Boston Irish Honors to hail seven who salute their heritage

The city’s top policeman, a leading media executive, and a pioneering philanthropist will be the honorees at this month’s Boston Irish Honors luncheon, the season’s premier celebration of Irish-American achievement in Massachusetts.

The luncheon, which serves as the annual anniversary celebration for the Boston Irish Reporter, will be held at the Seaport Boston Hotel on Oct. 23. Boston Police Commissioner William Evans and his brothers Paul, John, Thomas, and James will be recognized as an exemplary Boston Irish family. The Evans clan of South Boston has excelled in law enforcement, the fire service, and business while inspiring new generations of Bostonians to be engaged citizens.

Michael Sheehan, the chief executive officer of the Boston Globe, plays a key role in the continuing journalistic excellence of the region’s most important media enterprise. A veteran of advertising and enterprise across the state, Sheehan is helping to make possible a new model of newspaper journalism within the city.

Margaret Stapleton, who rose through the ranks of John Hancock Insurance and Financial Services to become a vice-president before her retirement, will be honored for her remarkable career in business and her generosity as a philanthropist, particularly with respect to the Pine Street Inn.

The 35-member luncheon committee is chaired by Jim Brett, president of the New England Council. Serving as honorary chairs are US Sen. Edward Markey and Boston Mayor Marty Walsh. The program moderators will be Boston Red Sox "poet laureate" Dick Flavin. "This inspiring luncheon allows us to recognize and celebrate exemplary Irish individuals and their families," explained Ed Forry, the founder and publisher of the Boston Irish Reporter.

The 6th annual Boston Irish Honors luncheon will be held at the Seaport Boston Hotel, McKeon Post 146 (4 Hilltop Street), and the Boston Irish Reporter, (55 Hallet Street) and the crossroads of Florian Hall and the Boston’s Hanafin-Cooley-Pipes and musicians with Erin’s Guild, Noggin, Fuaim na nGael, plus Erin’s Melody, the Tom Houlihan Dance Academy, Chéide.

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Plans in place for Boston-Cork flights beginning next May

BY ED FORRY

A budget-priced European airline has announced plans to begin non-stop transatlantic service from Boston to Cork, with flights expected to begin next May.

Norwegian Air Shuttle (NAS), Europe’s third largest low-cost airline, says it will launch the non-stop “low-cost” transatlantic service from Cork to Boston, making the route the only transatlantic operation from Cork Airport. A new Cork to Barcelona route will also be launched, the company said in a press release late last month.

Plans for the new routes were confirmed in a letter from Norwegian CEO Bjorn Kjos to Ireland’s Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Paschal Donohoe. "This is only the beginning of our plans for new routes in Ire-

kjs said, adding, “but our expansion relies on the US Department of Transportation’s (DoT) final approval of Norwegian Air International’s application for a foreign carrier permit. Only DoT approval for NAI will unlock the door for these exciting new routes, creating more competition, more choice, and better fares for business and leisure passengers on both sides of the Atlantic.”

The new route, offering 4-5 flights each week will be operated under Norwegian’s Irish subsidiary, Norwegian Air International Ltd (NAI), and form part of the airline’s plans for continued expansion in the UK and Ireland.

The company said a Cork to New York service is planned to launch in 2017.

Said Kjso: “Norwegian is leading the way in of-

ferring a affordable transatlantic travel and with the new generation aircraft (Continued on page 16)

Water meters for Irish homes: a strong dissent

Liam Forrie, of Menlo, Ireland, a longtime contributor to the Boston Irish Reporter, offers this report on the much-discussed domestic water situation on the island:

“Now that we have water meters in Menlo it seems appropriate that I should become more public in explaining just how bad a decision this was for all domestic water meters in Ireland.

From the outset it appeared ludicrous that a country, Ireland’s rainfall should give any thought to metering, but the more I investigated, the more the sheer stupidity of the decision became evident.

For almost two years (Continued on page 10)
The Charitable Irish Society of Boston

Requests that you save the date
for their upcoming

Silver Key Reception
Wednesday, October 14, 2015

Honoring

Vincent Crotty
Kieran Jordan
Margaret Stapleton

in recognition of their outstanding contributions
to the Irish Community

The Fairmount Copley Plaza
Boston, Massachusetts

6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Please visit us at www.charitableirishsociety.org
to pre-register for this event
Irish Network USA plans confab

By SHAUN POTATCHNIK

DUBLIN — Sinn Fein party leader Gerry Adams and six other suspected IRA veterans will face no charges over the outlawed group’s 1972 abduction, slaying and secret burial of a Belfast homemaker, Northern Ireland prosecutors announced Tuesday.

The 78-year-old’s trial has yet to begin.

If the IRA had allowed any of McConville’s relatives to hold them accountable when they realized what they had done, they would never have been able to get away with it. It shows how much power they had over the Irish people.

1. Irish Famine: The Great Hunger

The Irish Famine was a devastating period in Irish history, occurring from 1845 to 1852. It was caused by a lack of potato harvest due to disease, leading to widespread poverty and displacement, especially for people in rural areas. Approximately one million people died, and millions more were forced to emigrate to other countries, mainly the United States and Great Britain. The Irish Famine is a symbol of the Irish people’s resilience and a reminder of the struggles they faced in the past.

2. John Lahey: Irish Famine

John Lahey is an influential political figure who has been involved in Irish politics for many years. He is known for his commitment to social justice and equality. Lahey has been a strong advocate for the Irish people and has worked tirelessly to improve their lives. He has been a vocal supporter of the Irish Famine and has spoken out against the injustices faced by the Irish people during that time.

3. Mayor Marty Walsh: Erin Go Bragh

Mayor Marty Walsh is a strong supporter of the Irish people and is known for his commitment to social justice and equality. He has been a vocal advocate for the Irish Famine and has spoken out against the injustices faced by the Irish people during that time. Walsh has been a strong supporter of the Irish people and has worked tirelessly to improve their lives.

4. Father Finn: Father Finn

Father Finn is a high profile figure who has been involved in Irish politics for many years. He is known for his commitment to social justice and equality. Father Finn has been a vocal supporter of the Irish people and has spoken out against the injustices faced by the Irish people during that time. He has been a strong supporter of the Irish people and has worked tirelessly to improve their lives.

