.0 million).

Britain's new conservative government coalition has huge economic concerns and is becoming weary of the attention Northern Ireland requires. Northern Ireland is financed almost entirely by London each year. All Northern Ireland tax revenue is collected by Britain but Northern Ireland requires an additional \$15 billion dollars from the British people for its operating budget each year – more per capita than any other part of Great Britain.

In late September British authorities once again raised the possibility of dissident IRA bombings in London creating even more distaste and discomfort with Northern Ireland.

Such a transition to a United Ireland would require careful planning and only take place over several

years. The rights of all the people of Northern Ireland would have to be protected and iron clad assurances would have to be given by Britain and the Republic that everyone would be respected.

The Northern Ireland Assembly form of local government in place today is so constricted by checks and balances of power that little is being accomplished. A visiting Northern Ireland Secretary of State acknowledged this during a visit to Boston a year ago when he said that the system in place at present would have to change in time. So change is coming and the possibility of a move towards a United Ireland is worthy of consideration.

The finances of the Republic of Ireland today would discourage taking on the responsibility for Northern Ireland, but if the possibility were real what leader of Ireland would not jump at the chance to make Ireland whole. He or she would have a permanent place in history. Funds might magically appear from many quarters, including the United States if a new Ireland were to appear on the horizon.

It should be remembered that all major political parties in the Republic of Ireland are pledged to work for a United Ireland and both Nationalist parties in the North, representing approximately 45 percent of the electorate there, are in favor of a United Ireland. In fact it is estimated that over 80 percent of the people in all of Ireland would vote for a reuniting of the two parts of Ireland.

The dissidents in Northern Ireland would lose their cause and might even become law-abiding citizens. Certainly violence in the name of a united Ireland would stop.

Mary Dejevsky's column suggesting a United Ireland makes the argument, "With the Protestant majority in the North smaller than it has ever been, and fast-vanishing, assent to unification may anyway be just a matter of time. Would it not be in everyone's interest to hasten it along, and allow Britain to bask in a rare moment of magnanimity?"

It seems a United Ireland is coming. When and how is the question.

Off the Bench

Qualities we need in crises are sadly in short supply

By JAMES W. DOLAN
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

These days, it's hard to be an optimist. Century USA is almost over. The years ahead call for restraint, discipline, and moderation, qualities now in short supply.

Mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation have gone missing and been replaced by bickering, distrust, distortion, and opportunism, the "four horsemen" of a new apocalypse.

When the out-of-power party's principal goal is the failure of the party in power, the destructive effect on both governance and civility is devastating, and likely more damaging to our national security than threats from abroad.

More attention need be paid to the damage we do to ourselves than external threats that frequently divert our attention from the real enemy at home – our inability to develop coherent, bipartisan policies that will address the many fiscal and policy IEDs that litter the landscape.

The greatest threat to the United States is not another terrorist attack but our reaction to it. When you consider the devastating consequences of 9/11, you have got to look beyond the destruction of the twin towers and the loss of life on that tragic day.

That attack prompted this country to spend trillions to improve security at home and initiate two wars in far distant countries that have taken the lives of thousands of young Americans and tens of thousands of Iraqis and Afghans.

The enormous consequences of those conflicts will extend far into the future. In his wildest dreams, Osama Bin Laden could never have imagined that the ongoing effects of that attack would have extended so far beyond its immediate consequences.

The attack caused us to turn our attention from serious problems at home and instead to invest blood and treasure in foreign lands while an exploding deficit here at home sapped our strength.

Had we not been consumed by the terrorist threat, would we have been able to anticipate, or at least better deal with, the sub-prime crisis and its consequences? Would we have been able to deal with the looming Social Security deficit or develop a fiscally sound health care program? Could we have fixed the immigration problem, developed a sound energy policy, or improved our crumbling infrastructure?

We'll never know, but history teaches us that previous great powers, after being weakened by foreign adventures, are slowly debilitated from within. Unable to sustain their power, they either collapse or lose much of their influence as they struggle to survive.

Based on the current situation, there is no reason

to think we can avoid the same fate. On the contrary, discontent is rampant and the "balance" is missing in our system of checks and balances.

Having financed our wars on borrowed money, we cannot balance our books, and our financial security is in the hands of China, to whom we owe an estimated \$1 trillion. This profligacy cannot continue, but do we have the leadership and the will to make the difficult choices necessary to confront such problems?

The public does not want to hear bad news, and politicians are unwilling to confront the truth and acknowledge the need for sacrifice, restraint, and limits.

If wisdom is the sound application of knowledge to reality, the problem is not so much lack of knowledge or even understanding of reality, but the more difficult challenge of soundly applying the former to the latter.

The translation of knowledge into prudent policy is what addresses real problems that we are failing to resolve; yet another example of our fundamentally flawed human nature.

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'NO GREAT LOVE FOR HIM'

For Many Boston Irish, Humberto Medeiros Could Never Fill Richard Cushing's Shoes

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

Third in a Series about the Catholic Church and Boston politics.

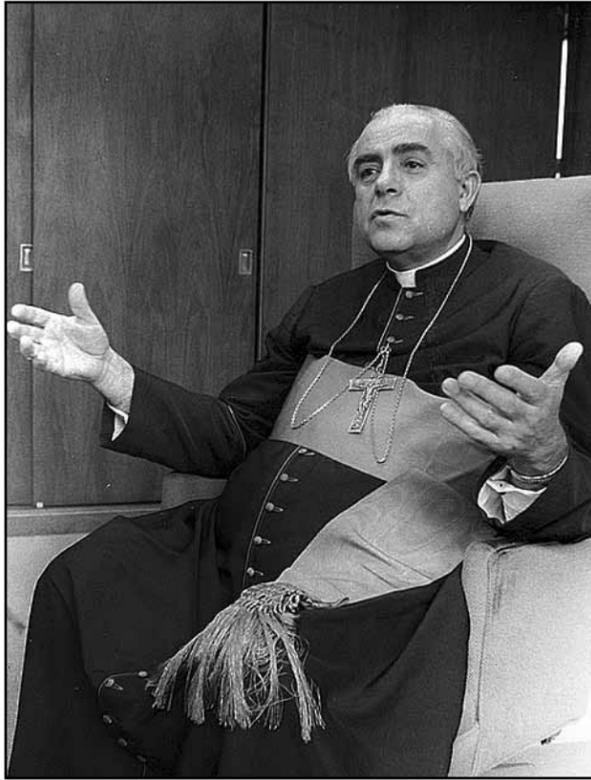
In many ways, no one could replace Cardinal Richard J. Cushing of Boston. His death in November 1970 marked the end of an era in more ways than one for the Boston Archdiocese. Under Cushing and his predecessor, Cardinal William O'Connell, the Catholic Church had become a potent political, cultural, and religious force. The church ministered to a wide range of ethnicities, but the Church's rise in the late 19th century and all of the 20th was inextricably intertwined with the contemporaneous hard-won rise of the Boston Irish.

Reflecting just how connected the archdiocese was to its generations of Irish immigrants and the Irish American families was the fact that all of Boston's bishops and cardinals for over a century traced bloodlines to the "ould sod." With Cushing's health failing rapidly in the last 1960, the region's Catholics expected that their new clerical leader would hail from the same "green" heritage, but they were stunned by the Vatican's choice to succeed the dying cardinal: Bishop Humberto Sousa Medeiros, a Massachusetts native then presiding over the diocese of Brownsville, Texas.

To a wide swath of Boston's Irish community and its political potentates, Medeiros was seen as the ultimate outsider. Boston College Professor Thomas H. O'Connor has written, "Although his formal reception was courteous, there was no great love in the city's hierarchy for him." He was a man whom J. Anthony Lukas [author of the busing era book "Common Ground"] described as an 'alien graft' on the form of Boston's Irish Catholicism."

Medeiros not only faced the "not-one-of-us" issue, but also stepped squarely into one of Boston's most explosive and divisive events—school desegregation and busing. It was a controversy that would have sorely tested even Cushing's bone-and-sinew Boston Irish understanding of his parishioners, Massachusetts politicians of all backgrounds, and the region's ethnic, cultural, and racial entities. For Medeiros, who arrived with little or no understanding of the archdiocese's inner and outer workings, success in the post proved imposing at best, impossible at worst.

Medeiros did grasp what it was to be the child of immigrants to America, but some of his parishioners in and around Boston still viewed his immigrant story as "foreign." Born in 1915 in the Portuguese Azores, he was the oldest of four children and came to America with his family in 1931. They settled in Fall River, where he graduated first in his class at Durfee High



Humberto Cardinal Medeiros:
Cardinal Archbishop of Boston 1970-1983

and went on to graduate from the Catholic University of America. He was ordained in June 1946, and in 1953 was appointed chancellor of the Fall River Diocese and made a monsignor in 1958.

Though a gentle, humble, and studious cleric, he was a rising star in the church because of his kind and effective parish skills. He was appointed to the Brownsville post in June 1966 and walked straight into the struggle between impoverished Mexican-American farm workers and Southwest farm owners. At first, he tried to remain above the fray, but with so many of his 234,000 parishioners among the poor laborers seeking a fair wage and a chance to support their families, the Portuguese-American bishop took up their cause. Wrote the historian Michael Lescault: "Medeiros...himself was quite free of racial prejudice; any form of racial discrimination was unthinkable," and he insisted that his priests in Brownsville avoid and decry the "old worn-out and unjust clichés" flung at

Mexican migrant workers." Another church historian, John Tracy Ellis, lauds Medeiros's courage in taking on entrenched ethnic and social injustice in Texas and writes that he proved his mettle as a man of "deep faith, seriousness of purpose, unflagging industry, and a concern for others that was conspicuous."

Tracy adds, "In a word, the Brownsville appointment seemed a striking example of the right man in the right place."

When Medeiros was sent to Boston, many Irish-American parishioners questioned whether he was the right man for the job. The doubts flowered in 1974 when the city erupted in the fight over the court-ordered desegregation of the city's public schools, pitting parishioners and neighborhoods against each other, against the courts, and against the fairness of the edict.

But even before busing, Medeiros, made a cardinal in 1973, faced problems in his own house. O'Connor, in *The Boston Irish*, notes that Medeiros "was saddled with the enormous financial burdens of Cushing's building programs [and] hampered by the passive resistance of resentful Irish pastors."

Medeiros's natural pragmatism led him to strain for conciliation among parishioners understandably irate at the idea of their kids being bused to other parts of the city when no such measure was directed at busing supporters in affluent suburbs; among some community leaders whose racial animus superseded the legitimate issues of fairness; and among parents on all sides simply worried about their kids. In short, there was no pleasing everyone and the cardinal alienated many in the archdiocese by siding with the desegregation proponents.

The crisis took its toll on the prelate. In September 1983, physically and emotionally by his position, passed away. The wrestling match that is Boston's curious blend of politics, religion, and community had overwhelmed his best efforts. The consensus is that he had never been a good fit despite his good intentions. To this day, the desegregation chapter remains a thinly covered scar on the Boston landscape, and many will always believe that their cardinal never fully grasped his Boston Irish parishioners' lives and concerns, as well as the historically complex confluence of church and politics in Massachusetts.

The man who succeeded the ill-fated Medeiros would not only be branded in some corners as the most political of priests, but he would also be front and center in a crisis that eclipsed busing and damaged the very foundations of the church that bishops and cardinals from Fenwick to Cushing had built for the Irish and the immigrants who followed.

NEXT: The arrival of Bernard Law.

Ireland and India: Making Connections, Making History

By ITA MARGUET

FROM THE IRISH EMIGRANT

DUBLIN — Connections between Ireland and India are the focus this year of temporary exhibitions in Dublin's Trinity College Old Library and Chester Beatty Library. The July/August special issue of Ireland's history magazine is dedicated to Ireland and India with a number of articles and archival images dovetailing the current exhibitions.

The issue contains stories of prominent people who came from India to visit or settle in Ireland and those who became established and well respected who settled in India. Articles explore nationalist parallels and the strategic political relations between Ireland and India. Book reviews cover political, social, religious, and cultural aspects of a shared identity in the common struggle for independence from a colonial British Empire. WB Yeats's enthusiasm for the poetry of Rabindranath Tagore makes a literary connection.

Long Room, Trinity College — The exhibition "Nabobs, Soldiers and Imperial Service The Irish in India" (through October) was officially opened in May by the ambassador of India to Ireland. There has been a longstanding connection with India as part of the British presence there, living and working in the sub-continent as soldiers, administrators, and missionaries. Most supported the British regime while a few strove to undermine it.

The exhibition explains the links by looking at various aspects of the Irish presence in India up to 1947. It showcases some of the historical connections and details the links between Trinity College, Ireland, Britain, and Europe and the extraordinary links between Ireland and India developed over the centuries. It concentrates on the wealth of printed books and other related material from the 19th to the early 20th century that is held in the Library.

Themes include the influential East India Company, trade and territorial expansion, the Indian mutiny, Christian missionaries, civil service, big game hunting of tigers, sport of capturing wild boars known as pig-sticking, and the road to independence. Featuring the lighter side of life in India, the exhibition has illustrations of tiger-shooting and pig-sticking. According to Robert Baden-Powell, who later founded the scouting movement, pig-sticking was a "sport second to none and invaluable to our prestige and supremacy in India."



The Long Room at Trinity College in Dublin.

The work of missionaries became a more prominent feature of the Irish presence after 1840, with Roman Catholic priests and nuns setting up schools in Madras and other cities. Anglican graduates of Trinity College established the Dublin University Mission to Chota Nagpur at the end of the 19th century.

A stated aim of the exhibition is to entertain and stimulate Ireland's links with India. Trinity College is rapidly expanding its South Asia Studies program aimed at developing research in Ireland into the history, literature, and culture of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. The links with South Asia and Trinity

College are very old, reaching back to the Chair of Oriental Languages in 1762.

Chester Beatty Library — This library at Dublin Castle was named Irish Museum of the Year in 2000 and awarded the title European Museum of the Year in 2002. It houses a great collection of manuscripts, miniature paintings, prints, drawings, rare books and some decorative arts assembled by the American-born mining tycoon Sir Alfred Chester Beatty (1875-1968). Of Irish ancestry, most of his donated collection was devoted to sacred texts, although a significant part of it came from the Indian Mughal court of which the miniatures are considered among the finest in the world.

The Library collection opens a window on the artistic treasures of the great cultures and religions of the world. Its rich collection from countries across Asia, the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe offers visitors a visual feast. Egyptian papyrus texts, beautifully illuminated copies of the Qur'an, the Bible, European medieval and renaissance manuscripts are among highlights of the collection. In its diversity the collection captures much of the richness of human creative expression from about 2700BC to the present day.

A Sikh Face in Ireland — A photographic and Life History Project is also on display. The key themes of the exhibition include issues of culture, experience, and identity. It is the first systematic exploration of the Sikh presence on the island of Ireland, providing both a profile of the present and social cultural history of Sikh immigrants and their descendants.

Through its Intercultural Education Services the Library offers a wide variety of program designed to foster better understanding of its European, Middle Eastern, Asian and East Asian collections. It hosts a number of events ranging from workshops, music performances, art and cookery demonstrations and family days. Through World Cultural Days, the Library celebrates important dates in the calendars of different cultures. It has recently participated in a two-year project (2007-2009) working with European museums. There is a publication, Museums as places for intercultural dialogue selected practices from Europe (available on-line).

Editor's note: Acknowledgement is given to Exhibition sources and July/August History of Ireland, Vol.18, No. 4, to prepare this text. It follows a visit to Dublin, August 2010



Pardon the interruption. There is no cow shortage across the Irish landscape. This crew helps frame the scene along the Ring of Kerry on the way to Waterville Golf Links. All photos by Brendan O'Brien

Going Back Home: A Visit to the Isle of Mists

BY GREG O'BRIEN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

"Ireland sober is Ireland stiff," wrote James Joyce. And so we toast the Isle of Mists in throaty zest after the Shannon-bound Aer Lingus flight finally lifts off a rain-soaked JFK runway at 10:30 p.m. on Sun., Aug. 22 after a four-hour weather delay that featured boisterous thunder and angry bolts of lightning. It was an ill-omened beginning to a family pilgrimage to plumb the depths of our Irish ancestry and in the process rediscover one another.

Among the anxious passengers were my wife of 33 years, Mary Catherine of Dublin roots, and our children: Brendan, 27, named after the Irish abbot who, legend says, led a ragtag band of Irish monks in a leather-hulled currach across the Atlantic to present-day Newfoundland in search of land promised to the saints; Colleen, 25, a diminutive of the Gaelic cailin, "girl from Old Irish," in this case one of remarkable beauty; and Conor, 22, named after Conor Larkin, the chief protagonist from County Donegal in the classic Leon Uris novel *Trinity*—an organizer in the late 1800s of the then fledging Irish Republican Brotherhood in the struggle for an independent democratic republic.

Conor is also the namesake of the present head of the O'Brien clan, Sir Conor O'Brien, the Prince of Thormond, the 18th Baron of Inchiquin, and a direct descendant of Brian Boru, the first and last king of Ireland. As for me, I'm a third generation man paternally and maternally with roots in Dublin, Wexford, Louth, and Clare. We're all over the place.