5. The Boston chapter: Boston Irish

The Boston chapter is a high profile figure who has been involved in Irish politics for many years. They are known for their commitment to social justice and equality. The Boston chapter has been a vocal supporter of the Irish people and has spoken out against the injustices faced by the Irish people during that time. They have been a strong supporter of the Irish people and have worked tirelessly to improve their lives.
By Ed Forry

It was a glorious day in Dublin. My long-beloved and capital city came in the midst of a whirlwind eight-day trip across the Emerald Isle that featured a mid-August vacation with close family and friends in the West, some business doings in Ballislaire, and an attempt to make connections with some notable and influential Irish folk, all with a chance of leading back to my grandmother, Honory Forry. But back to the beginning.

We had booked an Aug. 19 Aer Lingus flight from Logan to Shannon, and found that the airline was using the Boston-Ireland flight on Shannon’s summer schedule. The Atlanta-based American crew weren’t the usual Irish staff, and the planes were in temporary service so that the airline could add more flights and seats to Ireland. One passenger was disappointed not to be able to see that thing, but beside from an erroric video system, the double-aisled 3-2-3 seating configuration was acceptable – and the flight was to Shannon in five hours.

It was my ninth visit to Ireland, and I have found the most difficult part of the voyage comes in the jump from flight early morning hours after a night with no sleep. After all, we had left Boston at 7:13 EDT Wednesday night, and arrived in Shannon in the pre-dawn hours of Thursday at 5:41 a.m. Irish time, or 7:41 a.m. EDT. So never mind about the jet lag, it’s all been nice to get off the plane and get some shut-eye before starting on those left-sided Irish roads. (In all, it was not the sort of occasion when I am at my brightest.

Looking ahead to those road-weary hours, I had asked my destination hotel for an “early arrival” room, but was told that check-in time was 3 o’clock, and I could not be promised a room earlier. I could book a room for an arrival time before, but at 250 euros, that seemed a bit of an extravagance. Still, it would have been nice to get off the plane and get some shut-eye before starting on those left-sided Irish roads. (More on this later.)

Once in Galway in mid-morning, there was a change to a co-op, and the one room was already occupied. I was off to lunch with family at a wonderful seaside restaurant, Manuscript O’Callaghan’s. I really love late May and June. Tom Menino telling me that it was his favorite place to eat.

In Galway, we searched out the premises of Claddagh’s, the restaurant next to the Claddagh Bridge in the midst of the Nile Valley, in the heart of Galway city. We walked the city that Monday morning, sitting at a bench in St. Stephen’s Green. It was a warm and bright blue-sky day, a great atmosphere filled with the sound of people-watching live on the internet. I briefly met May’s sister, Terry Walsh. I asked the phone’s Siri to tell me where I was, and plugged in a destination. Each time, she gave step-by-step mass instructions, and pointed me through the streets of Galway precisely to our R&B townhouse in the suburb. Our stay was on Lansdowne Road, just a walk away from the Aviva Stadium, where Boston College will play a football game next Labor Day weekend.

And there was another surprise: We had our meals at a nearby Roly’s Bistro, a place I recalled Tom Menino saving was his favorite Dublin restaurant.

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The one disappointment was that once we were there, we noted that May’s grandson, Cian Smith, a champion uilleann pipes player, is currently a national sensation on Irish TV and on the internet. I briefly met May’s sister, Terry Walsh, and she drew off to lead us to the family home. But traveling across those narrow country roads in the midst of the Nile Valley, she took a fast right, we got delayed at a stop sign, and quickly lost sight of her car, never to find her again. So we headed off for the two-hour drive back to Shannon Airport, where we had booked a room for the night prior to the flight home the next morning.

In Shannon, another discovery: We stayed overnight at a very comfortable hotel called the Shannon Court. It’s a five-minute drive to the airport, and at a price of 70 euros (about $87), it’s very affordable. And then came the revelation: My next time over, I will reserve a room at that airport hotel for the night when I leave Boston and on arrival at Shannon, I’ll go to my room, take a bed to my bed, and get in some deep sleep before sitting those Irish roads. Refreshed, I can get acclimated in short order, which should preserve the nerves of any passengers sharing my adventure on once again driving on the wrong side of the road.

For her, and for me, it’s on to Plan C

By James W. Dolan

Sporadic Improvisation

Having had two rounds of chemotherapy, my wife is now facing what she calls PIUMC – and how continue treating for as long as they have letters in the alphabet or I’m too tired to go on.” It has been now two years since she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

She prefers to think of it as a journey rather than a battle. It’s a battle. “I’m the battlefield not one of the combatants,” she declared. She faces each setback with grit and determination while acknowledging they do take a lot out of her. Each ride on the cancer train is getting shorter; the atmosphere is getting more somber; the end of life need not be a tragedy. It may not be welcome, but it is inevitable, and as such, it is something we can prepare for. In Belief in a hereafter offers just that – no distinction. There is no truth, no account- able, and no grief. It is a final refuge for those who have been evil. Oblivion is their reward.

My wife has made me a better person. She is the heart of our family. I admire and draw strength from her. When the times come, I will carry on in her absence and in some small way try to fill the void she leaves. We are not a perfect match and never came close to being soul mates. However, we do complement each other: Her strengths are my weaknesses. Her weaknesses are the support of friends and family and the knowledge of a life well lived.

It was almost 60 years ago when I first noticed her, a pretty girl in gray Bermuda shorts and a white blouse walking with an air of confidence and self-assurance that impressed me. We met two years later on a blind date; she was in nursing school and I was at BC. My earlier impression was accurate; she had a take-charge personality to which I was more than happy to defer. A wise move, as it turned out.

The train continues through a dark forest. It labors uphill and rounds a waterfall that climbs up a rocky slope. A mist arises and obscures the tracks as we proceed. At this point there are no visible destinations. Sad families disembark from time to time along the way. We cling to the hope that our turn can be postponed. The train continues through a dark forest. It labors uphill and rounds a waterfall that climbs up a rocky slope. A mist arises and obscures the tracks as we proceed. At this point there are no visible destinations. Sad families disembark from time to time along the way. We cling to the hope that our turn can be postponed.

Fortunately, the atmosphere on the train does not reflect the dismal terrain. The lights are bright, the crew members are warm and efficient as they care for the passengers. Their devotion both comforts and inspires all aboard. Love often flourishes where there is pain and sorrow and is sadly absent in what today is considered the “pursuit of happiness.”
The Northern Ireland government is a mess; little business being done

By JOE LEARY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

It can be safely said that the government in Northern Ireland set up by the Good Friday agreement in 1998 is barely working and should be in serious danger of collapse. There is deep resistance from the Unionist community, especially among the political leaders, to cooperating with Nationalist politicians, and to the system as it currently exists.

Since early this year there have been a number of skirmishes between the parties and in fact among all the political parties. The tides of the past few elections, being taken by Unionist politicians, then it was a disagreement between the parties concerning welfare cuts.

In May, a prominent and well-liked former IRA man, a community worker was shot and killed in the Markets area of Belfast. Three months later, another former IRA man was shot and killed in the Short Strand area of Belfast. An inspector from the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) made a public statement that the Provisional IRA (which is supposed to be on cease fire) was involved with the second killing in retaliation for the first killing.

The Provisional IRA is linked with Sinn Fein and an upsurge ensued on the Northern Ireland Assembly. Sinn Fein should not be in government if they were involved with such a killing. No proof has ever been offered of this connection.

By Peter F. Stevens
SPECIAL STAFF

Sometimes, glimpses of a worn gravestone or a memorial trigger historical memory, compelling one to pause and ponder their significance. In the Copp’s Hill Burial Ground, one such marker, a weather-beaten stone over it [Malcolm’s grave] … is of hard blue slate, to the British before his death. The inscription is a just statement of his merits and reputation; but an additional wreath is added that he was ready to do the same. The crowd’s anger soared as Hallowell, according to Cullen, “marked the vessel with the broad arrow, and signalized to the warship Romney as she lay anchored in the stream.”

The Romney’s commander, Captain Comer, dis- patched longboats manned by armed sailors and Royal Marines with orders to tow the Liberty from the dock at which the frigate’s cannons were aimed. As the boats neared the wharf, the crowd surged, with Mal-colm quickly taking the lead. He and others dragged and threw the frigate’s people into the sea. Suddenly the sloop’s moorings were cut, and before anything could be done the crowd left the wharf…

As the customs officials foolishly waded into the water rather than leaving to one of the Romney’s longboats, the mob followed them, roughed them up, broke the windows of Hallowell’s house, and seized a customs longboat. Malcolm and the others dragged it to the Common, smashed it to pieces, and set the wreck ablaze. The two officials fled to Castle William, fortunate to be alive.

The Northern Ireland government is a mess; little business being done

By Joe Leary
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

it was also leaving government. Peter Robinson, the DUP leader and also the leader of the Northern Ireland government, and four ministers left their posts, saying words like “step aside” rather than that they were quitting so that they were still technically in their positions.

The whole episode was a farce and an attempt to embarrass Sinn Fein. Still, there were more rallies were held in support of the elected Dáil leaders, David Cameron, Britain’s prime minister, and continuous fighting took place within Unionist ranks.

A pair of customs officers – Collector Joseph Harrison and Comptroller Benjamin Hallowell – strode aboard the sloop the night before the dock. After the sloop had anchored in the harbor, there was a commotion. One of the customs officers, a community worker, said that he was shot and killed in the Markets area. The PSNI said that the IRA is no longer operative.

But that statement did not stop or slow down the various Unionists in their making of a huge issue out of the killing. Captain Comer, the Romney’s commander, told the UUP, said it would leave government if Sinn Fein was not kicked out of the Parliament. This action, said the largest Unionist Party, the DUP, said that it would leave the government to gain some sort of advantage.

There will be a Northern Ireland As-sembly election next year. Let’s hope that we will continue in the same tradition as the warship Romney as she lay anchored in the stream.

The Irish American Partnership last month donated the proceeds of its 2015 Northern Ireland Appeal to St. Kieran’s and Elmgrove Primary Schools. The checks were presented to Belfast Lord Mayor Arder Carson, right above with Irish American Partnership president Joe Leary. The mayor, who was instrumental in identifying these two deserving schools for Partnership sup- port, was in Boston to discuss the details of the Boston-Belfast Sister City agreement. St. Kieran’s and Elmgrove will receive the $5,000 grants upon the mayor’s return to Belfast.

The fund helps the children of Southull, Limerick, Ireland achieve a better education and a better future.

Suggested donations begin at $75; checks payable to Southull Children’s Fund, donate online at southullchildrensfund.com or by mail to 47 Farragut Rd South Boston MA 02127.

The Southull Children’s Fund is a 501c3 tax deductible charitable organization.
New consul general sets up shop in Boston

The Irish government has appointed Fionauala Quinlan to head the Irish Consulate in Boston. The newly appointed Consul General, a Cork native, began her tenure in the Copley Square offices on Sept. 28. She succeeds Brendan O’Caills, who was reassigned in August to new duties in the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade’s (DFAT) Dublin office. Quinlan comes to Boston after a six-year stint in the department’s press office, where for the past two years she was DFAT’s director of press services. Prior to joining the Irish government, Quinlan worked as a journalist for several publications, including the Irish Examiner and The Daily Telegraph in Australia. Also new at the consulate is Meg Laffan, a press officer at the DFAT, who is replacing Vice Consul Jillian O’Keefe.

Fionnuala Quinlan

By Jennifer Smith

Reporter Staff

Former Bosconian Mayor John “Honey” Fitz Fitzgerald’s Ashmont home is newly on the market, at a price of $758,000, in need of attention and bearing a host of historical detail. “If these walls could talk,” mused realtor Charlene Folan with Jack Conway & Co. “The things they must have seen.”

The mayor and his wife, Mary Josephine Hannon Fitzgerald, the maternal grandparents of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, left their longtime palatial home on Welles Avenue on what is called Ashmont Hill and moved into the colonial at 3 Rundell Park off Ashmont Street in 1968, according to the Dorchester Historical Society.

Mayor Fitzgerald lived there until his death in 1946 and his wake in the home was attended by many of public figures. Mrs. Fitzgerald died in 1964. President Kennedy stopped by to see his grandmother in 1962, when he raised his voice in sac at the crest of Ashmont Street was known as Arundel Park.

Fitzgerald home at Rundel Park for sale at $578k

By Jennifer Smith

The Fitzgerald Bible, now at the JFK Library, traveled with the family from the town of Bruff in Lough Gur. It sat in the Rundell Park home until President-elect Kennedy brought it to the capital for his oath-taking ceremony. Secret Service agents descended on the house and were handed the Bible in a supermarket shopping bag, according to Tom Fitzgerald, a family cousin.

Dorchester architect Edwin J. Lewis, Jr. designed the three-story house, which was built in 1889, according to the historical society. It features dental and crown moldings along high ceilings, three fireplaces, and hardwood floors throughout. City-maintained gas lamps stand outside, where an annual flag-raising takes place. After the Fitzgeralds, the colonial passed through two other family ownerships before being put up for sale on Sept. 21. The 3-bed, 2.5-bath home will need a decent amount of modernizing attention.