Monday, Aug. 23

The skies are clearing as we land in Shannon, crossing a cerulean blue River Shannon. The tarmac is wet, but the heavens have opened. Inside the terminal, Conor looks up and points to a rainbow, a wondrous spectrum of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. "This trip is meant to be," he declares. Today is my wife's 58th birthday, and I didn't bring a present. Luck of the Irish. The next week would bring the best swath of weather all season, as we plied the West Coast from Galway to the Ring of Kerry. Driving would be problematic; we're a right brain family, so maneuvering on the left side was vexing—given the distracting lush green countryside, the ancient stone walls that define centuries, the serpentine narrow roads and wacky local driving habits. Evan McHugh was correct when he wrote in *Pint-Sized Ireland*, "When the Irish want to tempt fate, they play Irish roulette. No firearms involved—they just go for a drive." We drew straws for the driver's seat, and Brendan lost.

Immediately, we headed to the windy Cliffs of Moher in County Clare that rise 394 feet above the Atlantic Ocean at Hag's Head and reach a peak of 702 feet, just north of O'Brien's Tower, built on the cliffs in 1835 by then landlord Sir Cornelius O'Brien, a descendant of the king himself. On a clear day, the view extends as far as Loop Head at the southern tip of Clare and beyond to the mountains of Kerry. Looking north

from the visitors' perch at O'Brien's Tower (a photo opportunity and suitable salutation), the Twelve Bens in Connemara (also known as the Twelve Pins) can be seen, and the Aran Islands sit off to the west.

We had lunch nearby at Gus O'Connor's in Doolin by the sea (a few cold pints of wicked good Smithwicks for hydration), then a good family birthday dinner bash back in Galway on the River Corrib, across O'Brien's Bridge. We stayed the night at the four-star Park House Hotel; before retiring, a few more pints for the family over traditional Irish music and step dancing, but who's counting?

Tuesday, Aug. 23

Slept in. An apparent epidemic of Irish flu. We headed north by bus an hour and a half to Clifden in Connemara, a place that attracts writers, artists, film-makers, and naturalists. Clifden is a snug city on the harbor with more than 5,000 years of living history and enough shops, restaurants and pubs to delight the tastes of anyone. Before shopping and lunch at rustic E.J. Kings on Main Street, Brendan, Conor and I walked to the nearby harbor to take in the fishing fleet and watch an ancient mariner meticulously untangle his nets, while Mary Catherine and Colleen visited the stoic stone Collegiate Church of St. Nicholas. Built in 1323, it is the largest medieval church in Ireland, a place where Christopher Columbus is said to have prayed during



A West Coast fisherman patiently works his ropes and pots in Clifden Harbor.

a visit to Galway in 1477. In spite of all the history, life moves quickly in Clifden. On the way home, the bus almost hits a wayward sheep. Yikes! I'll have the haddock for dinner tonight in Galway.

Wednesday, Aug. 24

We headed out early to Killarney, stopping off at pastoral Adare Village in County Limerick, widely regarded as being one of Ireland's prettiest and most picturesque villages. Situated on the River Maigue, a tributary of the Shannon River, Adare dates back to the early 13th century—a strategic location for many conquests, wars, and rebellions. It is the site of the ancient Anglo Norman fortress Desmond Castle, ransacked by the Parliamentary forces of Oliver Cromwell. Off to Killarney late in the afternoon for a two-night stay at the restful Killarney Royal Hotel on College Street and fine dining Wednesday night at the landmark High Street restaurant Bricin (Gaelic for small trout). The conversation turned to golf. Tomorrow, my sons and I play at the magnificent Waterville Golf Links on the Ring of Kerry, considered among the best in the world. I'm bit uneasy about it; my golf score is an impressive IQ.

Thursday, Aug. 25

Up at first light, Brendan, Conor and I grabbed coffee and head to the Ring of Kerry under a brilliant sunrise. Mary Catherine and Colleen, a communications analyst in D.C. with a Homeland Security consultant, were delighted with a break from the men, shopping, hiking, and touring the day. We fared far better. The Ring of Kerry is a sculpted paradise of sea green hills, valleys, and some of the earth's finest shoreline. The 6,320-yard Waterville Links is exquisite and as intimidating as it looks to the duffer. Brendan, a production assistant at Cramer in Norwood and an excellent golfer, had a great game, thanks to coaching from young caddie, Stephen Donnelly, who good-naturedly directed his charge after an errant shot with such encouragements as, "Lose that one in your skirt?" Conor, sports management major at Johnson & Wales in Providence, played well for a beginner, steady on his short game. My misdirected drives often took a Kerry bounce, but later Brendan confided that Donnelly, walking ahead, was kicking my ball back into the fairway. "I want your dad to have a good game," he told my son.

The ride home, completing the Ring of Kerry, was equally stunning until a rambling farm tractor forced us off the country road and into a bed of sharp rocks that pierced the front tire on the driver's side. A life lesson: You fix a flat tire in Ireland with the same muscle and surfeit of expletives that you employ in the states. Plenty to talk about over dinner at the eclectic Gaby's Seafood Restaurant on High Street back in Killarney.

Friday, Aug. 26

Up early for a trip to the Dingle Peninsula (Corca Dhuibhne, a Gaelic reference to its Middle Ages occupants, the tribe of Dhuibhne). It is considered among the planet's most spectacular places. We stopped in

(Continued on page 6)

Going Back Home to the Isle of Mists

(Continued from page 5)

Dingle Harbor, a sheltered town bedecked in quintessential Gaelic shades, then drove the dangerous Connor's Pass, a Come-to-Jesus moment, on our way to Tralee Bay and Newmarket-on-Fergus.

Today is a homecoming of sorts. We're heading to Dromoland Castle in Clare just outside Shannon for our last night. The castle grounds—the ancestral home of the O'Brien clan for 900 years—is now a luxury 375-acre estate. The Renaissance castle retains its old world charm with splendid woodcarvings, stone statuary, hand-carved paneling, brilliant oil paintings, antique furnishings, a championship golf course, and gardens that look like Alice in Wonderland. The reception was majestic; the front desk took note of the name. The rooms were noble, with sufficient space for a king's guard. Typically clumsy as an ox and not ready for regal prime time, I spilled a glass of good red wine in the gardens observing a turret outside the dining area. Upon asking for a refill, I was told, "This one is on your ancestors!" Later over dinner, the family was observing the stoic floor-to-ceiling oil portraits. "All O'Briens," our waiter told us. "An ugly lot!" He apparently didn't get the front desk memo.

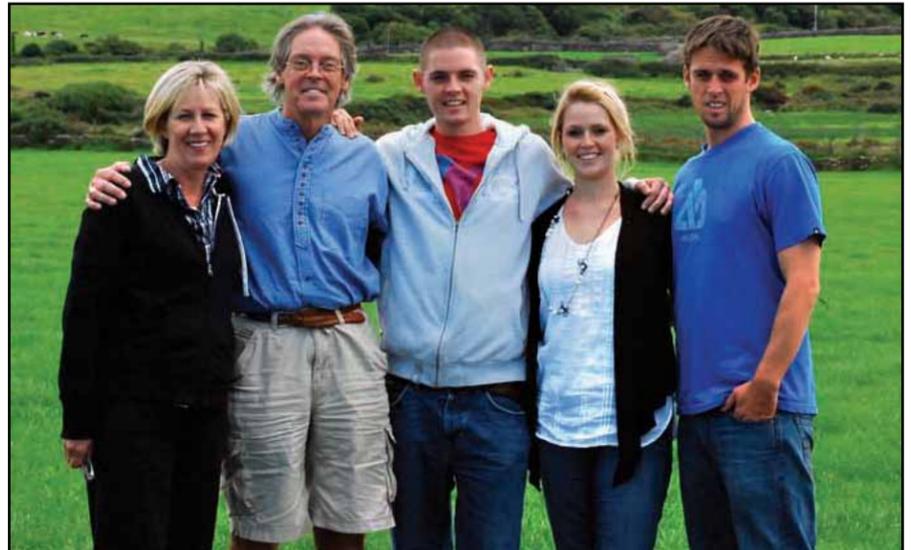
Our final family fling was a night at Durty Nelly's in the shadows of nearby Bunratty Castle. There we made good friends with the locals, likely for the draw of Colleen. I made sure to stand closely guard by her. In the meantime, Mary Catherine was having trouble finding the handle on her glass, dropping two of them on the stone floor to a raucous applause that echoed throughout. "My Gawd," one of the older locals exclaimed, "she's goin' for a [expletive] hat trick!"

Saturday, Aug. 27

We made our plane in Shannon in plenty of time—sad to depart, but brimming with Irish joy. As the Aer Lingus craft climbed out over the Atlantic, I kept looking back, feeling as though I had left something behind. I must return to reclaim it. Maybe it's on O'Grady's Beach, or the 18th hole at Waterville, in Murphy's Pub in Dingle, or blowing through the hills of Kenmare. But I'm certain it's there, and that Mary Catherine, Brendan, Colleen and Conor are sure to follow.



Above, The quintessential Irish scene: Heading to Gus O'Connor's Tavern in Doolin not far from the Cliffs of Moher.



At right, an O'Brien family gathering: From left, Mary Catherine, the diarist, Conor, Colleen, and Brendan in Tralee.



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Tin Can Hooley
Kieran Jordan & Soul Mates
Gob Shites
Billy O'Neill &
Old Time Country Ceilí Band
Michael O'Leary & Steve Levy

Séan Gannon
Joshua Tree
George Keith
Curragh's Fancy
Richard Parsons & Jerry Lehane
Harney Academy of Dance
Sally Harney Set Dancers
Susie Petrov
Máirín Uí Chéide

Bridget Fitzgerald
Sean Óg Connors
Liam Harte
Larry Reynolds &
Comhaltas Ceolteoirí Eireann
Mike Reynolds
Aidan Maher
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Maureen Green O Leary School of
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BIR Profile

Arbella CEO John Donohue Knows It: Life Rewards Those Who Work Hard

**By GREG O'BRIEN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR**
Brahmins need not apply: "Hard work will beat brains nine times out of ten!" That's what John F. Donohue's father and the son's longtime mentor, former Massachusetts Attorney General Francis X. Bellotti, taught him early on.

The lesson took, though it's a bonus when you have both, as Donohue, chairman of the board and CEO of Arbella Insurance Group, demonstrates.

"My father, John, always told me to put my head down, work hard, and that will generate a lot of success; you don't have to be the smartest guy out there," says Donohue, also chairman of the Irish Immigration Center's Advisory Board and a recipient of the inaugural Boston Irish Honors Award for distinguished public service to be presented October 7 at the Boston Irish Reporter's 20th Anniversary luncheon at Boston's Seaport Hotel/World Trade Center.

And Bellotti, Donohue's former boss at the AG's office, an Arbella founder, and now Arbella board vice chairman and regulatory legal counsel, advised him years ago, "If you work hard, you can beat anyone."

Looking back, Donohue calls Bellotti "one of the smartest, most compassionate, most humble individuals that I've ever met."

Those virtues clearly

rubbed off. Today Donohue—in addition to his duties overseeing one of the largest property casualty insurance companies based in New England with 900 employees in four states, writing more than \$650 million annually in business and personal insurance—is CEO of the Arbella Insurance Group Charitable Foundation, which donates generously to organizations and causes in communities it serves, among them Project Bread's Walk for Hunger and the Jimmy Fund.

In his community work at the Irish Immigration Center, Donohue advises the organization's legendary executive director, Sister Lena Deevy, in her work of applying the social gospel at the non-profit agency that serves the varied interests of the immigrant community from Ireland and at large. The IIC also operates an innovative program in Northern Ireland to help bridge the gap between Protestants and Catholics.

When there is time, and Donohue always makes time for this endeavor, he mentors young men and women entering an uncertain business world. "I think it's critical these days to help kids make good choices in all areas of their lives," he says. "I'm just returning a favor."

The mosaic of 58-year-old John F. Donohue's life comes stitched with resolve and critical think-



John Donohue: Follows the social gospel.

ing. A former assistant AG in the Consumer Protection Division and former chief of the Insurance Division before entering private law practice and then the insurance industry, Donohue has fought vociferously in the field for consumer advocacy. "My dad continually pressed me to do what's right and not care what other people think," he says.

But he didn't always listen to his father, a second-generation Irish American with family roots in Tipperary who worked as an Aetna Insurance Company executive in Hartford. His

mother, Doris (LaBalle), was a career woman in the 1960s, unusual for the day, breaking new ground in sales in the insurance business with various Hartford agencies.

"Growing up I swore that I would never get into insurance," he stresses. "I was adamant about not following in my parents' footsteps. I was going to go off and do other things. Insurance, I thought, was boring."

Well, we've all come full circle with many of our youthful opinions, and Donohue has circumnavigated his earlier take on insurance like a seasoned mariner. Guess he showed them!

Growing up in Manchester, just outside Hartford, Donohue lived a parochial life with his only sibling, Ellen, a year and a half older. He attended St. James Elementary School and East Catholic High School where he played intramural and town recreation sports and skied in winters. "My parents were solid and hard working," he says in a wide-ranging interview with the Boston Irish Reporter. "They didn't travel much and were very supportive."

The Donohues taught their children compassion at a young age. "They were kind people, always reaching out to others," says the son. "I remember my father going out of his way to support young black families moving into the neighborhood while others shunned them. It was a life lesson. It taught me a lot about respecting others."

Donohue attended George Washington University in D.C., majoring in economics and history. At GW, he was actively involved in social and political issues de jour, volunteering for Ralph Nader as one of his "Raiders." Donohue helped establish DCPIRG (Public Interest Research Group) at area college campuses—modeled after organizations like MASSPIRG that advocate on behalf of consumer protection, health, and environmental causes. "We tried to

hold businesses more accountable for telling the truth and communicating more clearly about what their products could or couldn't do."

Donohue also was actively involved in the anti-Vietnam War movement. "I was strongly opposed to Vietnam," he says. "It was not our war. We were supporting a propped up, corrupt Vietnam government, and we should not have been sending our men and women there to die."

Such passion became the cornerstone of Donohue's personal and professional life. After graduating from college, he attended the George Washington Law School, then worked as a poverty lawyer in a Pittsburgh legal service agency. He moved to Boston to join the Bellotti AG Office, working first in consumer protection on arson and auto fraud cases, then as head of the Insurance Division. From 1985 to 1987, he was lead counsel at various auto insurance rate hearings and administrative trials involving health and liability insurance.

After Bellotti left the AG's office, Donohue joined him at the Boston law firm of Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, PC., becoming a partner in the firm and working with his mentor to secure special legislation to create the Arbella Insurance Group, filling a void when the Kemper Group of Chicago pulled away from the Massachusetts auto insurance market. Donohue ultimately became a founder of the company with Bellotti.

"The opportunity to start a company intrigued me," says Donohue. "I realized there was a lot more to it than my impressions as a youth."

The name Arbella has its origin in the sailing vessel, the *Arbella*, that carried the Massachusetts Bay Charter from England to Boston, along with the city's first white settlers. "Those on the ship came here to build a government and a city," says Donohue. "The name was a natural association for us as we set out to establish a new company in Massachusetts."

Over the years, the company has grown exponentially, providing personal and business insurance in Massachusetts and Connecticut and business insurance in Rhode Island and New Hampshire. With Donohue at the helm, Arbella has worked hard to break down the walls of a complex, corporate-speak industry that was portrayed laughably years ago in a scene in Woody Allen's iconic movie, *Bananas*, where an individual's sentence for alleged high crimes against a foreign government was to spend time in the "sweat pit" with an insurance agent.

"Insurance doesn't have to be overly dense," says Donohue. "Customer service, easy premium pay-

ment options, and direct access to our independent insurance agents is at the heart of the company. "We are doing well in a challenging economy, he adds. "Arbella always has taken a conservative approach to investments. Most importantly, we want to have the necessary resources available when customers need claims paid."

For a man clearly consumed with work, Donohue has his priorities in check: family, community involvement, and work in that order, and he excels at all. The father of the three sons—Mathew, 30, who works in marketing at TomTom GPS navigation systems; Kevin, 18, a senior at BC High; and Jack, 13, a seventh grader at the Jesuit school, Donohue met his wife, Frances (Robinson) when she was a criminal prosecutor in the attorney general's office. No crossing her at the dinner table, Donohue says.

In addition to many other affiliations, Donohue is active as a member of the Board of Greater Boston Legal Services, is a member of the Board of Overseers for the YMCA of Greater Boston, and serves as a member of the National Council for the Arts and Sciences for George Washington University. He also has retained his legal standing as a member of the bar in Pennsylvania, the Federal District Court, and the US Court of Appeals (First Circuit).

But he focuses his passion on his work with the Irish Immigration Center, assisting with issues like affordable housing, legal questions and navigating the serpentine immigration system.

Self-effacing at the core, Donohue is characteristically modest about his upcoming Boston Irish Honors Award. "Not sure how I made the distinguished list, but I'm grateful for it," he says.

At the end of each day and throughout, Donohue turns his attention to family. All the accomplishments and awards in the world don't add up to his responsibilities as a father, he says. "My central goal is to help my sons turn into good men," he adds. "There are a lot of challenges in the world, and my wife and I try to be there for our children. Helping children grow up today is to hold them accountable. It's not a matter of trying to be their best friend; it's working to be their mentor and providing them with a standard of measurement they can count on."

Enough said. Does anyone, including John Francis Donohue, have a question as to how he made the BIR's Honors Award list.

Greg O'Brien is president of Stony Brook Group, a publishing and political/communications strategy company based in Brewster, and the author/editor of several books. He is a regular contributor to the Boston Irish Reporter.