Honey Fitz in a familiar pose.

BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

EATING AND EMOTION

Dr. Bernadette Rock

Self-sabotaging your efforts at losing weight

By Dr. Bernadette Rock

Special to the BIR

My fridge beeps when the door is not closed after 30 seconds. This beep has been a reminder to take my head out of the fridge because in under 30 seconds, I can munch through a chunk of apple tart or a handful of crackers while telling myself “I’m not really eating.”

Are you likely to shed a few pounds but find that your weight loss efforts are sabotaged by your very own sabotaging behavior? Often we want something in our lives but feel that we are in a behavior that is contrary to achieving our goals. It’s uncomfortable letting go of food, and wanting to eat but physically hungry to eat. You might feel resistant to finding new ways to treat yourself that involve the biscuit tin. So what if the secret in managing self-sabotage lies in being comfortable with feeling uncomfortable? A few examples:

Holding onto weight: Most people who lose weight regain it again, along with a few extra pounds, and here’s one reason why. Some people feel distinctly uncomfortable with the compliments or attention about their weight loss. A new slim body means a smaller version of yourself. People feel more vulnerable or exposed. Others feel anxious about the increased sense of personal power or confidence that weight loss can bring. An online client, Amy, the mother of two, recently confessed that she was afraid that the “more who are expected of me now that I’m losing weight.”

These anxieties can push people back to the comfort of old eating habits. Instead of starting your own diet or exercise program, you might become obsessed with giving off an air of confidence when you lose weight, can you remind yourself that it’s okay to feel more confident. Similarly, if you’re uncomfortable about increased attention, can you reassure yourself that “I can control how I feel.”

Trickery: Any mentioned that she walks into her local bakery and选购s herself that it’s just a loaf of soda bread she’s buying, but knowing full well that it’s croissant and scones that she really wants. Buy it. Try to control your hunger. Once you learn to be honest with yourself, set aside the internal arguing, and make clear choices around food — “yes, I’ll eat it and enjoy it” or “no, maybe later” — you will be more likely to succeed at healthier eating. This means asking, “What is the best I can do to support myself today?”

Allow yourself to get hungry. If you want to manage your weight, then it is crucial that you get comfortable with feeling hungry (not very hungry or you might end up eating yourself out of house)! Do you eat because people around you are eating, or because it’s “normal” to eat lunch at 1 p.m.? What would it be like if you choose not to graze outside, where an annual flag-raising takes place. After the Fitzgeralds, the colonial passed through two other family ownerships before being put up for sale on Sept. 21. The 3-bed, 2.5-bath home will need a decent amount of modernizing attention.

What’s the point in even trying. I’ll probably fail anyway.” Instead of sabotaging yourself by giving in before you’ve even started or when you don’t see immediate results, can you view this process as an opportunity to figure out what your extra eating is about, a chance to get connected to yourself, instead of just focusing externally on the rules of a diet? You can give yourself the opportunity to stay with the initial discomfort? Instead of thinking weight loss will help, think self-care: “This is an opportunity to start caring for myself.”

Have a Heyday: Heyday’s supportive online program has been recently re-developed at heydayworld.com. Send your comments or questions to hello@heydayworld.com.

Wishing you good health,

Dr. Bernadette Rock, PhD.
How to avoid loss of legal permanent residency status

Q. I am a US legal permanent resident, but I have been staying in Ireland for the past nine months and I'm concerned that I may have a problem getting back into the US. I didn't intend to stay here so long, but after I arrived home, my mother was diagnosed with cancer and I needed to take care of her. Could I have difficulty returning to the US as a permanent resident?

A. There are a number of ways in which a legal permanent resident (LPR) can lose US immigration status, and leaving the US for extended periods is one of them. The LPR status can be terminated only by beginning the LPR application process all over again.

After becoming a legal permanent resident, you must demonstrate if questioned at the time of re-entry that your trip outside the US was temporary and that you have not abandoned your primary residence in the US. If you remain outside the US for more than six months or engage in activities indicating that your permanent residence is no longer in the US, the US immigration inspectors may decide that you have voluntarily abandoned your US residency and deny your re-entry. Many people believe that they can retain their LPR status by brief trips into the US each year. That is not correct. If your actual permanent residence is not in the US, you have abandoned your US immigration status.

The factors that may determine the temporary nature of trips outside the US include the following:

• Are your actual home and place of employment still in the US?
• Did you have a definite temporary reason to travel abroad, such as study or a short-term employment arrangement?
• Did you expect to return to the US within a relatively short time?
• Are you returning to the US when expected? If not, what circumstances caused you to spend additional time abroad?
• Are you seeking to return to the US as a LPR sooner rather than later and certainly within a year of your departure?
• Is your departure from the US of more than one year likely to result in the loss of your LPR status?

There is a reentry permit that can be applied for if you anticipate being outside of the US for more than one year, but the application must be submitted prior to departure, while the LPR is still in the US. The reentry permit application Form I-131 at uscis.gov.

Disclaimer: These articles are published to inform generally, not to advise in individual cases. The US Citizenship and Immigration Services and US Department of State frequently amend regulations and alter procedures. For specific advice, seek the assistance of immigration legal staff.
Bill O'Donnell

Conservatives Target Obama Guest List – De- spite the obvious love and respect our country has for its citizen, many conservatives feel that the White House has been too accommodating to visiting dignitaries said to be of questionable stature. In particular, the presence of Pope Francis has created a debate about whether the White House is giving too much attention to the pope, and whether this attention is being directed towards foreign policy or the internal politics of the United States. There is concern that the pope’s visit may be seen as a political move by the Obama administration.

Ireland

The Irish Guards regiment was founded in 1901 by Queen Victoria and many Irish companies were disbanded after Irish independence, but the Guards unit remained. During World War II, the Guards served in North Africa and Europe, and fought in some of the most important battles of the war. The Guards have been awarded several medals for their service, including the Victoria Cross and the Military Cross.

Open Letter

The open letter to President Obama expresses concern about his plans to meet with Pope Francis in the White House. The letter questions the motives behind the meeting and suggests that it may be a political move by Obama to gain support from the Irish-American community.

The letter calls for a more balanced approach to US-Ireland relations, one that does not prioritize political considerations over the true interests of the Irish people. It also calls for greater accountability from the Obama administration in its dealings with Ireland and its allies.

The letter ends with a renewed call for a full and open dialogue between the United States and Ireland, one that is based on mutual respect and understanding.
The family and friends of the late Courtney Kelly, a 25-year-old Milton nurse who died in March, hosted a golf tournament and a benefit reception on September 21 at Florian Hall Dorchester. All proceeds benefited the St. Agatha School, Milton Scholarship Fund in her memory. Noted Boston Globe photographer Bill Brett assisted Courtney’s dad Pat Kelly and his committee in making plans for the event.

1.) Deirdre Fay, Dorchester; Tim Peters, Quincy; Siobhan Cheney, Dorchester; 2.) Rev. Kevin Toomey, Pastor of St. Agatha’s; 3.) Bill Brett; 4.) Jim and Peg Roach, Westwood; 5.) Martina Hickey, Quincy; Tricia O’Malley, Quincy; Peter Kelly, Milton; Kristen Kelly, Milton; 7.) Jim Timmins, Quincy; Michelle Tierney, Milton; 8.) Bernie Smith, Dorchester; Julie McCarthy, Dorchester; 9.) Michael Nash, Randolph; Kerry Nash, Randolph; 10.) Kyle Egan, Principal, St. Agatha’s School; 11.) Joe Moore, Roscommon; 12.) Pat Kelly, Milton; Joe Moore, Roscommon; Bill Brett, Hingham 13.) Val Peters, Quincy; Mary McKenna, Milton; Louise Ryan, Quincy.
Water meters for Irish: a dissent
(Continued from page 1)

I have been putting my arguments to politicians, economists, journalists, Irish Water executives and anyone else who would listen. Some agree with me. Those who don’t have so far been unable to dispute my figures.

I have now started blogging about the issue. My first blog focuses on the infamous meters: “It makes no sense to spend hundreds of millions of euro metering a leaky system,” said Brendan Howlin in 2011 (before he became Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform).

Like most people in the developed world we have become mesmerized by the word “conservation.” Unfortunately, here in Ireland, we have applied it to water with the same enthusiasm as others have applied it to endangered species, oil reserves, tropical forests, and water resources in California.

When it comes to water conservation, we are transfixed to the point where most people fail to apply any rational thought to the reasons for conserving, the consequences of conserving, the ‘benefits’ of conserving, or the cost of conserving. Of course, water conservation is a good thing, even here in Ireland. However, the only reason we have in Ireland for limiting water usage is to save money. That reason has either been forgotten or there is a misplaced assumption that whatever we spend on conservation measures will be recovered by savings resulting from processing less water.

Probably the only expenditure which might reduce the cost of water processing is the repair of leaks. Water meters certainly do not qualify. Consider the following facts:

• The water meters currently being installed will only impact the 34 percent of the water processed for domestic use. Irish Water never acknowledges this fact and so most commentators seem to be unaware of it.

• Irish Water expects meters to reduce consumption by up to 10 percent. That amounts to just 3.4 percent of the total water currently being processed.

• The Energy Regulator thinks this claim is over ambitious and that 6 percent is a more realistic figure. This reduces the potential reduction in the total volume of water processed to just 2.04 percent.

Based on the above, even before we look at the cost implications, it is obvious that water conservation in the domestic sector is of marginal importance. I have tried to determine the value of the possible savings resulting from water conservation and, while I cannot claim the following figures are accurate, they are close enough to demonstrate the futility of investing in any serious conservation measures.

In 2012 Ireland spent 1.5 billion euros on the provision of water to homes and businesses across the country. Irish Water will agree that 90 percent of this figure is fixed cost. That means that the actual cost of processing all water is 150 million euros per year and it is only this figure that can be reduced through water conservation. If Irish Water is correct in its assumption on the savings to be made through metering, the actual value is 5.1 million euros per year. If the Energy Regulator is closer to the mark then the potential savings are just 3.06 million euros.

Once meters are in place they will require maintenance. They will have to be read on a quarterly basis and the readings will have to be processed. They will require a call centre to deal with queries. This will result in ongoing expenditure that will far exceed any potential savings to be achieved through reduced consumption.

Government ministers and Irish Water have given other reasons for installing meters but none stands up to scrutiny. There will be those who argue that as we now have meters in place we should take advantage of them. The problem is that there is nothing to take advantage of. It will cost less to deliver water to Irish homes by ignoring the installed meters than by reading and maintaining them.
Hurling comes to America’s Most Beloved Ballpark

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Finbar Furey: well-traveled master of the pipes, keeps on keeping on

BY SEAN SMITH

Finbar Furey, well-traveled master and vanguard of traditional and contemporary music, has a flair for experiment that has earned him a devoted following. "Every night I go on stage, I think 'This music is bigger than me,'" says Furey, "and I'm glad for them." He's a link in an incredibly long chain of musicians, like Socks in the Frying Pan or the Donegal-Brothers, and decided to strike out on his own to explore his creativity. He has been touring with Ted, eventually joined by his father, and Edie. So they brought him in and thought that perhaps the time had come for Finbar to form his own group. "The Lonesome Boatman." At one point, he said, "There's 12,000 miles between us, and I don't know," and that was it. "What would I be doing if not for music? I'd be doing an engineering degree in Washington, D.C., or going against Donald Trump for president," he says. "I'm the most unpredictable human being. I don't know if I need something, I know I need something." Furey's musical career began at a young age; an All-Star cast of visiting pipers, like Willie Clancy, Felix Doran, and Donegal-Brothers, were beginning to create a new tradition and bring contemporary material into the Irish charts, reaching number one (it's reputed to be Tony Blair's favorite peace song). In 1981, the band had arguably their biggest hit with the 19th-century vaudeville standard "When You Were Sweet Sixteen," which hit number one in Ireland and the top 5 in Australia and the UK. "Golden Days," the album on which the single appeared, was in the UK's top 20. The band traveled far and wide, including to distant places like Australia and New Zealand ("the pinnacle," says Furey), and kept turning out generation after generation. Finbar says he was a humble music student. "We'd just broken into the university circuit, the coffeehouses, and the Clancys just wanted me. I don't know why. I wanted to go home," he explains. "I just felt I'd come on as far as I could. I went home and went fishing, took a year off to get my head together." There was no animosity between him and his brothers after his decision to leave. "I'm sure of is good – you don't know where he'll put his hand next. One thing I'm sure of is that I still love playing the music. That's why I do this all night. Again and again."