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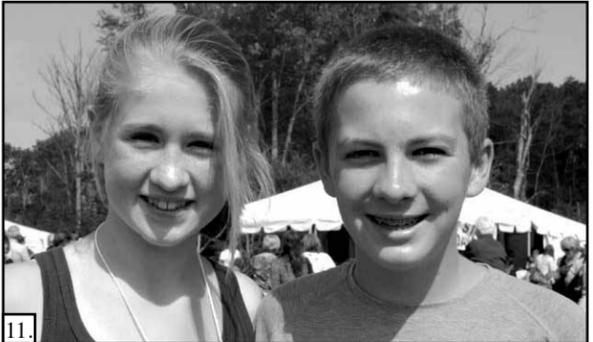
BRETT'S BOSTON

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

Happy Day at ICCNE Fest

Faces in the crowd suggest a good time was had by all who attended the Irish Festival at the Irish Cultural Centre's campus in Canton last month.

1.) Abby Poulos, Easton; Kelsey Mazzocca, Walpole; 2.) Patrick O'Donnell, Quincy; Theresa DiCiocco, Watertown; 3.) Bob and Kristin Browne, Taunton; 4.) Kara Poulos, Easton; Beth Mazzocca, Walpole; 5.) Maura O'Brien, Scituate; Siobhan O'Brien, Rhode Island; 6.) Jim and Cathy Donnelly, Mansfield; 7.) Kaleigh St. Ives and grandmother Susan Lowry, Lynn; 8.) Richard and Mary Anne Pugsley, Dorchester; 9.) Frank Greenberg, Rockland; Marge Searson, Rockland; 10.) Jahanaa and Tom Scully with 6 month old Oliver; 11.) Katie Journeyay, Stratham, N.H.; Danny Chamberlain, Framingham; 12.) Megan Hennessy, Quincy; Kate Marecki, Whitman; 13.) Bob Harkins, Sharon; Debby Rosenthal, Sharon; 14.) Tara Casey, Justine Casey (mom) and Erin Casey, Easton; 15.) Bob Porter, Forrest Hodgkins and Tim Turnbull, Harvard, MA; 16.) Pete and Norine Fetter with children Maeve, 3 and Liam, 2; 17.) Mary McGonagle, Quincy; Agnes O'Connor, Weymouth; Elizabeth Beaton, Quincy.



Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By BILL O'DONNELL

Bad Day At Galway—And sure don't we all have the bad day every once in a while. Not so long ago **Queen Elizabeth** had an entire bad year that she resorted to Latin to describe. But the Irish Taoiseach, **Brian Cowen**, had a couple of days in Galway in mid-September that have left his Dail allies and his handlers scrambling for euphemisms in attempts to extricate the Irish leader from a continuing series of highly critical public and press thunderbolts. Some even posed the very real possibility that Cowen's leadership could be hanging on public opinion polls due out in late September.

It all began at the Ardilaun Hotel where the Fianna Fail boys and a token presence of female party members were discussing over pints how to resuscitate the coalition government now deep into the economic morass that is Ireland today. The FF think-session broke about 2 a.m. and the Taoiseach had a few brief hours before his RTE radio interview on Morning Ireland. Well, to cut to the chase, let me note that the interview, when it lapsed into incoherence, was a nightmare for Cowen. He mumbled, mistook one agreement for another, and rambled into linguistic corners that offered little or no escape. One Dail Deputy called the Cowen performance "halfway between drunk and hung over." To the rescue came **Mary Hanafin**, Minister for Tourism and a member of the Cowen cabinet, who said of him on radio, "He was hoarse and groggy and congested early in the morning, which does happen to an awful lot of people." Indeed. She later recanted.

Bad ice cube or whatever, Mr. Cowen's difficulties in the county of Galway were not finished. The radio station ran a flash poll and 77 percent of its listeners declared they had no confidence in Brian Cowen. Later that day, prominent Irish golfer and onetime European Ryder Cup team member **Phil Walton** said he was angry and upset at a comical impersonation of him by Cowen that mocked the golfer's high-pitched voice. And the next day the Irish newspapers, who revel in bringing down the powerful, had much to say about the on-air disaster.

As a final indignity, on the way home to Dublin out of Galway, the Taoiseach got stuck in a massive, hours-long traffic jam that conceivably provided ample opportunity for him and his driver to reflect in depth on the perils of leadership in modern Ireland.

N.I. Leaders Skip The Pope In Scotland—While secular elements in the United Kingdom and a couple of chancers looking to make a citizen's arrest of the pope were trouble enough, it was left to the North's First Minister, **Peter Robinson**, and deputy first minister **Martin McGuinness** to do the politically correct thing—for themselves. As the politicians lined up to greet **Pope Benedict**, it was a lineup that did not include the Stormont leaders. Robinson, the successor to **Ian Paisley**, was hiding out so as not to conflict with his old boss, who was once again making an anti-papist fool of himself. McGuinness, meanwhile, an unpledged delegate to Elizabeth's court and well-known abstentionist, was not going to be seen with the queen.

Barry McGuigan, A Hero When Needed-- It was 1985 and McGuigan, a Catholic married to a Protestant girl and hailing from border county Monaghan, had just won the World Featherweight boxing title. He was the toast of Ireland north and south, but especially to the people of the six counties. He had, as one paper announced, "character and charisma" and he was a gentleman, who never spoke ill of his opponents and who carried his WBA crown with dignity and calm assurance. And best of all for the beleaguered North and the freshly minted Anglo-Irish agreement, he fought under the United Nations peace flag and encouraged a sense of goodwill and unity in what were dark, contentious days in the North.

What goes around comes around, they say, and now it is time to say thank you to Barry McGuigan and the hope that he dealt in during parlous times. The retired world champion has been nominated by the Belfast's Springboard Opportunities to receive the UN's Inspiration Award for Peace. Well done to a genuine champion.

Phoebe Prince Scholarship Honors Her Memory—While the trial of several defendants in the tragic bullying death in South Hadley, Massachusetts of Clare native **Phoebe Prince** soldiers on, there is warming news from California, as the Irish Emigrant notes. Philanthropist **J.M. Mahoney** has established and funded an ongoing scholarship at the University of California in Phoebe's name. The scholarship endowment fund at the university will be directed toward students entering the School of Public Health. Anyone interested in donating to Phoebe's scholarship fund can visit the cal.berkeley.edu site and enter Phoebe Prince in the subject box.

Irish Presidential Election Next Year—It's more than a full year before **Mary McAleese** will finish her second term and vacate Aras an Uachtarain, but already the jockeying for position to succeed her as Irish President is beginning in earnest. Several names that have surfaced in recent weeks include the veteran Labour politician **Michael D. Higgins**, who represents Galway West in the Irish parliament. Also mentioned is businessman **Fergus Finlay**, Senator **David Norris**, Fianna Fail MEP **Brian Crowley**, **Mary (Lenihan) O'Rourke**, Dail member and former minister, and last but not least, the former Taoiseach **Bertie Ahern**. All will be looking for party sponsorship and votes come October 2011.

However, early polling following his deadly appearances before the Mahon Tribunal, indicates a sharp falling off of support for Ahern. A recent poll showing an 80 percent to 15 percent NO vote for president for the former Fianna Fail leader should make Ahern a non-starter next year. But with Bertie, one never knows.

Higgins, whose rich resume includes stints as Minister for Arts, as senator, and Dail membership of 30 years, is a colorful character who was a regular visitor to Boston for the Irish trade festivals of the late '80s and early '90s sponsored by Boston Ireland Ventures. Higgins has asked his Labour Party to name him their official candidate and has been publicly touting his candidacy.

One problem in Irish real politik terms is that Labour and its leadership is currently popular but poor in Dail seats and if Higgins vacates his seat to run for president there is a distinct possibility the party would not hold the seat in the next national election.

Check Out Those Passports—If you are going to Ireland or Britain all you really need in your functional and secure US passport is that you should be back home before it expires. Simple and direct and you're all set. But unfortunately that's not the case with many other EU countries that US citizens visit before or after touring Ireland.

Many countries have rules (often hard to find or know) mandating that American tourist passports should be valid three months *beyond* the period of stay; not a week or a month, but three full months. And the airlines do not check your country of destination to ensure that you are observing that country's passport restrictions. You are on your own.

What follows is an incomplete listing of countries that can deny you entry if you do not observe the three-month rule: Germany, Greece, France, Italy, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Hungary, Switzerland, and the Scandinavian countries. To be sure, check with your travel agent or foreign consular officials. It's better than being turned away at the point of entry.

Save The Date—**Gail O'Docherty** has reached out to answer many queries from friends about a Memorial Celebration for her late husband, the popular painter and traditional musician **David O'Docherty**. The memorial will take place on Sun., Nov. 14, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the upstairs function room of the Black Rose, at 160 State Street, near

the Aquarium T stop in Boston.

Kennedy Senate Institute A Winner—It's inevitable that there is grumbling and finger-pointing when public places are named for and dedicated to elected public officials and others. It seems to chafe our anti-royalty DNA. But in looking at Ted Kennedy's legacy and his litany of accomplishments in the United States Senate, it is important, critically so, that we leave something meaningful and enduring in our midst that reminds us never to forget that the youngest of the Kennedy family was a special joyous gift to this corner of America and its people.

We have three iconic highway landmarks in Boston that honor three men who each contributed his individual talent, style, and persona to help define Boston as the unique entity it is. The three could not be more different in background and interests. **Ted Williams** was a baseball player of extraordinary gifts, a Marine combat aviator, and the son of a Salvation Army volunteer; **Lenny Zakim**, a Jew, was a man of memorable heart who fought injustice and reached beyond that to elevate charity and giving to a humanitarian art form; **Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill**, out of Barry's Corner in Cambridge, a Catholic social reformer in Old Pol costume who re-fashioned boot-strap politics into a relentless force for good that we may never see again.

In looking over the names of some of the current and past members of Congress that have had institutes and university centers named after them, the list includes some rogues and some legislators of substance and impact. They include **Everett Dirksen**, **John Glenn**, **Richard Lugar**, **John Stennis**, **Charles Rangel**, Hawaii's Senator **Daniel Inouye**, **Mitch McConnell** of Kentucky, **James Cliburn**, former Speaker **Dennis Hastert**, **Thad Cochran**, **Trent Lott**, and many others.

The reality is that Edward M. Kennedy was the most productive, progressive senator in length and accomplishment in the history of the United States Senate. Bar none. It is fitting that we honor him with a "dynamic center of learning," as his widow defined it, that will stand as a source of research and learning to help us and generations to come to understand what the Senate is and what and how Ted Kennedy, the giant of the senate, accomplished in his five decades there.

Ireland, A Tiny Country That Gives Big—A study recently completed by the Charities Aid Foundation clearly reaffirms Ireland's history and reputation as one of the world's most generous countries. Ireland tied with Canada for third in the global rankings, trailing only Australia and New Zealand in charitable giving. One of the impressive sub texts of the study is that despite the economic downturn in Ireland its people still recognize that there is a moral obligation to implement their giving as they have done regularly over the years. The study also noted that happier people are more likely to give money to charity than those who are well-off. Is there a difference?

The Green Isle and Gay Marriage—An Irish Times poll found that 67 percent of the Irish people believe same-sex couples should be allowed to marry. The mid-September survey shows a surprisingly new, broad-based liberalism towards gays, where being gay or lesbian "isn't such a big taboo" and neither is the subject of gay and lesbian couples getting married. The director of Marriage Equality said that the findings show the Irish are "keenly aware that the current exclusion of gay and lesbian couples from civil marriage is deeply unfair and doesn't make any sense in today's Ireland." It is expected that if public opinion continues as it has been trending in recent times, there will be a concerted push to legislate for same-sex marriage.

RANDOM CLIPPINGS

It was bound to happen. Publicans who are hurting have begun pointing to the ban on smoking as a chief cause of reduced revenue in the pubs. ... With much less controversy, Galway will soon have its first purpose-built mosque to provide for the city's 3,000 Muslims. ... Bloody Sunday, the massacre of 13 unarmed civilians by British paras, will soon have minted coins as a collector's item to benefit victims' families

and the Free Derry Museum. ... **Tony Blair**, former British PM, needed a 60-member garda team to ensure his security during his Dublin book tour. ... Ireland's cities and towns are trying to overcome the economic downturn by letting loose the car park wardens. Parking fees account for \$70 million annually to cash-strapped towns. ... Travel agents from across the Irish Republic will gather in Belfast for their annual general meeting. A generous gesture and long overdue.

Hard times in Ireland has many property owners unloading overseas property and this has intensified monitoring of sales by the Revenue folks. ... Towns are looking anew at public toilets. The so-called superloos cost a thousand euros to run each week and take in only a fraction of that. ... **Trinity and University College Dublin** have both slipped in the world university rankings, now out of the first 100. ... **Pat Kenny**, the RTE broadcaster who takes home annually between \$800,000 and \$1.2 million, describes his salary as "trivial" compared to footballers. He said RTE had to "incentivise" stars like him. What planet, Pat, are you calling from? ... Despite the economic situation, some 20 multinational companies have relocated their corporate headquarters to Ireland in the past year.

Michael O'Leary, Ryanair CEO, is testing "stand-up seats" for his planes and has called for one pilot per plane, suggesting that hostesses could be trained to land in an emergency. ... The US and Australia are issuing travel warnings for Irish-bound tourists because of the breakaway-dissidents. A bit hyper, say what. ... The Irish, as noted earlier in the column, are generous but favor more restrictive laws about begging, especially near residential areas, ATMs and businesses. ... Ireland is one of the top spots for nudist beaches, says a UK study. Recommended are Silver Strand Beach in Barna, Co. Galway, Corballis in north Co. Dublin, and Brittas Bay in Wicklow. ... Australia's narrowly reelected Prime Minister, **Julia Gillard**, is on record as saying that her country should cut its ties with Britain and become a republic when Queen Elizabeth abdicates or dies.

Update on the Marathon man and his mate, who ran an astonishing 32 marathons across 32 counties in 32 days. The total raised by the marathons for Irish Autism Action was \$625,000. God bless the Mark. ... Coming soon: Long Kesh/H-Blocks the Museum. The prison site is 8 miles from Lisburn and will become a peace and conflict resolution facility. ... Emigration of the Irish out of Ireland is at a 20-year high, approaching 30,000 annually. The Irish are heading for Britain, Canada, Australia, and the United States. A sad result of the greed and recklessness of banks in the US, Ireland, and other EU countries. ... **Howie Carr**, of WRKO and the Boston Herald, is now making personal appearances as host and crowd-draw at republican events in Mass. and New Hampshire. It's about time that Carr got that public Big R after his name, and the same for **Rupert Murdoch**, both of whom have long ago stopped pretending to be balanced. ... **Martin McGuinness**, maybe trying to distract the faithful from his absence at the pope's arrival, is saying that Pope Benedict could visit Ireland in 2012. ... Sorry to see the venerable Copley Plaza Hotel sold (almost \$100 million) but good to see the Fairmont group will continue to manage it. ... The so-called dissident republicans deserve a smash in the face and more, but given the dire Afghan situation I was stunned by the news that a senior British counter-explosive officer who was a top IED man has been sent from Afghanistan to Northern Ireland to counter the bombing campaign there. ... Did the Mass. House Speaker or his allies see the tiny item in the Globe noting the layoff last month of 355 workers at Mohegan Sun? Make you stop and think?

Finally, an interesting observation by a top Irish financial regulator who noted that when the Irish economy was growing at 10 percent, three top Irish banks (including Anglo-Irish and AIB) were growing their lending by 45, 40, and 30 percent, respectively. Says a lot, sadly.

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

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 want Massachusetts to continue to be a welcoming place for workers, students, and refugees from around the world – all residents deserve justice, equality, and dignity.

Will DREAM be Reality?—Tues., Sept. 21—The Senate did not bring the DREAM Act to a vote as we had hoped they would, at last. Two weeks ago, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) announced that he would include the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act, commonly known as the DREAM Act, as an amendment to a defense policy bill. The legislation would create a pathway to citizenship for many young people if they chose either to enlist in the military or to go to college.

If it passes in its current form, the DREAM Act would provide that those who entered the U.S. before the age of 16 and who are/were between the ages of 12 and 35 at the time of application, have lived in the U.S. for at least five consecutive years and have obtained a high school diploma or GED, would be eligible to apply for Conditional Permanent Residency. If granted, the applicant would then need either to enroll in an institution of higher education or to enlist in a branch of the military.

Following is a statement from Marielena Hincapié, Executive Director of the

National Immigration Law Center: "This battle may be over for this week, but we cannot walk away from the fight. Congress must not let the small but vocal minority thwart the will of 70 percent of Americans who believe in the DREAM Act. We applaud Senators Harry Reid and Dick Durbin for their leadership. As Sen. Reid stated on the floor today, 'We will vote on the DREAM Act -- the only question is when.' We hope Sen. Reid doesn't delay. Students can't wait any longer."

For more information, please visit miracoalition.org.

One Nation March in Washington, D.C.—Oct. 2, 2010—Organized by SEIU 1199 with partners such as the AFL-CIO, the Human Rights Campaign, and the NAACP, hundreds of thousands of Americans will join in a historic march at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. The One Nation March will feature human and civil rights leaders, labor leaders, environmental and peace activists, faith leaders, celebrities, and sports figures. For more information, please visit onenationworkingtogether.org.

For more information on our advocacy activities, please contact Erin Fried at 617-542-7654, Ext. 43 or at efried@iicenter.org.

Community Counseling & Education Services Update—The Irish Immigration Center's Community Counseling and Education Services offers counseling, free health clinics, job skill workshops, and other resources to Irish immigrants. Di-

rector 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.

Free Seasonal Flu Clinics with Cathedral Cares—While many stores charge for flu shots, Cathedral Cares does not! The ministry of the Cathedral of the Holy Cross will offer three free walk-in clinics in the coming weeks:

Sun., Sept. 26, Oct. 3, and Oct. 31 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Union Park Street, between Washington Street and Harrison Avenue, South End Accessible on Silver Line via the Cathedral stop. Enter to Lower Church via Handicapped Entrance. No appointment needed, all are welcome. 18 years and older, please.

2010 Fall Schedule.

Q.P.R: Suicide Prevention Workshop—Tues., Sept. 28, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the IIC Office, 100 Franklin St. in downtown Boston (Enter from the side entrance at 60 Arch Street or 201 Devonshire Street). (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 Workshop—

Tues., Oct. 19, 6 p.m. at the IIC Office. 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, child-care, home care, or medical fields.

Free Health Screening—Mon., Oct. 25 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the IIC Office. (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 screenings 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 Danielle at 617-542-7653, Ext. 14, to sign up or for further information about any of our programs.

Immigration and Citizenship Update—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.

Matters Of Substance

A Parent's Halloween Nightmare

BY DANIELLE OWEN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

"My wife and I have worked hard to create a good life here in MA since we moved from Ireland 25 years ago. We've always been able to solve any problems we've had ... until now. My daughter seems to have an alcohol problem and she may be taking drugs as well. We have tried talking to her, we have screamed at her, sometimes both at the same time. She came home drunk from a friend's house about a month ago. It was the first time we saw her like that and it was a shock! Even though she promised she wouldn't drink again, we suspect she still is.

We are dreading Halloween as she has planned a big party with some of her friends, which she thinks we don't know about. My wife and I keep trying to talk with her but she warns us to stay out of her life or she will leave. She is only 17 and we are terrified what

might happen to her when she is drunk or high. We found an empty prescription bottle, with no label, in her room. How would we know if she was using drugs? Is it too late to help her? What happens when she gets to college? We feel like we can't do anything? How did this happen to us?

It's every parent's nightmare: No matter what time of year or how safe and secure your home is, substance abuse and addiction can affect anyone at any time. As parents of a 17 year old you might feel like you no longer have a say in what is going on in your child's life. The truth is you do. Your daughter is under 21. It is illegal for her to drink alcohol. It is illegal for her to use medication that has not been prescribed for her. It is hard to know what to do but let me assure you, you and your wife are in the best position to help your daughter understand how serious her situation is. According to new research by the Center

for Substance Abuse Research at the University of Maryland, "Parental monitoring can reduce high-school drinking and, as a result, have a protective effect on students' drinking at college."

There are many tools available for parents: Booklets including *Words Can Work: When Talking About Alcohol and Alcohol and Other Drugs: Is Your Teen Using?* can be found at the following websites: wordscanwork.com and maclearinghouse.com. If your daughter needs treatment, then check out the Institute for Health

and Recovery's Youth Central Intake & Care Coordination Project at healthrecovery.org.

Change is always possible but parents need support and a place to talk. Call Danielle, in confidence and without judgment, at the Irish Immigration Center for support, referrals, and counseling. We are also planning a substance abuse/addiction information workshop in the near future so call today to get more information. Phone: 617-542-7654, Ext. 14 or send an e-mail to dowen@iicenter.org.

IMMIGRATION Q & A

Some Advice on Diversity Visa Lottery

Q. I plan to apply for the Diversity Visa Lottery this year. I heard that the application is very complicated and that there are services available on-line to help people with the paperwork. Can you recommend these services?

A. No, there is no need for you to pay for any service to file your application. While some of these services may not be scams, they do charge you a fee for filing your application through them. This is unnecessary. Applying for the lottery is free and needs to be done on-line directly with the US State Department.

The current application period runs from noon EDT on Tues., Oct. 5, 2010, to noon EDT on Wed., Nov. 3, 2010. Note that this is a considerably shorter application window than in past years.

The State Department's detailed instructions for the electronic filing process are available at dvlottery.state.gov. Another change for this year's lottery process is that winners will no longer be notified by mail. Instead, applicants must check the status of their entries on-line at that website. In the past there have been scams involving false notifications of winning entries by post, email, or telephone. These scams seek a payment or financial information from the supposed winners. Remember that there will be no such communications from the US government. Their lottery website will be the sole source of accurate information on winning entries.

Some diversity visa lottery websites may be outright scams, either promising to increase your odds of winning or just taking your money and providing no service in return. A Google search for "visa lottery" results in some 148,000 hits – some perhaps legitimate and others fraudulent. It can be difficult to tell which is which. For example, one site that comes up on Google search displays images of the American eagle and flag, the Statue of Liberty, the US Capitol, and President Obama. Only in the fine print at the bottom of the page is there a disclaimer that the organization is not a US government agency – which should be clear in any event because the website's address does not end in ".gov." Fraudulent or not? It is difficult to say. The website offers assistance in filing the visa application (for a fee, of course – the amount of which is not disclosed until the applicant provides personal financial information), which may be lawful though a waste of money. But the site also strongly implies without an overt statement that using the service increases the odds of winning – which is impossible.

So the prudent course is to avoid all websites that sell lottery visa application services.

There is another issue: Some websites may not just take your money; they also may commit identity theft and use your banking information and credit card number, etc. to steal from you. This is one more reason to stay away from commercial on-line visa services. The only website you need to consult is the official one – dvlottery.state.gov.

The IIC will be assisting people with the process of submitting diversity visa lottery applications in the upcoming weeks. Contact Neil Hurley at 617-542-8764 or by e-mail at nhurley@iicenter.org.

For a free, confidential consultation about any aspect of immigration law, visit one of our legal clinics as listed monthly in the Irish Reporter's Irish Immigration Center's Notebook.

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



Meeting the needs
of the immigrant
population.

Irish Immigration Center

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www.iicenter.org

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.

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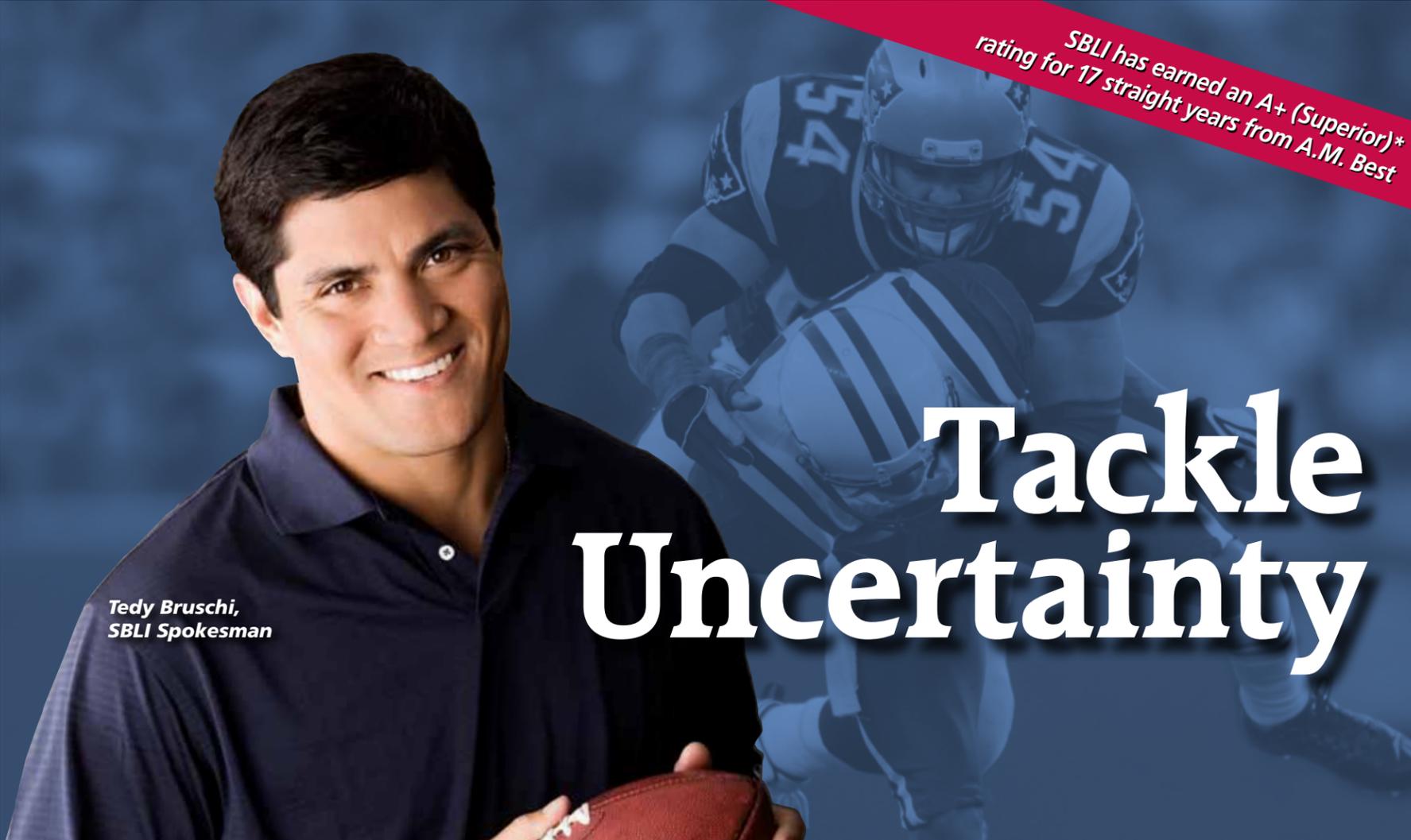
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BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

BOSTON IRISH ARTS,
ENTERTAINMENT,
TRAVEL & MORE

There's No Place Like Home

By R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Actor Kevin McMahon was born in Brighton, grew up in Framingham and graduated from Marian Academy and Boston Conservatory. All of which makes his appearing in the national touring company of Broadway's "Wicked" at The Opera House a true homecoming.

The phenomenally successful "Wicked" tells the musical story of the two witches of Oz, good and evil, long before Dorothy toppled from the sky. McMahon plays the father of the Wicked Witch as well as a multitude of smaller roles throughout the show, including the Emerald City Guard who bellows the iconic line, "The Wizard will see you now!" As if that isn't enough, he also understudies the roles of Professor Dillamond and The Wizard himself.

Now living on the West Coast, and with a multi-faceted career as an actor, singer and writer, he has performed everywhere from off-Broadway to Ireland. His theatrical credits include roles in such shows as "City of Angels," "Sweeney Todd" and "A Little Night Music" along with a two year run as Jinx in the San Diego production of "Forever Plaid." As well, the L.A. Times called his performance in "Roar Of The Greasepaint" "heart-stopping."

We had a chance to speak the morning after the show's official opening night last month. While "Wicked" is currently in its third visit to town, this is McMahon's first time playing the show in Boston. He joined the company a year ago November, shortly after it's last stop at The Opera House. Here's a condensed look at our conversation.

BIR: The opening night crowd was very enthusiastic. It must be gratifying to be performing in a show that's so warmly embraced by audiences.

KM: It's a phenomenon. I've only been in one other show in my lifetime that's been anywhere near this, and it was on a much smaller scale. "Wicked" is such a privilege to be a part of.

BIR: So, you were born in Brighton.

KM: Born in Brighton at St. Elizabeth's. My mother was a nurse there.

BIR: And you went to school at Marian High. What shows were you in there?

KM: I was in "The Pajama Game" and I remember the nuns editing the show. Scenes for sexual content (were) all taken out. We didn't know that until I saw the show (much) later and I said "Wait a minute, we didn't do that scene." And I realized that the nuns had edited it all.

BIR: Part and parcel of going to Catholic school?

KM: (Laughing) Exactly.

BIR: How did you come to study at Boston Conservatory?

KM: I had a teacher in high school – Rosemary Costa – was who a graduate of the Conservatory, and she introduced us to the school. Little did I know it was one of the best schools in the country. I got in and was happy to go there.

BIR: What do you remember from those days.

KM: You know, I think in any kind of school for the performing arts, or in any college for that matter, you find two or three good professors who influence you. That can make or break your college experience. I had two that were amazing. A voice teacher named Mary Saunders, still teaching there, I just spoke with her yesterday actually, and an acting teacher named Robert Lieberker. I think he's retired now, but he was one of those people who was really inspiring. You wanted to please him and do everything right for him and get the lead role in his shows.

BIR: I hear you have dual citizenship, American and Irish. Tell me about that.

KM: Well my grandparents were all born in Ireland and came over in the 1920s . . . My mother was a proud Irish American, as my Dad was. My mother passed away when she was very young . . . and never got to go back to Ireland. I wanted to tie in with the roots, so I applied for citizenship in Ireland. . . I was over in Ireland with a show, and I went to the consulate and I went to the registry and got all the birth certificates that are necessary and registered everything. And so I keep my Irish passport and have my Irish citizenship because I'm very proud of that. I don't know if I'd ever want to live there full time, but I'm keeping that option open. It's a beautiful place. I've been there three or four times and I'd love to spend more time over in Ireland.

BIR: What show were you doing there?

KM: It was a show I did in Los Angeles, "Love Of A Pig," and an Irish actress named Fionnula Flanagan, pretty well known, was one of the producers. She was involved with the Irish Life Festival and she arranged for us to go over and do the show as part of the festival. We spent a couple of weeks in Dublin and it was amazing. My dad came over to see the show. It was pretty great.

BIR: I see from your bio that you've also done "The Full Monty." You must be sick of being asked, but isn't it a little daunting the first time you're naked on stage.

KM: It certainly is. It's done in a way that the lights

"Wicked" Cast Member Is Boston Native

blind the audience. But in one production that I did, the lights didn't work. So there we were, in our full glory. They saw everything. It happens.

BIR: I know that actors often have a special moment in a show that personally means a lot to them. It may not be the biggest laugh or the biggest musical number, but it's a moment that just grabs them. Is there something like that for you in "Wicked?"

KM: There's a moment at the end of the first act where Elphaba is flying on her broom – the climax of the first act – and I'm the guard that comes in and grabs Glinda. She escapes from us and we charge the Witch. Then we fly backwards and fall on the floor. And we get to see the actress playing Elphaba (Jackie Burns) rise above us every night. It's such a spellbinding moment. And I get to witness that every night, front and center, on the floor. It's the best seat in the house."

"Wicked," through October 17 at The Boston Opera House, 539 Washington Street. Tickets: 1-800-982-2787 or BroadwayAcrossAmerica.com/Boston.



Kevin McMahon: actor, singer, writer.



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"inSession"

The Druid's the Lure in Inman Square

Another in an occasional series, "inSession," which profiles the wealth and diversity of regularly occurring Irish and Celtic music sessions in, or reasonably near, the Greater Boston area.

The Druid

Where: 1357 Cambridge St., Cambridge

When: Tuesdays, 9 p.m. (also Fridays at 7 p.m.)

Began: 2008, but there have been previous sessions

There aren't many Irish music sessions in Boston – or anywhere else, for that matter – which take place underneath a larger-than-life decorative fright mask, one considerably more daunting than the iconic "Scream" visage.

But that's about the only forbidding aspect of this Inman Square-based session, which according to regulars is expansive in spirit – if a bit tight in quarters.

Fiddler Tina Lech, who co-leads the Tuesday night session with her husband, flutist-guitarist Ted Davis, says there's no mystery about The Druid session's good vibes.

"One of the best things about playing here is the bar staff," says Lech, who cut her teeth in the Providence area but has been a mainstay in the Boston session scene for the better part of a decade. "They clap after just about every set, and that helps set the mood. If the bar staff is into it, the crowd is into it, and when that

happens you just have a great time."

If you go to The Druid, it might be a good idea to come as equally prepared to listen as participate. The session space – located around the table at the right-hand side front window – is quite limited, and there's a steady crowd of musicians who tend to frequent the place from week to week. Fortunately, say Lech and Davis, people are considerate enough to give up their spot for a while and let someone else have a go.

On one recent Tuesday night, as Davis positioned a small microphone hanging from a string to help amplify the music slightly, space in The Druid was not as much at a premium as usual. But within a half-hour, about a half-dozen other musicians had arrived, and a combination of two fiddles, three flutes and a bouzouki took on a set of reels at a solid, steady tempo.

"The music here has got a heartbeat to it," said John Coyne, who along with his wife Lisa is a regular at the music table. "Most everyone here knows one another and have been playing together so long, the music doesn't feel rushed; there's a lovely feel to it."

It certainly helps that the bar, and its patrons, display a genuine appreciation for Irish music – an impression reinforced by the presence of posters from the legendary

Lisdoonvarna Festival, among other trappings.

"Sometimes, a pub hires a session simply because they want crowds," says Lech. "But here, they are definitely into it. They appreciate the music for itself. So there's not this tension as in some situations where the pub makes you feel like somehow you're 'not doing your job' because you're not bringing more people in."

Adds Davis, "This is pretty much a local crowd, and they want to come here when there's music. They really want it to be part of their experience."

Best Druid moment?

Says Lech, "It's particularly enjoyable when you get someone from out of town who's passing through Boston, and the bar is literally littered with musicians – some of them waiting to rotate in and play, of course, and some just hanging out.

"Once the Kane sisters [Liz and Yvonne Kane, highly regarded fiddlers from Connemara] came in and were sitting at the bar socializing. Everyone knew they were there, and left spaces for them to sit at the session table, but Liz and Yvonne just stayed at the bar for the longest time until they came over to play. I think if they hadn't come down, the seats would've stayed empty all night, which would have been unprecedented."