Yet Furey's step out on the big stage came first with the Clancys, when he and his brother Eddie were invited to join the group in the wake of Tommy Makem's departure in 1969. The two Fureys had by then recorded three LPs of traditional and contemporary material – including Finbar's haunting air "The Lonesome Boatman," a signature piece – and Finbar became the first album of piping music with Eddie as accompanist on guitar and bodhrán. "It was a huge decision," recalls Furey, who had only recently married Sheila by then. "We'd just broken into the university circuit, the coffeehouses, and the Clancys just wanted me. I don't know why. I wanted to go home," he explains. "I just felt I'd come on as far as I could. I went home and went fishing, took a year off to get my head together." There was no animosity between him and his brothers after his decision to leave. "I'm sure of is good – you don't know where he'll put his hand next. One thing I'm sure of is that I still love playing the music. That's why I do this all night. Again and again."

Furey says he was also the clanging the lines and attention he and Eddie had received playing with the Clancys would have been an advantage in the Grand Halls. The brothers resumed working as a duo, during which time they recorded a cover of "Her Father Didn't Like Me Anyway," given to them by Scottish songwriter Gerry Rafferty (later famous for his hit single "Baker Street") and began to draw wider attention among the music media and public.

Meanwhile, the other Furey brothers were pursuing musical careers that gradually interacted with that of Finbar. Eddie had begun playing in a band called The Buskers, whose members also included Davey Arthur, George, who had been touring with Ted, eventually joined them. Then in 1976, Finbar, Eddie, and a duo of Donegal Boys – Paul O'Veen, Jim Croce, and Edie Furey, as well as one written by his son Martin. As the 1990s unfolded, though, Arthur left the band and Furey began to take stock. He'd been writing songs for years, and that he had his own, right? He thought it was time to come to the party and work with different musicians.

So in 1994, Finbar played his last gig – in New Haven, Conn. – with the band. "I wanted to go home," he explains. "I just felt I'd come on as far as I could. I went home and went fishing, took a year off to get my head together." There was no animosity between him and his brothers after his decision to leave. "I'm sure of is good – you don't know where he'll put his hand next. One thing I'm sure of is that I still love playing the music. That's why I do this all night. Again and again."

There have been tough times, too. Brother Paul died in 2002, and in the aftermath of that loss and others close to his heart, Furey went through a period where his creativity was at low ebb. He also suffered some physical problems that curtailed the amount of time he could perform on the pipes – and new restrictions on traveling. "So in 1994, Finbar played his last gig – in New Haven, Conn. – with the band. "I wanted to go home," he explains. "I just felt I'd come on as far as I could. I went home and went fishing, took a year off to get my head together." There was no animosity between him and his brothers after his decision to leave. "I'm sure of is good – you don't know where he'll put his hand next. One thing I'm sure of is that I still love playing the music. That's why I do this all night. Again and again."

That night’s concert, the packed-to-the-rafters Backroom is in the same grand hall, as he and his accompanist, string bassist Philip Costello, wind through his repertoire, beginning with “The Lonesome Boatman.” At one point, he says, “I don’t know why.”” Her laughter fills the evening air as I say, “I don’t know why.”” No need to hurry but no care.

Arriving at the clarsna, he lets the crowds know how much he loves it, and everyone loves it back. He’s alsoinations the pipes and whistles, and the band flourishes, their mix of instrumental pieces – led by Finbar’s pipes and whistle and Paul’s accorion – with traditional and contemporary songs, spanning the emotional and tonal spectrum, from unabashedly sentimental to stridently topical to full-throttle up-tempo.

They helped popularize such relatively unknown compositions as Ralph McTell’s “Clare to Here,” Bill Caddick’s “Johnny Dreams,” and a soft-spoken but stirring anti-war song by Eric Bogle originally titled “No Man’s Land” but – as covered by the Fureys and Arthur – better known as “The Green Fields of France,” which spent more than half a year in the Irish charts, reaching number one (it’s reputed to be Tony Blair’s favorite peace song). In 1981, the band had arguably their biggest hit with the 19th-century vaudeville standard “When You Were Sweet Sixteen,” which hit number one in Ireland and the top 5 in Australia and the UK. "Golden Days," the album on which the single appeared, was in the UK’s top 20. The band traveled far and wide, including to distant places like Australia and New Zealand ("the pinnacle," says Furey), and kept turning out generations of crowds numbering in the thousands instead of the hundreds, performing on TV and appearing on two Clancys record-
**OCTOBER HAPPENINGS**

**By Sean Smith**

**SPECIAL TO THE BIR**

The Dorchester Irish Heritage Festival (see separate story in this edition) is certainly the big highlight event in Boston-area Irish/Celtic-related doings for October 2015, as always there will be plenty of activity elsewhere, including performances by Irish super-trio The Alt, iconic singer-songwriter Eleanor McEvoy, and the revered fiddle-guitar duo Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill.

**The Alt** – with Nuala Kennedy (flute, whistle, vocals), John Doyle (guitar, bouzouki, vocals) and Eamon O’Leary (bouzouki) – will be at Club Passim in Harvard Square on Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. All three enjoyed phenomenally acclaimed careers even before they began playing as a trio a couple of years ago, and released their highly acclaimed first album a couple years ago. For tickets and other information, see passim.org.

- Two of the more beloved singer-songwriters of their generation, Scotland’s Archie Fisher and Canada’s Garnet Rogers, come to the Burren “Backroom” series in Davis Square, Somerville, on Oct. 9. Fisher, from a venerable singing family and active in Scottish music since the 1960s, is a Member of the Order of the British Empire and holds a place in the Scots Traditional Music Hall of Fame as well. Rogers started out playing in the bands of famous singer-songwriter brother, the late Stan Rogers, and in the years since Stan’s death has become a musical force in his own right, noted for his on-stage presence and charisma as well as his writing and prowess on guitar, flute and bodhrán. The two have toured together several times over the past 20 years; they will be accompanied at the Burren performance by Danish fiddler Harald Haugaard.

- A few days later, Eleanor McEvoy makes her appearance in the Backroom. An accomplished singer-songwriter herself, McEvoy has been honored several times for her work, including by Irish Music Magazine, and her music has been featured in TV and films, including “Some Mother’s Son,” HBO’s “Six Feet Under” and ABC’s “Clueless.” One of her most famous songs, “A Woman’s Heart,” was the title and centerpiece for the bestselling Irish album of all time, on which she appeared with Dolores Keane, Mary Black, Frances Black, Sharon Shannon, and Maura O’Connell.

- Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill whip up the Backroom’s schedule this month on Oct. 21. Hayes is noted for his native East Clare’s fiddle tradition (his father P.J. Cahill is a very much the grandaddy of the famed Tulla Ceili Band) but in his 20s experimented with other kinds of music, notably with the jazz-rock band Midnight Court, where he met guitarist-mandolinist Cahill. Deciding to work as a duo, they revisited the music of Hayes’s youth and have since built a cult status for their meditative, often mesmerizing, interpretation of traditional tunes.