BIR Music CD REVIEW

By SEAN SMITH

Luka Bloom, "Dreams In America"

This is the kind of album that, frankly, inspires some ambivalence. On the one hand, this is a new release by Luka Bloom we're talking about here – easily one of Ireland's most compelling singer-songwriters and performers of the past few decades. On the other, though, "Dreams In America" is not really a "new" album, as most all of the songs on it have appeared on his previous releases. Yet it's not exactly a "greatest hits" album either, per se: All are recent re-recordings, 11 of them solo studio efforts and three concert performances. There's also his never-recorded version of the traditional song "Lord Franklin."

According to the publicity material, the reinterpretations "suit the modern-day Luka Bloom and the way he now hears [the songs]." So this would seem to raise the question: For whom is this album intended? If it's Bloom aficionados, will they really discern or appreciate the distinctions (other than the obvious solo-versus-band



dynamic) between the older and modern-day versions? If it's Bloom neophytes, will they be able to get a true feeling for his musical/artistic evolution than via a more conventional retrospective?

Still, to return to the original point, this is Luka Bloom we're talking about here. And the fact is, there are rewards for both aficionado and neophyte on "Dreams In America." The new versions of "Dreams" and "Cold Comfort," for instance, were recorded with significantly less echo, and Bloom comes across as perhaps more accessible, more immediate. The raw emotional narrative in "Bridge of Sorrow," especially in the shift from verse to chorus, is far more apparent here with Bloom performing it solo. The earlier, band version of "The Acoustic Motorbike," which included a didgeridoo, complemented the heady mix of poetry and rap elements, but it doesn't lose much in this incarnation. (Makes one wish for more of the "fun" side of Bloom; maybe reworkings of "You Couldn't Have Come at a Better Time" or "An Irishman in Chinatown?") "Black Is The Colour" and the aforementioned "Lord Franklin," meanwhile, show a fuller extent of Bloom's guitar-playing skills – he's not just a strummer, folks.

Two of the live tracks, "I Hear Her, Like Lorelei" and "Love Is a Monsoon," feature Bloom accompanied by a string section, which if nothing else is at least unobtrusive. Bloom's enduringly popular rendition of Mike Scott's "Sunny Sailor Boy" sounds even lovelier with the audience joining in the chorus – underscoring the bond he forms with his fans at concerts – but to my mind would have been even better if it were just him and them, and without the three musicians appearing on the track.

If the artistic statement in "Dreams In America" may be difficult to grasp, Bloom goes a long way in making up for any shortfall by doing what he does best: singing with the soul and passion that's been with him on all his journeys, whether geographical or spiritual.

Heidi Talbot, "The Last Star" – Listening to "The Last Star," it's hard not to occasionally think of Kate Rusby. Not because Heidi Talbot sounds like Yorkshire's much-beloved curly-haired songbird – she doesn't – but because



the album is produced by none other than Rusby's ex-husband and long-time collaborator John McCusker (now Talbot's partner), and includes musicians like guitarist Ian Carr and accordion player Andy Cutting, who have figured prominently in Rusby's

recordings.

But while there may be hints of, say, "Little Lights" or "The Girl Who Couldn't Fly" here and there, it's inaccurate to cast Talbot as a Kildare version of Rusby. The fact is, on this, her third album, the former Cherish the Ladies lead singer has hit her stride; her singing is unabashedly confident and self-assured, the choice of material (including traditional and contemporary songs plus a few Talbot/McCusker compositions) is stellar, and the arrangements – Rusby references notwithstanding – and musicianship supporting her are both outstanding and well-conceived.

All of this is evident on the highly entertaining, boisterous "Sally Brown," an Anglo-American sea chantey that here is transformed into something resembling a Salvation Army hymn channeled through a Cajun festival, complete with horn section. Talbot, along with guest vocalist Eddi Reader, brings the right amount of verve and salt to a song, which almost certainly did not originate as something young ladies would sing.

Talbot goes to a completely different place on the emotional spectrum on the very next track, "Bantry Girls," a lament for the Irishmen gone to fight abroad. The song has been covered by numerous male and female singers, but Talbot nonetheless brings forth its tenderness and tragedy; and her vulnerability and vibrato are eloquently enhanced by Carr, McCusker and double-bassist Ewen Vernal.

Other tracks of note include "Willie Taylor," a cautionary ballad of love, devotion, and betrayal (with fearsome consequences) featuring cameos by Michael McGoldrick and Phil Cunningham; "Bleecker Street," a Greenwich Village variant of "Patrick Street" – about a one-night stand in which it's the sailor who gets victimized – that incorporates a riff from "Johnny's Jig," which McCusker devotees will recognize from his "Goodnight Ginger" album; and a cover of "At the End of the Day," an overlooked Sandy Denny masterpiece that still tugs at the heartstrings. Speaking of covers, Talbot does herself proud by bringing in the authors of "Hang Me" (Kris Drever) and "Start It All Over Again" (Karine Polwart) to add harmony vocals to her renditions of their respective works.

Talbot, by the way, is to be the featured vocalist in this year's "Christmas Celtic Sojourn" production – one of many future appearances in the US, one would hope and trust.

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Joe Derrane Delivers from Heart and Hearth

(Continued from page 1) cused on the instrument's strengths. It's not meant to be a show-off kind of thing, just to show what a button accordion can do."

On another track, Derrane offers up a medley of two other originals, "Fancy Free," a schottische, and a barn dance that also carries the "Grove Lane" title. Although separate dance forms — and in the case of the schottische, a seldom-heard one — in Derrane's hands they form an irresistible blend.

It's not axiomatic that every great composition has to have a great story behind it, but that seems to be the case with most of Derrane's tunes. "The Prayer Reel" — the middle tune in the first track — for instance, has a very personal and spiritual origin: "Anne was at death's door several years ago, and I was in the hospital chapel twice a day, seven days a week. Somehow, she pulled through, and I always believed it was the Blessed Mother who interceded. This was my way to say 'Thank you.'"

"Breakfast with Jerry" recalls a week-long series of morning repasts with Jerry Holland: "We were both playing at a festival, and the food just wasn't really to our liking, so we'd go into town and get makings for breakfast. Jerry would come over every day and make omelets; I was in charge of the toast, coffee, and dishwashing. We had a wonderful time, and I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Jerry — I miss him a lot."

Derrane wrote "The Lost Jig" — which precedes "Breakfast with Jerry" on the second track — back in 1956 for accordionist and inspiration Tommy Sullivan, then forgot about it until more than 50 years later, when Sullivan's son enclosed a copy of it in a Christmas card.

"Tommy was a big influence. His music had a lot of drive and energy, and I was fascinated by what he did. But he was a dear friend, too. When Anne and I had become

engaged, he had a chance to talk with her, and later she told me that he had said, 'Do you realize what you're marrying into? If you take the music away from Joe, you'll kill him.' Of course, Anne knew that."

Derrane's renditions of traditional tunes, including "Mac's Fancy," "The Monaghan," "Return to Milltown" and "Toss the Feathers," sound no less robust and lively through his Gaillard button accordion. The full, rich sound makes it seem as if Derrane is playing two, if not more, accordions at once.

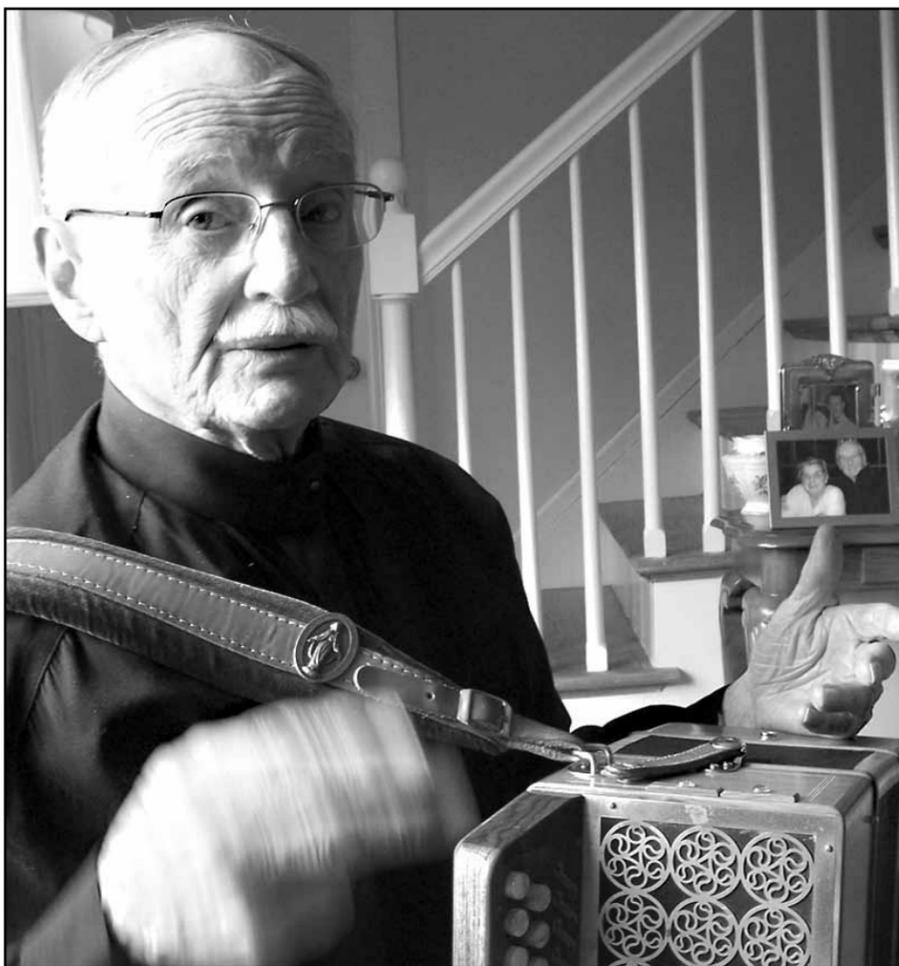
"He's just a stellar musician, with an impeccable groove and sense of timing," says John McGann, who's played with Derrane for more than a decade. "But there's something else about Joe: One of the most difficult things for a traditional musician to do is stay true to the tradition but also to find your own voice. He's injected a lot into the music but without changing its essence."

Considering how full of music Derrane's life has been, one might expect him to have grown up in the paradigmatic musical household. But while his parents — Helen (Galvin) from Roscommon and Patrick from Inishmore — were both musicians, their talents didn't directly figure in Derrane's musical development.

"When I was very little, my mom used to play me asleep with the violin, though I never heard her. The story goes that one day, she put the violin down and I either rolled over on it or picked it up — but that was the end of it. My father played the accordion, but I never knew that until I came home from school one day and heard him playing it."

"Where I got inspired to play was through radio shows: I was five years old, and I'd hear an accordion and come running to listen to it."

Derrane, of course, tapped that childhood enthusiasm and went on to leave his indelible mark



"I'm a great believer in stretching yourself beyond the limits of the instrument," says Derrane. "So I think I've learned more since I started back up again in 1994 than in all the previous years." Sean Smith photo

on Boston Irish music history. Yet it's worth noting that one of the most important events in his life took place not in Boston, but in New York City, where he lived for part of the 1950s.

"I'd been doing gigs at the Tuxedo Ballroom, but I hurt my shoulder and couldn't play for a week or so, and I offered to help out in other ways, like working the cloakroom," he says. "One night, I was talking to the ballroom owner, and I noticed this pretty little girl kind of walking around us in a circle. Then I felt a tap on my shoulder and turned around, and there she was; and she said, 'It's 'Ladies Choice' time.' I was smitten right then and there."

He didn't see her again for two months, but then Derrane began to keep regular company with

Anne Connaughton. A year and a half later, she followed him back to Boston, and in 1955 they were married.

"Waltzing with Anne," one of the more manifestly emotional tracks on "Grove Lane," evokes the all-too-rare occasions —

like that memorable night at the Tuxedo — when the Derranes were able to dance together. "She loved to dance, but I was usually busy performing on the bandstand. I couldn't dance that well, anyway, but it was always such a pleasure when

we would waltz. It was an emotional experience composing 'Waltzing with Anne,' and difficult to record it, but I wanted to do something in classic ballroom style to celebrate those memories."

The Derranes lived in Dorchester early on, but with the arrival of children, Sheila and Joe Jr., they decided it was time to head for the metaphorical greener pastures. Much to their delight, they found that and more at the end of a dirt road a little north of downtown Randolph.

"Back then, it was all farmland," recalls Derrane. "In the evening, there would be cows out at the fence, and your man would come with a hay rake and a team of horses. We loved the privacy, the feeling of being out in the country, and yet we were only a little more than 10 miles outside of Boston."

Grove Lane has changed, of course: There are several neighbors now on the street, which is paved, and the surrounding farmland has been replaced by suburban housing. But it still feels like home for Joe Derrane, and always will.

"There has been a lot of music here these 51 years, even during the period when I was away from Irish music," he says. "Everything was always here in Grove Lane for me, and for Anne, so I'm glad to be able to give it this connection to my music."



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

Coming closer to January—The BCM Fest Board is currently confirming its performer selections for the 2011 festival, which takes place Jan. 7 and 8, and will announce the line-up shortly. Once again, there were many outstanding submissions this year, and the board wants to thank all who applied.

Chilling out—Ordinarily, you might have to wait until the end of October for Halloween-related activities, but BCM Fest is getting an early jump on the spooky season with its Oct. 11 Celtic Music Monday concert at Club Passim in Harvard Square.

"Whistling By the Graveyard: Ghost Songs and Murder Ballads" will feature the scary, supernatural side of the folk song tradition, presented by some of

Greater Boston's most splendid songsters:
 • Fiddler/singer **Lissa Schneckenburger**, accompanied by guitarist **Bethany Waickman**, has become a veritable fount of New England folk music, both vocal and instrumental, combining traditional and contemporary styles.
 • The duo of **Hannah Sanders and Liz Simmons** blend guitars and timeless-sounding, yet quite modern, vocals in their renditions of ancient ballads from Celtic traditions as well as latter-day and original compositions.

• **Laura Cortese** (fiddle) and **Jefferson Hamer** (guitar) bring intensity and verve to their song and instrumental performances, weaving complex rhythms from riffs and melodies.

Schneckenburger, the concert's musical organizer, says songs like "The Cruel Mother," "Polly Vaughn" and "Two Sisters" can still capture people's imaginations, even in an era of over-the-top entertainment.

"There's no substitute for the power of a really good story, no matter how it's told," says Schneckenburger. "You don't need a big-budget production with incredible special effects; a song — even one that's hundreds of years old — with riveting imagery and strong emotion can put you under quite a spell."

"I often read through old song books looking for cool stories. I feel like I'm reading a novel, or a collection of short stories, as I piece together the narrative of each song. And it can be just as gripping as a modern murder mystery, as I read each stanza and realize what's happening to the characters."

To really get into the mood for "Whistling in the



Lissa Schneckenburger

Graveyard," Schneckenburger suggests audience members consider wearing an appropriate costume for the occasion. The person with the best costume, she says, will get two tickets to the Oct. 25 concert at Club Passim for her new CD "Dance." [Additional details on the costume-ticket giveaway will be available at bcmfest.com.]

Tickets for the Oct. 11 concert, which starts at 8 p.m., are \$12, \$6 for members of Club Passim, WGBH and WUMB. For reservations and other information, see www.clubpassim.org.

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

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By JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Last month, we wrote about Irish bed and breakfasts and how many of the owners have elevated B&B accommodation in Ireland to an art form.

Our favorites, as outlined then, include: Cahergal Farm in Newmarket-on-Fergus and Riverfield House in Doolin, both Co. Clare; Glasha Farmhouse in Ballymacarbry, Co. Waterford; Gearhadiveen in Kenmare, Co. Kerry; and The Heron's Cove in Goleen, West Cork. We also added Heaton's in Dingle to the list even though the owners actually list it as a guesthouse. We think it's nearly a B&B because of the warmth and personal attention from the owners that you experience in many B&Bs.

True, some travelers prefer the anonymity of a large hotel where you are just a name on the books. I have a friend who teaches photography all over Ireland and, when he's working, he prefers hotels so he can focus on his lesson plans and his thoughts and he doesn't feel obliged to chat with anyone.

Myself, I like chatting because the local folks often share so much history and information about interesting and perhaps lesser-known attractions that you could miss if you were in a big hotel. Many of the larger hotels these days are not even staffed by native Irish but by foreigners who come to Ireland to work or learn English and they seldom make great guides for the area because they don't know anything about it.

THE HERON'S COVE
We stayed for two nights last spring at the most wonderful B&B in Goleen, West Cork, called The Heron's Cove.

If you have never visited West Cork, you have missed one of the most beautiful parts of Ireland. There are many nice accommodations all around that area and many great restaurants too – including The Heron's Cove, where the food is locally sourced and exceptionally fresh, very well prepared and absolutely delicious. Both breakfast and dinner offered an extensive menu.

Sue Hill owns The Heron's Cove, which is near Mizen Head, Ireland's most southwesterly point. While you're there, be sure to visit Fastnet Rock Lighthouse and the Mizen Head Signal Station Visitor Centre.

If you can't find something to quench your thirst at The Heron's Cove (which would be hard to believe because they have all sorts of beverages), there are four pubs in town and it is just a short walk away.

Bedrooms are spacious and en suite bathrooms are as clean as can be. My bedroom overlooked the cove and I enjoyed watching the changing light on the water.

We found Heron's Cove to be a great place for a base as we toured West Cork's lovely coastline. Be sure to book rooms and dinner ahead, though, as the B&B is extremely popular, has received numerous prestigious awards, and is recommended by many guidebooks. See more about this charming B&B at the website heroncove.ie.

And, believe it or not, there was actually one lone heron in the cove the entire time we stayed there. He – or she – changed locations and would be on one side of the cove or the other, depending on tide, but it was always there. I jokingly asked if the heron was a pet and trained to stay within sight of the dining room windows. The owner gave me kind of a funny look. Guess they're not accustomed to American humor.

GLASHA FARMHOUSE

We met a young couple at a B&B in Co. Clare some years ago, who had just visited Co. Waterford and highly recommended Glasha Farmhouse (glashafarmhouse.com) in Ballymacarbry. Honestly, we were so glad they did because we made a point of staying there and found it to be a wonderful place to spend time and to dine. We loved every minute in that elegant farmhouse.

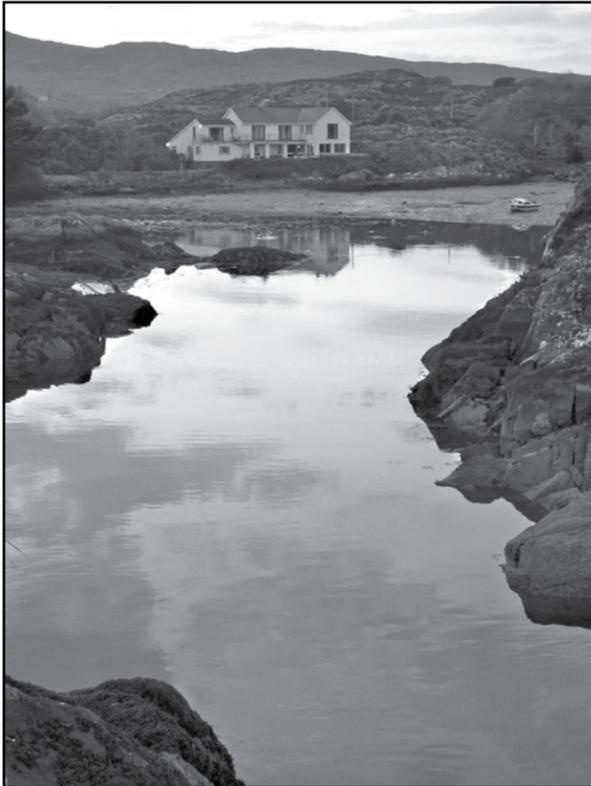
Olive Gorman is attentive, welcoming, and entertaining as well as an inspired cook. Her meals are truly edible works of art.

We stayed at Glasha on a chilly November night and welcomed a glass of wine and the warmth of a blazing turf fire in the living room fireplace before dinner. We ordered an appetizer of mushrooms stuffed with bacon and goat cheese and had poached monkfish in creamy red pepper sauce for an entrée. The food was perfectly prepared and the dining room, in a large glass solarium, offers a grand view of Glasha's magnificent gardens.

The evening was espe-



Glasha Farmhouse is Glasha Farmhouse is a jewel of a B&B near Ballymacarbry, Co. Waterford.



Beautiful Heron's Cove B&B in Goleen, West Cork, at sunset. (Judy Enright photos)

cially memorable because it was election night in the States and we woke the next morning to learn that Barack Obama, who has Irish roots in Co. Offaly through his mother's side of the family, was the new president.

Glasha is set in a lovely area with lush farming land around it, but it is probably far enough off the beaten track so that few travelers visit, which is a pity. Glasha Farmhouse is a great place to spend some time.

HEATON'S

If the Dingle peninsula is a must for every tourist traveling around Ireland, then we think staying at Heaton's, on the edge of Dingle Bay and the harbor and just a short walk from town, is a must, too.

We've stayed at Heaton's twice now and had a wonderful experience both times. The breakfast there is hard to beat. Every morsel is fresh, delicious, and beautifully prepared! I ordered fresh fish, which I love to have for breakfast, and then helped myself to some of the offerings on the huge buffet – especially the bread and butter pudding. Utterly divine!

Meals are served in the bright and sunny Shore View Restaurant, which overlooks the water. The head chef is proprietors Cameron and Nuala Heaton's son, David, who creates masterpieces from fresh, local ingredients and changes the menu daily.

There are 16 clean, well-appointed guest rooms

at Heaton's with every modern convenience including powerful showers, TV, telephone, coffee/tea-maker and we were able to get on the internet, which is not always the case in every hotel or B&B.

We highly recommend Heaton's and if you'd like more information, please visit the website heatonsingle.com

DUBLIN ZOO

We were delighted to read in *The Irish Times* that the Dublin Zoo plans a major revamp of one of its oldest enclosures to create a gorilla rainforest.

The *Times* reported that "the new landscape will have streams, dense vegetation, small hills and rocky outcrops mimicking the animals' wild environment. The zoo is also planning forest paths with special hidden viewing points for visitors to see the western lowland gorillas." The two-million



Cahergal Farm in Newmarket-on-Fergus, Co. Clare, is a comfortable B&B close to Shannon Airport and a great place to spend the night when you arrive in Ireland or the night before you leave.

euro, year-long development was set to begin last month and will ultimately be home to five gorillas.

The Dublin zoo has been home to western lowland gorillas for many years and the current gorillas there are regarded as a functioning group and part of a breeding population of 400 in European zoos.

The Dublin Zoo is a lot of fun and a great place to spend a day.

OCTOBER EVENTS

Even though summer is over, the fall is a busy time in Ireland with all sorts of activities planned around the country.

There's a national race-day and ladies day in Limerick Oct. 10 (limerickraces.ie) and an international poetry festival from Oct. 13-16, also in Limerick, celebrating contemporary poetry.

Hungry? Then, don't miss the 34th Bollinger Kinsale International Gourmet Festival 2010, from Oct. 8-10 at eleven Good Food Circle member restaurants in this bucolic seaside town in Co. Cork. For more information, visit kinsalerestaurants.com

From Oct. 10-16, there will be tall tales, lies, legends and myths exchanged in the Slieve Bloom Mountains (slievebloom.ie), which rise from the central plains of Ireland, form a natural link between Counties Laois and Offaly, and are halfway between Galway and Dublin, Belfast and Cork, Donegal and Rosslare.

There will also be storytelling in Lough Gur, an archaeological and historical town southeast of Limerick city. When in Lough Gur, you can visit the Honey Fitz Theatre, which is home to the Lough Gur Dramatic society and gets its name from John Francis Fitzgerald (1863-1950) former Boston mayor and JFK's grandfather. Fitzgerald

was dubbed "Honey Fitz" for his singing voice. In its first life - from 1854 to 1966 - the theatre building was a national school.

The Great Pumpkin Festival is planned for Oct. 22 - 25 on Main Street in Virginia, Co. Cavan. The lakeside town is lit up with carved and lighted pumpkins, there's a street carnival, arts and crafts, top international music acts and a fireworks display over Lough Ramor. Visit pumpkinfestival.ie for more details.

Traditional music, song and dance will be heard in the Co. Clare village of Doonbeg from Oct. 22-25 during a festival that honors the late set dancer Willie Keane. For more details, visit the website williekeanememorialweekend.com

Halloween is well celebrated by the Irish with a series of events all over the country including Halloween Fun and Games on Oct. 25 at Bunratty Folk Park in Co. Clare; a Halloween-themed children's arts festival, Oct. 25-29 and Halloween in the Haunted Gardens at Birr Castle Demesne on Oct. 31, both in Birr, Co. Offaly; and a mystery Halloween party at the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Center in Co. Clare on Oct. 31.

TRAVEL

Be sure to visit your favorite travel agent or the Aer Lingus website (aerlingus.com) for the latest direct flights and ground deals. Flights and deals are also offered by US Airways (usairways.com) and other airlines, but usually involve layovers in Chicago, Newark, New York, Philadelphia, or elsewhere, adding several hours to the trip but also reducing the cost.

Also check out autumnal and more Halloween happenings at Tourism Ireland's website (discoverireland.com).



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Poetry and Grief: James Joyce's 'Tilly'

By THOMAS O'GRADY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

For the past few weeks, for one reason or another, I have been thinking about poetry and grief—or more specifically, about poems which register and express grief over the loss of a loved one. I have been especially attuned to lyric poems—concise and precise articulations of the emotions involving loss that provide what Robert Frost once called “a momentary stay against confusion.” (Incidentally, Frost also once observed: “Poetry is about the grief. Politics is about the grievance.”) The Irish may not have the market cornered on this sort of poem, but Irish writers have certainly turned out their fair share.

One obvious example, frequently anthologized, is Seamus Heaney's “Mid-Term Break,” an early poem in which Heaney recalls the death of a younger brother struck and killed by a car while the future poet, still just a boy himself, is away at boarding school. The poem leads the reader through the whole experience—from the news reaching young Seamus at school, through his being driven home by neighbors, then seeing his father in tears and being embarrassed by “old men standing up to shake my hand // And tell me they were ‘sorry for my trouble.’” What stays with the reader, however, is neither the glimpse of the poet's distraught mother coughing out “angry tearless sighs” nor even the arresting image of his little brother in the first two lines of the final tercet—“Wearing a poppy bruise on his left temple, / He lay in the four foot box as in his cot.” Rather, reinforced by full rhyme with the penultimate line of the poem (“No gaudy scars, the bumper knocked him clear”), the recognition etched in the standalone final line is also etched indelibly in the reader's memory: “A four foot box, a foot for every year.” In his essay “Hamlet and His Problems,” poet T. S. Eliot describes the challenge faced by the artist attempting to convey a complex and subtle emotion: “The only way of expressing emotion in the form of art is by finding an ‘objective correlative’; in other words, a set of objects, a situation, a chain of events which shall be the formula of that particular emotion; such that when the external facts, which must terminate in sensory experience, are given, the emotion is immediately evoked.” Acknowledging the almost unspeakable sadness of a child's death, the equation that Heaney draws between his brother's life cut short and the miniature coffin he lies in reads as a classic example of Eliot's idea.

The objective correlative may not be the only way to express publicly an emotion as private as grief, but it certainly works in “Reo” by Seán Ó Ríordáin, considered by many readers and scholars the preeminent Irish-language poet of the twentieth century. In an essay on Ó Ríordáin in his book *Repossessions: Selected Essays on the Irish Literary Heritage*, Professor Seán Ó Tuama observes that in this poem “Ó Ríordáin consciously or unconsciously reverses and transforms one of the oldest European love-formulas, that of the poet walking out one leafy summer morning and meeting a fair lady. Here it is a winter morning, frost in the air, the boughs bare and he encounters not love but death. . . . This is quite probably . . . [a] lament for his mother, beautiful, unique, and absolutely in the Irish as well



James Joyce circa 1904.

as in the European tradition.” Translated as “Frozen” by Valentine Iremonger, in its matter-of-factness “Reo” requires no paraphrase:

On a frosty morning I went out
And a frozen handkerchief faced me on a bush.
I reached to put it in my pocket
But it slid from me for it was frozen.
No living cloth jumped from my grasp
But a thing that died last night on a bush,
And I went searching in my mind
Till I found its real equivalent:
The day I kissed a woman of my kindred
And she in the coffin, frozen, stretched.

Interestingly, in his recent translation of “Reo,” Greg Delanty substitutes for “equivalent” the word “correlative”—a telling nod toward T. S. Eliot in this poem in which the disconcerting frozenness of the handkerchief transmits to the reader the disconcerting personal loss that is the poem's true subject.

For both Patrick Kavanagh and James Joyce, the loss of a beloved father likewise demands an expression of grief more crystallized than discursive. In “Memory of My Father,” Kavanagh invites the reader to see the personal in the same way that he does—relative to the universal:

Every old man I see
Reminds me of my father
When he had fallen in love with death
One time when sheaves were gathered.

For Kavanagh, the absence of his father (who died in 1929, ten years before this poem was written) is accentuated poignantly by various paternal avatars whom the poet encounters randomly: “That man I saw in Gardiner Street / Stumble on the kerb,” “the musician / Faltering over his fiddle / In Bayswater, London.” Paradoxically, his father becomes an enduring presence

by way of the familiar figure cut by these men.

For Joyce, the objective correlative resides in a different sort of universal—in the cycle of generational death and birth illuminated for him by the birth of his grandson Stephen shortly after the death of John Joyce, the author's father. In a letter written in Paris on January 1st, 1932 (coincidentally, to T. S. Eliot), Joyce explained how his sorrow over his father's death two days earlier was compounded by guilt over his rigid adherence to self-imposed exile from Ireland: “He had an intense love for me and it adds anew to my grief and remorse that I did not go to Dublin to see him for so many years. I kept him constantly under the illusion that I would come and was always in correspondence with him but an instinct which I believed in held me back from going, much as I longed to.” Six weeks later, on the day his grandson was born, February 15th, Joyce captured in the concluding quatrain of his succinct four-stanza poem “Ecce Puer” (Latin for “behold the boy-child”) the essence of filial grief:

A child is sleeping:
An old man gone.
O, father forsaken,
Forgive your son!

But the poem of Joyce's that I keep returning to with regard to the expression of grief is one that he wrote in 1904, in response to the death of his mother, Mary Jane (“May”) Murray Joyce, in August of 1903. Joyce originally titled the poem “Cabra,” after the northside Dublin community where the family was living (at 7 St. Peter's Terrace) at the time of Mrs. Joyce's passing, and originally intended to include it in his volume *Chamber Music*, published in 1907. But feeling that its sober tone did not fit with the rest of that gathering, he withdrew it and withheld it from publication until 1927, when he placed it, re-titled “Tilly,” at the opening of his 13-poem chapbook *Pomes Penyeach*. (The word “tilly” means “a little bit extra”—which seems to be how Joyce thought of this poem relative to the others in the volume, which were all written between 1912 and 1924 in Trieste, Zurich, and Paris.)

Comprising three free-verse quatrains, “Tilly” begins with a two-stanza depiction of a cattle drover written from the perspective that Joyce has his character Stephen Dedalus describe in *A Portrait of the Artist as Young Man* as the “dramatic form”—the literary point of view in which “The personality of the artist . . . refines itself out of existence, impersonalizes itself, so to speak”:

He travels after a winter sun,
Urging the cattle along a cold red road,
Calling to them, a voice they know,
He drives his beasts above Cabra.

The voice tells them home is warm.
They moo and make brute music with their hoofs.
He drives them with a flowering branch before him,
Smoke pluming their foreheads.

Crucially, though, the third stanza represents a shift in perspective to what Stephen Dedalus calls “the lyrical form”—“the form wherein the artist presents his image in immediate relation to himself”—as the introduction of the first-person point of view (the “I” in the third line) reflects Joyce's acknowledgement of a profound personal investment in the poem's subject matter:

Boor, bond of the herd,
Tonight stretch full by the fire!
I bleed by the black stream
For my torn bough!

In effect, the broken-off branch used by the drover as a switch to steer the cattle homeward becomes for the speaker in the poem (ostensibly Joyce himself) what Stephen Dedalus calls “the simplest verbal vesture of

an instant of emotion”—the emblem of what has been irreparably broken in the life of the speaker: it becomes what the alert reader might recognize in other words as an objective correlative for irreversible loss. Read this way, this “tilly” of a poem written in 1904 stands not only as a subtle lyric poem in its own right but also an intriguing companion piece to the “Telemachus” episode of Joyce's masterwork *Ulysses*, set on the morning of June 16th, 1904, which focuses in large part on Stephen Dedalus' unresolved feelings of grief—like Joyce's own—regarding the death of his mother almost a year earlier.

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



Southill Junior School

Southill, Lisnackill. Tel. 061 - 419879. Fax 061 - 319236
Email: southill@junior-school.com

March 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

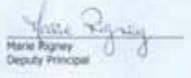
Southill Junior School has been a centre of education for children from Southill since it opened in 1969. It serves what was a very large disadvantaged community to what is now a declining, divided community due to unemployment, anti-social behaviour and the slow response of Government to Regeneration.

However, here in Southill Junior School, we offer kindness, participation, and a place of learning and friendship for children from Pre-School at age 3 years to our senior class at age 8 years.

The Southill Children's Fund has helped us fulfil many objectives we have for these children. Funding has provided much needed resources, opportunities to travel and partake in projects, and to engage with other schools in Lisnackill City.

In the early 1980's, our first Computer Room was opened by Mr. Billy Higgins, Boston, with the wonderful financial assistance of the Southill Children's Fund. Now we embark on a new initiative to bring the latest technology to our classrooms by installing Interactive White Boards and Software to suit. We acknowledge a major grant from the Department of Education & Science towards this project, but we need to continue our fundraising efforts to enable us to provide up-to-date technology for the children of Southill. We appreciate the continued efforts of Billy Higgins and his Fund Raising for the wonderful children of Southill, Ireland.