All Backroom shows are at 7:30 p.m. Hayes and Cahill also will play a 9:30 p.m. show. See burren.com/Backroom-Series.html for information and links to purchase tickets.

- The Burren also will feature a concert of music, songs and stories from County Clare on Oct. 9, an event to raise funds for the Michael Dunleavy Foundation, which supports the fight against pediatric brain cancer. The performances for “From Clare to Here” will be Oliver O’Connell (accordion), Mickey Dunne (uilleann pipes, fiddle), Mick Nester (bodhrán and breast area resident John Coyne (bouzouki). The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. and there is a suggested donation of $25. See michaeldunleavy.com for ticket information.

- The neilID Music series presents a concert by Emma Beaton and Ní Neadhais at Grogan Rugs, 2294 Washington Street in Lower Ninth Wavers at 8 p.m. A native of County Clare and daughter of Scottish fiddler Kevin Beaton, she grew up playing Celtic music on cello but subsequently expanded her tastes to include American roots and bluegrass. Her performances are accompanied on vocals by songwriter Lawley and on guitar by her son Johnny Lawley. The concert is FREE. See bc.edu/gaelic-root-673083315.html for information and tickets.

- A music of faith will be the focus when the Belfast Community Gospel Choir comes to the Irish Cultural Centre of New England on Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. Touted as Northern Ireland’s first and only multicultural choir, BCCG describes itself as committed to “performing music that carries the message of love, joy and peace and to promoting a positive image of our country,” following many decades of “violence, division and political upheaval” and a commitment to “promoting a positive image of our country,” following many decades of “violence, division and political upheaval” and a commitment to “performing music that carries the message of love, joy and peace and to promoting a positive image of our country.” Door will be free.

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**Great Hunger Museum visit set for Oct. 17**

AréTeanga Dhúchais in Boston (AṭTD), a non-profit group that sponsors classes in the Irish language in Brookline and Dorchester, invites interested persons to join them for a visit to Ireland’s Great Hunger Museum (Min Ghaeithe Mhi). The museum is a gift of the Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT on Sat., October 17.

The visit to the museum will enhance and expand your understanding of this dark period in Irish history, the group said in a news release.

Plymouth-Brockton Bus Lines will pick up in three locations: Quincy Station at 8 a.m., Norwood Square at 8:30, and Brookline Village at 9 o’clock. The cost of the trip is $45 per person. Lunch at a restaurant in Connecticut is not included.

AṭTD encourages the opportunity to get a “true taste of our native language,” and the group says it is committed to the teaching and the preservation of the Irish language in the Boston area.

In addition to regular language classes, they frequently host cultural events such as lectures on Irish culture and tradition, concerts, dances, poetry recitals, béaladóireachtaí (folklore), and sean-nós singing.

Deadline to register for Oct. 13. Interested persons are asked to contact AṭTD by writing to Peggy Caherty, Uachtarán (President), 35 Ver St., Brookline MA 02446, or send an email to eolas@ardteangadhuchais.org.
Various activities, getting the four of them together in a recording studio can be difficult, in fact, this is only the fourth album in Buttons and Bows’ 20-some years of existence, and first since 1991’s “Grace Notes.”

Still, it’s quite easy to forgive this interregnum, because “The Return of Spring” has so much unfulfilled amiability and cheer, in addition to superior musicianship, percolating through its tracks. What can you say about an album that begins, not with the rip-roaring reel or jig set one might expect from an Irish band, but a wistful waltz, “Oyster Island,” penned by Seamus McGuire, no less?

While Buttons and Bows has frequently extended its repertoire to include music from Quebecois, Danish, and the occasional canzone from the Mediterranean, here they stick largely to Irish material and their own compositions (each member has at least one original featured). But there’s no diminution to their sound, not when you have Daly leading solos of palkas (including one he wrote in honor of the story Galway piper/layer Burke or slides, or the McGuire out in front on a pair of reels (“The Prohibition/The Contradiction”) first recorded by the legendary Michael Coleman and Toms (Gannon, with that classic Sligo flamboyance and ornamentation. There’s also a jig in the Denegale style from the famous Doherty family, and a striking Limerick air, the aptly named “An Co Draichta (The Magic Mist)” from the PW Joyce Collection that is followed by “The Stafford Dance,” which gives a nod to Leitrin tune collector Stephen Grogan.

Daly and the McGuire’s obviously deserve the attention they get, but there’s certainly no overlooking O’Brien’s contribution, whether it’s a guitar backing that occasionally has a lovely jazz tint to it – his introductory riff to “Oyster Island” is a thing of beauty – or a solid, forthright piano accompaniment he also composed the album’s other waltz, “Sweet Aibhlinn,” named for his grandaughter, whom he wrote for her mother that appeared on “Grace Notes.”

Given the interval between their last two albums – Buttons and Bows was put on hiatus from the early 2000’s under the Bush administration to the latter months of the Obama era – it’s understandable that the McGuire and Buttons and Bows next makes it back into the studio again. Hopefully, not quite so long: They clearly still have a couple of spring songs yet to sing.

Alyth McCormack, “Homelands” • A native of the Argyll countryside in western Scotland and now living in Dublin, McCormack has appeared on some two dozen albums and has two solo recordings to her credit, both featuring an extraordinary range of music, from Celtic and folk to jazz, classical and indie. She has seen with her sound, not that you have Daly leading sets of palkas (including one she wrote in honor of the story Galway piper Dearbhaile Burke or slides, or the McGuire out in front on a pair of reels (“The Prohibition/The Contradiction”) first recorded by the legendary Michael Coleman and Toms (Gannon, with that classic Sligo flamboyance and ornamentation. There’s also a jig in the Denegale style from the famous Doherty family, and a striking Limerick air, the aptly named “An Co Draichta (The Magic Mist)” from the PW Joyce Collection that is followed by “The Stafford Dance,” which gives a nod to Leitrin tune collector Stephen Grogan.

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Comedian, Commentator and Founder of Humor for Humanity Jimmy Tingle as emcee.

Poetry by Harlym 125 (Jamele Adams)

Honorees include: Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh; The Hon. Linda Dorcena Forry, Massachusetts Senate; James E. Rooney, President of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce; Robert K. Coughlin, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council

Des Bishop on stage for IIIC on Oct. 24

You can help out the Irish International Immigrant Center and have a night so full of laughs that your belly will hurt by going to the Wilbur Theater, Boston’s finest comedy venue, on Oct. 24 to see the one and only Des Bishop performing in a benefit for the IIIC.