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Saturday, October 2nd - The Dons
Thursday, October 7th
Jimmy Richards
Friday, October 8th - Shey's rebellion
Saturday, October 9th - Elbowroom
Thursday, October 14th - Matt Chase
Friday, October 15th
Colm O'Brian Duo

Saturday, October 16th
Dublin Free Press
Thursday, October 21st
Acoustic Phase CD release party
Friday, October 22nd - Chamber's Tobias
Saturday, October 23rd - Greatfuls

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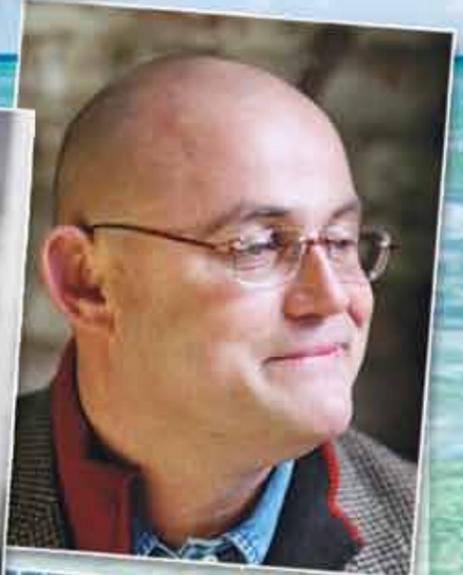
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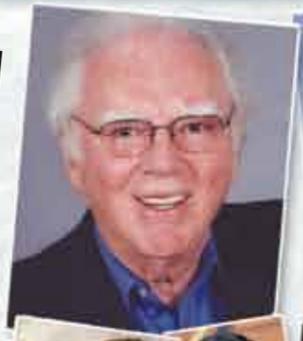
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The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

In past months you have looked at “Wh- words” or See if you can read this little conversation in Irish. Patrick enters a little café in Galway.

1. Nóra: **Tráthnóna maith, a Phádraig. Conas atá tú?**
2. Pádraig: **Tá mé go maith, buíochas le Dia, ach tá mé an-fhuar.**
3. Nóra: **Fuar? Conas atá an aimsir amuigh?**
4. Pádraig: **Tá sé go dona, fuar ‘s fluich.**
5. Nóra: **An gabh tú cupán caife?**
6. Pádraig: **Gabhfaidh, go raibh maith agat. Agus ceapaire.**
7. Nóra: **Bainne agus siúcra?**
8. Pádraig: **Níor mhaith, go raibh maith agat. ‘S fear liom caife dubh.**
9. Nóra: **Seo.**
10. Pádraig: **Cé mhéad?**
11. Nora: **Seacht Euro, más é do thoil é.**

Could you translate this well? (1.) What time of day is it? (2.) What is the weather like? (3.) How is Patrick’s health? (4.) But how else is he? (5.) What does Nora offer Patrick? (6.) What does she ask if he wants with his coffee? (7.) How does he say, “Yes”? (8.) How does he say, “No”? (9.) What does Patrick like? (10.) Can you guess what a **ceapaire** is? (11.) How does Nora say, “Here it is”? (12.) What does Patrick ask Nora? (13.) What is her answer? (14.) How do you say “Please” and “Thank you”? (15.) Who does Patrick thank for his health?

Answers: (1.) It is afternoon/evening. (2.) The weather is very bad – cold and wet. (3.) He is very well. (4.) But he is also very cold. (5.) She offers him a cup of coffee. (6.) “Milk and sugar”. (7.) He agrees, using the **same verb** she used in the **Future Tense**. (8.) He disagrees using **níor**, a **Past Tense particle**. (9.) He like his coffee black. (10.) It is a new word, “sandwich”. (11.) She simply says, “Here – **Seo**”. (12.) He asks, “How much?” (13.) “Seven Euros” (14.) “Please” – **más é do thoil é**; “Thank you” – **go raibh maith agat**. (15.) He thanks God.

Notice in Line 1 that she addresses him as **A Phádraig**, using the honorific **A** which requires **lenition** (aspiration) of his name since it begins with **P**. This will change the pronunciation from /PAH-trik/ to /FAH-trik/. You must always do this when speaking directly to a person; you may omit it when talking about a person.

Remember that the first **a** in **atá** is not pronounced but must be there in writing “Official Irish” – but I see it being omitted in some new texts.

In Line 5, Nora asks, “Would you like (take) a cup of coffee?” His answer is “**Gabhfaidh**” the Future Tense of **Gabh**, “Yes” followed by “Thank you.”

There are no absolute words in Irish for “yes” and “no.” To agree with what someone says you must use the **same verb** they used in the **future tense**; to disagree you must use the **past tense negative “níor maith”**.

Why? Just because that’s the way it is. Actually since there is no real “present” time one can only agree as a future and disagree as a past.

There are at least three ways in Irish to ask, “How are you?” **Cad é mar atá tú?**, **Cén bhfuil a chaoi tú?**, and **Conas atá tú?** This last one is the most used by learners since it matches directly with English:

Conas atá tú?
How are you?

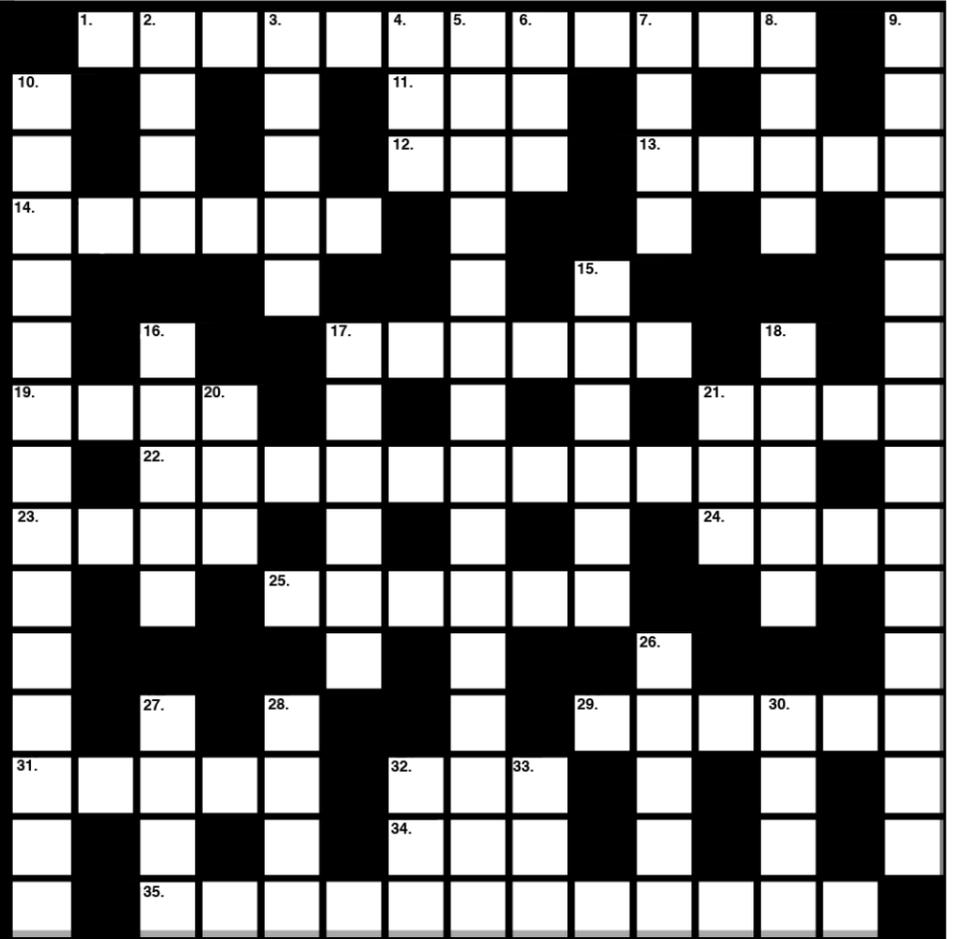
Ceapaire is a new word meaning “sandwich”. Notice that Patrick did not have to say, “**a** sandwich.” There are no indefinite articles (“a, some, any”) in Irish.

Here are some sentences to translate into Irish: 1.) “How much is a sandwich?” 2.) “Whose sandwich is this?” 3.) “Which cup do you want?” 4.) “Who is there?” 5.) “It’s Barry.” 6.) “I don’t know.” 7.) “Who ate the sandwich?” 8.) “Don’t you know?” 9.) “Who are you?” 10.) “What time is it?” 11.) “When does the train from Derry arrive?” 12.) “Why are you learning Irish?” 13.) “My mother spoke Irish.” 14.) “Would you take a cup of tea?”

Answers: 1.) **Cé mhéad ceapaire?** 2.) **Cé leis an ceapaire seo?** 3.) **Cé cupán atá uait?** 4.) **Cé atá ann?** 5.) **Is mise Barra.** 6.) **Níl fhios agam.** 7.) **Cé d’ithe an ceapaire?** 8.) **An bhfuil fhios agat?** 9.) **Cé hé tusa?** 10.) **Cén t-am é?** 11.) **Cén uair tiocfaidh an traein ó Doire?** 12.) **Cén fath tusa ag foghlaim Gaelge?** 13.) **Bhí Gaelge ag mo mhathair.** 14.) **An gabh tú cupán tae?**

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. A cell dustbin goes astray in Irish capital stronghold wherein is St. Patrick’s Hall used for many state functions. (6,6)
11. Electron deficient learner fails to start jungle king. (3)
12. Conditional return of plant container. (3)
13. Wants to be born a detective sergeant. (5)
14. I moult badly in the last month in beautiful Timoleague. (6)
17. Did the cow sound colourful when the boat was tied up? (6)
19. “You write with ease, to show — breeding. But easy writing’s vile hard reading.” Sheridan. (4)
21. Ardferret rekindling involves long migratory march. (4)
22. All one’s bail (anag.) Galway horse town with a well-known castle adjoining Garbally park. (11)
23. “There was — ground where a man might linger, For a week or two for time was not our master.” Ewan McColl -The Travelling People. (4)
24. Noble but not quite on time. (4)
25. Cut back and see where the zloty goes round. (6)
29. This do suit, up in workplace. (6)
31. “Where fierce indignation can no longer tear his —.” Epitaph of Jonathan Swift. (5)
32. Drunkard returns to south. (3)
34. Soft approach by United Nations initially is a wordy joke. (3)
35. Wants west tor. (anag.) Tyrone village near Coal-island and seat of Viscount Charlemont. (12)

DOWN

2. One nut I cracked. (4)
3. Peruvian pack animal seen coming back through Tuam all alone. (5)
4. Upset trash can to find the means of writing. (3)
5. Oh, R.U.C. tour ban row. (anag.) North Wexford seaside resort near Gorey with a 2 mile sandy beach. (8,7)
6. “Go to the — thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise.” Proverbs Chap. 6 verse 6 (3)
7. Sound of Ireland’s first republican? (4)
8. “Nothing is — done in this world until men are prepared to kill one another if it is not done.” Shaw (4)

9. Elf room passkey. (anag.) Galway beauty spot near Letterfrack with 3 lakes and a famous abbey. (4,2,8)
10. No, tough, many can be broken in Ulster region of many lakes, known as the MacMahon country. (6,8)
15. Engaged in banter seated around. (8)
16. Brute dug up the root crop. (5)
17. Grand let in prosperous Cork town, known as the ‘Bath of Ireland’ where Thomas Davies was born. (6)
18. “No, there’s nothing half so sweet in life As love’s young — —.” Moore. (5)
20. Made haste along in Maghera navigation. (3)
21. Tip of the separate legend! (3)
26. A contrived event will put a stop to growth. (5)
27. Sam’s coming over for the celebration. (4)
28. Southern, yet upset about what’s causing a pain in the eye. (4)
30. Tie in the back room of the hospital. (4)
32. Sap rising in Kerry resort four miles west of Tralee, with mineral springs. (3)
33. Take us out of 26 down with explosive result initially. (3)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 23

Irish Sayings ...

- “People live in each other’s shelter.”
 “The world would not make a racehorse of a donkey.”
 “You are not a fully fledged sailor unless you have sailed under full sail.” “and you have not built a wall unless you have rounded a corner.”
 “There is no strength without unity.”
 “You must live with a person to know a person. If you want to know me come and live with me.”
 “Praise the young and they will blossom”
 “The raggy colt often made a powerful horse.”
 “Age is honorable and youth is noble.”
 “Youth does not mind where it sets its foot.”
 “Both your friend and your enemy think you will never die.”
 “The well fed does not understand the lean.”
 “He who comes with a story to you brings two away from you”

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Thirty-Two Counties

Antrim: Mervyn Kinkead from Lisburn is sixty-five but his sense of adventure hasn't deserted him yet. He recently became the first man to cross the Irish Sea in a bath, having travelled from Donaghadee to Portpatrick, a distance of nineteen nautical miles, in eight hours. About three miles short of his destination the unusual vessel began to take water, but Mervyn managed to bail it out and he was greeted in Portpatrick by a welcoming crowd. At first he had talked jokingly about making the voyage but someone suggested doing it for charity and Mervyn took up the challenge.

Armagh: Next year has been designated International Year of Volunteers and one person who certainly embodies the concept is Bidy Kaufmann from Meigh. Bidy, who is 97 years of age, spent about half her life in America where she continued her volunteering activities. On her return to Ireland some forty years ago she began helping those affected by the Troubles. Now she runs a luncheon club for pensioners, the youngest of whom is 80, and is also a founder member of the Meigh Community Association and was a prime mover in the establishment of the Meigh Community Centre that opened fifteen years ago.

Carlow: The as-yet-unnamed roundabout at the junction of the Palentine and Hacketstown roads in Carlow has a new feature, its very own dolmen. Since the roundabout comes under the remit of the county rather than the town council, it was decided to save money by not calling in a design team. Instead town engineer Brian O'Donovan and Pat Doyle co-operated in installing a dolmen, using a capstone Pat found while carrying out work at Duckett's Grove. In addition, six trees have been planted on the roundabout, six bays of gravel have been installed and ivy has been set. The colours featured are the county colours of red, yellow and green.

Cavan: Many people are familiar with the Maguire twins, Leona and Lisa, the fifteen-year-old golfing prodigies from Ballyhugh, but now they have a rival for attention. Their nine-year-old brother Odhran last month became the youngest Irish child ever to win the Wee Wonders Great Britain/Ireland competition, which took place at the famous St Andrew's course in Scotland. Odhran was competing against more than 1,200 hundred participants from 30 countries and won the competition by an impressive seven shots. Teachers at his national school have presented Odhran with a new putter to mark his achievement.

Clare: The Cliffs of Moher have been shortlisted for inclusion in the New 7 Wonders of Nature list, which is due to be published in November, and last week an interesting method of securing votes was staged. Children from twenty national schools in the north of the county were on hand to release more than 700 bright orange balloons, each bearing the "Vote for the Cliffs" logo. The balloons also carried an invitation to contact the Cliffs of Moher visitor centre. According to centre manager Katherine Webster, the hope is that some of the biodegradable balloons will travel far enough to bring in the diaspora vote.

Cork: The organ in St. Fin Barre's Cathedral, which is the only such instrument to have been constructed in a pit, is to be rebuilt and work has already begun on the project.

The organ was placed in a 14-foot pit some 140 years ago to ensure the pipes did not obscure the stained glass window, with the result that acoustics became a problem as it took some time for the sound to travel to the back of the cathedral. However, according to acoustics experts the rebuilding of the organ will ensure that this problem will be overcome, while new bellows and blowers will also be installed.

Derry: Fearing that the state of the parochial house could lead to the loss of a priest in the parish, the people of Glenullin, between Garvagh and Dungiven, have built a new parochial house. The job was carried out during the summer evenings and weekends and curate Father Karl Hann is looking forward to moving in soon. Already the village has come together to create a top-class GAA ground, to build a community centre, and to prepare for outdoor Masses in an ancient chapel. The work on the new parochial house was coordinated by members of John Mitchel's GAA Club.

Donegal: Last month Anne Marie Ward from Portnablagh became the first Irish woman and the tenth person to complete the swim from Northern Ireland to Scotland. Anne Marie was accompanied by a support team including members of Sheephaven Swimming Club on what was her fourth attempt at the crossing. Setting off from Co. Down, Anne Marie completed the 22-mile crossing in a time just inside nineteen hours, arriving in Portpatrick on the Scottish coast in the early hours of the morning. As on a similar attempt, she was plagued by jellyfish and was covered in stings by the time she reached her destination.

Down: Last month, Newry afforded a civic reception to its own dance champion, Naomh Morgan, who was named Champion of Champions at the World Cup of Dance held on the island of Sardinia in July. She had already won both the modern dance and tap sections before taking the overall title. The reception was hosted in the council chamber by Mayor Mick Murphy and was attended by Naomh's family and friends in addition to members of the local authority. The civic reception for Naomh, a student at the Sacred Heart school, was initially proposed by Councillor Jack Patterson.

Dublin: The tenth anniversary of the National Braille Production Centre at St Joseph's Centre for the Visually Impaired in Drumcondra was marked last month by a visit from artist Robert Ballagh and Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney. A bench had been designed for the occasion by Ballagh, while Heaney had composed a poem, "Seeing the Sky," which has been inscribed in Braille onto the bench. The centre has 25 staff members who last year completed 2,800 transcriptions into Braille.

Fermanagh: Sinead Murphy, originally from Lisnaskea but now working in Los Angeles, last month undertook a 100-mile bicycle ride across California from Los Angeles to San Diego to raise funds for a friend's nephew. Sinead, the daughter of Madeline and Tony Murphy, is raising money for treatment for fifteen-year-old Joey Richardson, who was paralyzed from the waist down following an accident last year. He is responding to treatment but unfortunately his insurance does not cover the cost and Sinead is joining with other members of the Irish community to help



the family out.

Galway: Michael Dempsey from Moylough built a house, in part to provide income after his retirement, but after two years trying to sell the four-bedroom bungalow he has now said he is open to "any offers over one euro." The house is costing him money in insurance, maintenance, and property tax and might have had to be boarded up, but now he has had a significant number of people showing an interest in his unusual offer. Among those who contacted him yesterday was a Nigerian doctor living in Dublin and a woman with links with the county who is a native of Australia.