For tickets, go to thewilbur.com/artist/des-bishop.
North Shore Music Theatre is presenting the Tony Award winning "Billy Elliot: The Musical" through Oct. 11. With music by Elton John, lyrics by Lee Hall and based on the film of the same name, this is the story of a young boy with a fiery passion to dance. Despite his father's stern objections, the motherless Billy fights his way into his English coal-mining town to pursue his dream. The North Shore production will feature two young actors alternating as Billy: Nicholas Dantes and Brooks Hill. The North Shore production will feature two young actors alternating as Billy: Nicholas Dantes and Brooks Hill.

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Looking to tour Ireland? Guide choices are many, varied

BY JUDY ENRIGHT
special to the BIR
Planning to book a tour of Ireland? As you probably know already, tours are readily available to see the country through the eyes of those who have lived there.

There are many tours of Ireland, and many—like CIE and Brian Moore International Tours—offer options for those who want an overall or focused experience. Clearly, we cannot mention them all, but there are many very reputable companies that can take you on a general tour around the country’s many tourist attractions.

SPECIALIZED TOURS

Then there are specialized tours company... Crafted Ireland (craftedireland.com). Crafted Ireland offers a range of specific tours including walking, cycling, river cruising, golf, salmon fishing, genealogy, Christian and other tours. The company has also designed a special package that takes in the history of Ireland as told by its famous saints—St. Patrick, St. Francis, St. Brigid, and St. Teresa. It is a fascinating tour that is sure to be enjoyed by anyone interested in Irish history.

Ireland’s wild beauty is one of its greatest attractions. So, for those who want to experience Ireland’s natural beauty, there are specialized tours that focus on exploring Ireland’s scenic landscapes. These tours may include visits to famous landmarks such as the Cliffs of Moher or the Ring of Kerry.

Ireland’s history is rich and fascinating. For those interested in exploring Ireland’s political and religious history, there are specialized tours that focus on the country’s political and religious history. These tours may include visits to famous landmarks such as the Guinness Storehouse or the Titanic Museum in Belfast.

Ireland’s literature is full of stories that have captured the imaginations of readers for centuries. For those interested in exploring Ireland’s literary heritage, there are specialized tours that focus on the country’s literary history. These tours may include visits to famous landmarks such as the Birthplace of James Joyce or the Samuel Beckett Centre in Dublin.

Ireland’s culinary traditions are as varied as the country itself. For those interested in exploring Ireland’s culinary heritage, there are specialized tours that focus on the country’s food culture. These tours may include visits to famous landmarks such as the Ballymaloe Cookery School or the Burren Food Trail.

Ireland’s cultural heritage is as diverse as the country itself. For those interested in exploring Ireland’s cultural heritage, there are specialized tours that focus on the country’s cultural traditions. These tours may include visits to famous landmarks such as the National Museum of Ireland or the National Gallery of Ireland.

Ireland’s natural beauty is one of its greatest attractions. For those interested in exploring Ireland’s natural beauty, there are specialized tours that focus on the country’s natural landscapes. These tours may include visits to famous landmarks such as the Wild Atlantic Way or the Wicklow Mountains.

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BY JUDY ENRIGHT

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Friday, October 23, 2015
SEAPORT HOTEL/
BOSTON WORLD TRADE CENTER
BOSTON IRISH HONORS

2015 Honorees

BPD Commissioner
WILLIAM EVANS FAMILY
Paul, John, Thomas, James
MICHAEL SHEEHAN
MARGARET STAPLETON

Registration begins 11:15 a.m.
Luncheon 11:45 a.m.
$150 per guest, Table of 10, $1500
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Dorchester MA 02125
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Sponsorship opportunities available
- please call 617-436-1222
The Irish Language
by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

The particle go in Irish has many uses. Let’s review them now.

First you learned that go is used to make adverbs: Go is always pronounced /go/ as in English “go”.

- go breá /go BRAY/ “fine”
- go deas /go joo/ “nice”
- go dona /go DOAN/ “bad”
- go maith /go mahi/ “good”
- go háláinn /go HAH-leen/ “beautiful”
- go hiontach /go HEEHN-tahk/ “wonderful”
- go taipheadh /go TAHHP-e/ “quickly”
- go reidh /go rhy/ “steadily”
- go dreach /go JEE-rahk/ “just, quite”
- go huile /go HOO-hyil/ “all, every thing”
- go minic /go MEEN-ick/ “often”
- go dearsa /go JEE-er-sah/ “indeed”
- go brach /go braahk/ “for ever”
- go deo /go do/ “for ever”

We all know the bumper sticker Erin go Bragh, “Ireland Forever”, which is often used. It’s an older spelling. Don’t use it except in this phrase. Brach/bragh literally means “the end of time” or “end of the world”.

The second thing we learned is that go is a preposition and means “to” but it can also mean “until” or “till” or “for” “as” and even more.

- go An Spáinn /go ah NAH-sine/ “to Spain”
- go abhaile /go ah-BHAL-ee/ “to home”
- go Coreaigh /go KOR-ke/ “to Cork”
- go maidin /go mah-deen/ “until morning”

To is also used in a number of idioms:

- go leor /go lohr/ “enough”
- go bhios do /go hoh-deh-oo/ “enough”
- go ceann tamaill /go Jaun-tah-mayl/ “enough”
- go hálainn /go mah-layn/ “beautiful”

Note that 6 requires lenition but go does not.

Go is also used in “politeness phrases” such as “Thank you (very) much” – “Go raibh (mile) maith agat” /gohl-mean/ “Happy returns of the day!” or “Happy Birthday!”

“from head to head” /ó cheann go ceann/ “from end to end”

“often” /go MEEN-ick/ “often”

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Translate these sentences or phrases into Irish:

1.) “He drank enough.”
2.) "Mary will come in a week and a half.”
3.) “The police man was here until six o’clock.”
4.) “It is good as far as I know.”
5.) “He went toward the house.”

Answers: 1.) Dh’ol sé go leor
2.) Tiocfaidh Máiri anns seachtain go leith
3.) Bhí an garda anseo go dtí go sé a chlog
4.) S maith go bhios dhom
5.) She was there until afternoom.

“often” /go MEEN-ick/ “often”

Note that “th” requires lenition but “d” does not

This is quite a load of new vocabulary. Let’s spend some time practicing.

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