Kerry: As part of his bid to reclaim ancestral lands for the Irish people, former New York policeman John Sweeney was in Lough last month where he drew his sword on Charles Bigham, the grandson of Lord Lansdowne. The incident took place in Dereen Gardens and the Lansdowne Estate was one of a number, including Blarney Castle Estate and Lismore Castle in Co. Waterford, which John Sweeney wants to win back through the courts. He crowned himself King of Ireland last year, ordering his crown from Dublin, and set up the charity known as Irish Crown Estates through which he hopes to help Irish people in need.

Kildare: Twelve years ago a number of plaques created by sculptor Brid Ní Rinn were put into storage but at last they are to be taken out and affixed to a 1798 monument in Athy. The delay in erecting the monument was due to archaeological problems at the original site on Woodstock Street but the monument is now to be located at Emily Square. The plaques will be placed on three limestone slabs, each some eight feet in height, with inscriptions in Irish, English, and French. The first week in November has been suggested as a possible date for the unveiling of the monument.

Kilkenny: Jackie Hoyne of the Blackberry Cafe in Thomastown and Mary McEvoy of A Slice of Heaven in Piltown joined forces last month to produce a range of cupcakes specifically designed to boost spirits for the All-Ireland match against Tipperary. The Kilkenny Cupcake is decked out in black and

amber shirts and features such items as hurleys, sliotars and the Kilkenny flag. The cupcakes were made by Mary and were then sold at Jackie's cafe, where assistant Marianne Mullins reported that people thought they were a great idea and snapped them up.

Laois: A group of Chinese trainee teachers, who have already visited a number of schools in the Dublin area, paid a visit to Derrylamogue National School last month as part of their Irish experience. The school was also pleased to receive the young visitors as it does not have a multicultural element and Principal Maher thought it would be good for her pupils to experience another culture. With just 104 pupils and 4 classroom teachers, Derrylamogue school is a good example of a rural school, a type rare in China. Following the visit the student teachers walked in Glenbarrow before having dinner in a pub in Mountmellick.

Leitrim: Amelia Rose Reynolds from Lough Rynn, Mohill, who is representing the county in this year's The Face of Ireland modelling competition, believes she is in with a good chance of bringing the title home to the county. The nineteen-year-old won her place in the final at the semi-final in Ballybofey in August and the final will also take place in the Donegal town at the end of October. Amelia Rose has two sons, Calvin, aged three and one-year-old Oisín, and is hoping that a modeling career will allow her to give them the best start in life.

Limerick: It is a big disappointment to Declan Murphy of Newcastle West that he has been forced to close down the family business and return to Australia with his wife and three children. Declan is the fifth generation of the Murphy family involved in the men's clothing shop on Maiden Street, and returned from Australia to take over from his father three years ago. However dwindling business due to the recession has led him to make the difficult decision to close the shop begun by his great-great-grandfather in 1889 and re-emigrate with his Australian wife Kate and their three Australian-born children.

Longford: Dr Syed Ali last month announced the securing of a premises on the outskirts of

Longford town for the county's first mosque. The 200,000-euro price has been raised through donations and fundraising for the site at the Townspark Industrial Estate, which will accommodate between three and four hundred people at any one time. Prior to this, Muslims in Longford were worshipping in rented premises or in a private house in the town where no more than thirty people could be accommodated. Dr Ali is the Director of the Longford Islamic Centre.

Louth: Callaghan's Butchers and Deli of Market Street in Ardee has been presented with a Retail Excellence Award in a competition promoting standards in the Irish retail industry. The store is included in the top 100 shops in the country following the visit of a mystery shopper who gave 90 percent approval for the way in which it is run. Callaghan's have been in business for more than 100 years, having been established by present owner Peter Callaghan's great-grandfather in 1906. Peter and his brother Andrew took over the business from their father, Johnny, more than twenty years ago and Andrew now has his own shop in Bettystown.

Mayo: Ballinrobe last month celebrated a native son who was twice awarded the US Medal of Honor for outstanding bravery and had a battleship named after him. John King was born in the townland of Currabee, emigrating to America in 1886 and joining the US Navy seven years later. He saw service in both the Spanish-American war and in the Philippine-American conflict. The ceremony in Ballinrobe included the unveiling of a life-size statue of King and a performance by a US Navy band. Attending the ceremony was Ann Reid, a grand-niece of the US naval hero.

Meath: In order to attract more tourists to the area a new package has been unveiled, with cathaoirleach of the Kells Town Council Conor Fergus launching the venture, with Kevin Kidney of Fáilte Ireland. The Book of Kells Experience can be either a three-day or four-day tour, taking in St. Ciaran's Well and high crosses, the spire of Loyd, Causey Farm, Conalbreany Cemetery, Tailteann House and Kells Victorian Waterworks. Tourists will be able to board any one of eight fourteen- and twenty-seven-seater coaches in Dublin to be brought to Kells to begin the tour, or they can avail of a one-day tour. The Book of Kells Experience is the work of local woman Lucy O'Reilly.

Monaghan: Seven members of the Maher family from Carrickmacross have set a record by all attending the same school, St. Joseph's National School in the town, at the same time. A photograph of Cian, Cathal, Eoin, Conor, Darragh, Oisín, and Odhran Maher appeared in the Irish Times last month at the start of another school year, and the seven don't constitute the entire family of Paul and Edel Maher. For there are two younger brothers at home awaiting their turn to start at the school, Cillian and Fionn, as well as Aisling, the only girl in the family of ten.

Offaly: Aidan Deegan, a novice in the world of modeling, managed to take second place in the Mister International Competition in Dublin. The twenty-two-year-old from Clonminch Road in the town is studying mathematical science at the University of Limerick and he was spotted on Facebook by the head of a model agency looking

(Continued on page 20)

NEWS DIRECT FROM IRELAND

Political parties hold their "think-ins" – It is not so many years since the first autumn political "think-in" took place prior to the resumption of Dáil sittings. I believe it was Fianna Fáil that held the first one but now no political party could allow September to pass without TDs and Senators being seen to come together at a hotel well away from Dublin, ostensibly to discuss the future of the country. Presumably they discuss strategy for the coming year but the sessions are held in private. Journalists are expected to wait outside for any crumbs that an individual TD or Senator might let slip in error or deliberately. Photographers and television camera crews are also expected to be on hand to provide proof that the party (whichever one it is) is united.

In recent days Fine Gael held its "think-in" at Faithlegg House Hotel in Co. Waterford while Fianna Fáil TDs and Senators met in Galway for two days of internal debate.

Drop in public service numbers – Figures supplied by Minister for Finance Brian Lenihan, in response to a parliamentary question from Labour environment spokesperson Joanna Tuffy, show a decrease in the numbers in the public service over the past year. Between the end of 2008 and the end of 2009 the total number dropped from 319,092 to 309,751, with a further fall to 309,146 in the first quarter of this year. Local authorities recorded the largest decrease, with a total number of 2,964 leaving the service. Tuffy noted that the numbers represented a marked reduction, given that in previous years the public service experienced an average increase of several thousand each year.

Crowds turn out to welcome home Tipp team – Some 30,000 Tipperary hurling fans turned out on Mon., Sept. 6, to welcome home their victorious hurling team who had denied Kilkenny their five-in-a-row in the All-Ireland hurling final the day before. The team arrived into Thurles station, complete

Ireland Today: Irish among the world's most charitable

A study of the giving patterns among different nations placed the Irish in third place alongside Canada. The first two places were taken by Australia and New Zealand. The study took into account the willingness to donate cash, the level of volunteering, and readiness to help a stranger. The World Giving Index, published by the Charities Aid Foundation of Britain, linked the results with the its Wellbeing Index, which found that, despite all the doom and gloom reported here on a daily basis, Irish people are 16th happiest of 153 nationalities.

– LIAM FERRIE

with the Liam McCarthy cup, with team captain Eoin Kelly and manager Liam Sheedy riding in the driver's cab. An open top bus then took the players to Semple Stadium for an official reception.

Simon Community reports increase in homelessness – For the first time in several years the numbers of people sleeping rough or using emergency services for the homeless has increased, with a rise of 20 percent over the past 18 months. During 2009 the Dublin Simon Community worked with an average 812 a month, while for the second quarter of this year the figure rose to 908. Chief executive Sam McGuinness has called on the Government to deliver the 1,200 leases on property promised, as part of its policy to end homelessness, by the end of 2010.

On Sunday a similar message came from Sister Stanislaus Kennedy of Focus Ireland, another housing charity. Describing the current situation as akin to the 1980s, she estimated that there are now 5,000 homeless people across the country.

Researcher claims many children died in care home – In an article in the latest edition of 'History Ireland' magazine, Niall Meehan claims that between 1922 and 1949, a total of 211 children died while in the care of the Protestant-run Bethany Home in the Dublin suburb of Rathgar. Earlier this year it was claimed that 40

children had been buried in unmarked graves at the home but now Meehan says new research has produced the much higher figure. He also claims that between 1935 and 1940 one child died in the institution every three weeks. Former residents of the home argue that they should have been eligible for compensation from the Redress Board which dealt with Catholic-run institutions.

Tributes paid to legendary broadcaster – Some 200 family and guests gathered at the Galway Bay Hotel in Salthill, Galway, last month to honor GAA commentator Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh on the occasion of his 80th birthday. He himself recently celebrated the occasion by climbing Mount Brandon in Kerry with 23 members of his family. Among those who paid tribute to the man described by Taoiseach Brian Cowen as "the best marketing instrument the GAA ever had" were a number of former county managers and players and GAA officials.

The evening was the subject of a special broadcast by Raidió na Gaeltachta and tributes were paid by the other party leaders in addition to Brian Cowen, as well as Archbishop Dermot Clifford, the GAA patron, and Gerry Adams. A special poem for the occasion was composed by Kerry poet Gabriel Fitzmaurice.

Bill Clinton to visit North next month – Prior to next month's US/NI economic conference in Washington, former

president Bill Clinton is to visit the North in support of US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's promotion of an economic mission. The Washington conference will bring together the chief executives or senior managers of 12 US companies that operate in the North, with 12 of similar rank in a bid to encourage them to have a presence in the North.

Construction sector unions consider pay cut – Unions representing workers in the construction sector have at last met to discuss a Labour Court recommendation that their members should accept a 7.5 percent pay cut rather than the 20 percent sought by employers. It was in July that the Court reported on the issue and it will be some more weeks before a decision is made. At a meeting on Wednesday the unions decided to consult with their members over an indeterminate number of weeks and then to ballot them.

The number of people employed in the sector is less than half that at the peak of the property boom and the Construction Industry Federation says that the high level of wages paid at that time cannot be sustained. On Tuesday the CIF agreed to accept the Labour Court recommendations.

235 new jobs to be created – Deloitte Ireland announced last month that it will be filling up to 200 positions across the firm. The new positions will, for the most part, be a combination of experienced hires in the firm's Technology and Consulting Practice and graduate recruitment positions. Following a number of significant business wins, more than 30 technology consultants are currently being recruited in Dublin. The graduate positions, which will be filled in 2011, will be in the organization's offices in Dublin, Cork and Limerick.

Also, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Innovation Batt O'Keefe announced 35 new jobs when he formally opened a state-of-the-art 3.5-million euro plastic bottle sorting plant in Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan.

The plant is owned by Shabra, an indigenous company employing 49 workers that collects, reprocesses and recycles waste plastic bottles and film. The new workers will be recruited over the next three years.

Finance Minister's health - 'no clear or immediate danger' – Speaking to RTE, Minister for Finance Brian Lenihan has said that his cancer has now stabilized and, although there is always a risk, he is not in any immediate danger and his energy levels are greatly improved. Lenihan has undergone chemotherapy and radiotherapy for a cancerous growth at the entrance to his pancreas.

Finlay to seek presidency – Fergus Finlay, former senior aide to Dick Spring when he held the position of Tánaiste, has announced that he is seeking the Labour Party nomination for next year's presidential election. Finlay, who currently heads the Irish branch of the children's charity Dr Barnardo's, has written to all Labour TDs and Senators offering his services.

The first real reaction came from Labour TD for Galway West Michael D. Higgins, who confirmed earlier rumors that he would also be interested in seeking the nomination.

Elsewhere Taoiseach Bertie Ahern said he would be interested in seeking the Fianna Fáil nomination.

Long-awaited Convention Centre opens – The new Convention Centre Dublin, overlooking the north bank of the Liffey at Spencer Dock, was formally opened by Taoiseach Brian Cowen last month. The strikingly modern building will accommodate up to 8,000 delegates, has a 3,000-seat tiered conference hall, and can cater for a 2,000 guest banquet.

In more detail the Convention Centre has six flat-floored halls, in addition to the tiered auditorium, plus four boardrooms and 11 meetings rooms for break-out sessions. The theatre capacity in the flat-floored halls ranges from 240 to 1,800 and they can also be used as exhibition space.

THIRTY-TWO COUNTIES

From Tipperary to Wicklow

(Continued from page 20)

for a new face. Some interest has already been shown by companies but Aidan, the eldest of the nine children of Peter and Mavis Deegan, has said he will first complete the final year of his degree before taking time to build up a portfolio.

Roscommon: Moves are afoot to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of artist Roderick O'Connor with celebrations in the county. Born in Milltown, Castleplunkett, Roderick O'Connor spent much of his life in France and was particularly associated with Pont-Aven in Brittany, where he became a friend of Paul Gauguin. Living on the income from rents on his Irish land, when the lands were sold in 1903 under the Wyndham Land Act, he was able to continue his work without having to worry about selling any of it. A meeting was held last month in Kilmurry Community Centre to discuss the celebrations which, it is hoped, will have input from the county council and possibly from Pont-Aven.

Sligo: A live broadcast took place last month from the pub in Strandhill that has been voted the best "local" in the country. A competition hosted by Newstalk 106-108 fm in association with the Vintners' Federation of Ireland called for votes from around the country, and it was

Kelly's of Strandhill that came out on top. For the past eight years the pub has been run by Padraic and Geraldine Killoran, though Padraic, from Riverstown, had worked there some years ago when it was known as the Santa Maria. The couple and their four children, Michael, Sarah, Brian, and Hannah, all took part in the live broadcast with Sean Moncrieff.

Tipperary: Archaeologists working at Longford Pass Bog have uncovered the remains of an old oak road which has been dated to 986 BC, using dendrochronology. The road, which runs parallel to a modern road, was found in the Bord na Móna bog and is constructed of oak planks laid across oak beams and gravel. Experts believe that the road may have been used as a causeway to cross the bog but no evidence has been found of either wheel tracks or hoof marks to support the theory. However it is thought that the road might have formed part of an ancient road network.

Tyrone: The McGoldrick family from Gortin were on their way out to dinner when Daniel parked the car to go to an ATM on Main Street. The ATM is just across the road from a graveyard and a large chestnut tree had become uprooted during the very stormy conditions; it fell, damaging the wall and landing on the McGoldricks' car. For-

tunately Pauline McGoldrick and her nine-year-old daughter Karla were in the back of the car and, though very shaken, they were unhurt. On hearing the noise Daniel immediately ran back to his badly damaged car and was able to help them out of the passenger door.

Waterford: An agreement, that the Mount Congreve Gardens in Kilmeaden be placed in public ownership twenty-one years after the death of the owner, has been superseded and the world-renowned gardens are now to be handed over in the immediate future. Ambrose Congreve, the owner of the gardens, is now aged 103 years. Subject to formal approval the gardens will be handed into the care of the National Botanic Gardens. They were the subject of a proposal submitted to the county council two years ago for a development on a part of the property of a resort with a hotel and spa, holiday homes and a forty-berth marina.

Westmeath: The new bridge that was opened in Mullingar last month, the final link in the ring road around the town, has been named after famed entertainer and Mullingar native Joe Dolan. The Joe Dolan Bridge, a two-lane carriageway of 540 metres, crosses the flood plains of the River Brosna and Lacy's Canal. Officially opened by Minister for Transport Noel

Dempsey, the bridge links the Clonmore Business Park to the Lynn roundabout on the Tullamore road and will ease congestion in the town by allowing traffic to avoid the town centre.

Wexford: From a total of twenty-one young farmers a shortlist of six was chosen and the final title of FBD Young Farmer of the Year 2010 went to Paul Kehoe from Gorey. The announcement of the winner was made at a ceremony in the Tower Hotel in Waterford. The thirty-four-year-old is a beef and livestock farmer and is also a member of the national livestock committee of the IFA. He is also a member of the Teagasc beef stakeholders committee and is involved in local politics in Gorey. When Paul is

not farming he is kept busy as a crew member of Cahore Inshore Rescue.

Wicklow: Showjumpers both professional and amateur joined forces last month to raise money for St. Catherine's Day Care Centre, part of the services based in Newcastle. Among the 700 who gathered at Ballymoney Park Stud in Kilbride for the Newcastle Grand Prix Horse Show were show-jumping stars Paul O'Shea and Ken McMahon. More than thirty competitions took place over the two-day event, with a prize fund of 7,000 euro sponsored by Bloxham Stockbrokers, with the overall winner being Edward Doyle. The aim of the event was to raise up to 10,000 euro for St. Catherine's.



IRELAND'S WEATHER

REPORTED MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2010

We had some heavy overnight rain which left plenty of water on the roads on Wednesday but apart from that it was a mostly dry week. Colder conditions towards the end of the week brought a night frost to parts of the midlands. It has been dry since Friday and it should remain so for most of today. Rain arriving in the evening will become heavy and continue throughout Tuesday. The heavy rain will be a feature of Wednesday in the east. Thursday will be showery and we have been told to expect a 'washout' on Friday. The only saving grace is that it will be milder than in recent days.

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