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BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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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 silver 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 mod-



Michael Sheehan
CEO, Boston Globe

erator will be Boston Red Sox "poet laureate" Dick Flavin.

"This inspiring luncheon allows us to recognize and celebrate exemplary Irish individuals and their fami-



William Evans
Police Commissioner, Boston

lies who share our heritage in Boston and Ireland," explained Ed Forry, the founder and publisher of the Boston Irish Reporter.

The 6th annual Boston Irish Honors luncheon will



Margaret Stapleton
Executive, Philanthropist

take place on Fri., Oct. 23, at 11:45 a.m. at the Seaport Hotel/Boston World Trade Center. For tickets, call 617-436-1222 or email bostonirishhonors@bostonirish.com.



The Green-O'Leary School of Irish Dancing aloft during 2014's Dorchester Irish Heritage Festival.

Dot's Irish Heritage Festival offers dose of culture, family connections

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

The Irish-American duo Celtic Font will be among the performers at this year's Dorchester Irish Heritage Festival, to be held on Oct. 11 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the crossroads of Florian Hall (55 Hallet Street) and the John McKeon Post Am-Vets 146 (4 Hilltop Street).

The festival, taking place for the fifth time, has become a Columbus Day Weekend highlight for Irish/Celtic music and

**Sat., Oct. 11, from 11 to 6,
at Florian Hall, McKeon Post**

dance devotees in Greater Boston and beyond, drawing crowds of upwards of 9,000. Two outdoor stages, as well as the venues in Florian Hall and the McKeon Post, provide for continuous entertainment throughout the day, showcasing many Greater Boston-area acts.

Among the local bands on the program for this year are Devri, Silver

Spears, Fenian Sons, Erin's Melody, the Tom Lanigan Band, Gobshites, Erin's Guild, Noggin, Fuaime na nGael, plus the Boston Police Gaelic Pipes and musicians with Boston's Hanafin-Cooley-Reynolds branch of Comhaltas Ceóltoirí Éireann.

Other performers scheduled to appear include Pauline Wells, Michael O'Leary, John Dalton,

Páidí Walsh & Friends, Liam Hart & Frankie McDonagh, Colleen White & Sean Smith, and the trio of Maidhc Newell, Joe Walsh and Máirín Uí Chéide.

Irish dance also will be part of the festivities, with the Green-O'Leary School of Dancing, Smith-Houlihan Dance Academy, Kenny Academy of Irish Dance, Keane-O'Brien Academy of Irish Dance, Brady Academy of Irish Dance and O'

(Continued on page 16)

Plans in place for Boston-Cork flights beginning next May

BY ED FORRY
BIR PUBLISHER

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 new direct "low-cost" transatlantic services 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, Pádraic Donohoe. "This is only the beginning of our plans for new routes in Ireland," Kjos said, adding, "but our expansion relies on the US Department of Transportation (DoT) finally approving 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 Kjos: "Norwegian is leading the way in offering affordable transatlantic travel and with the new generation aircraft

(Continued on page 16)

Water meters for Irish homes: a strong dissent

Liam Ferrie, 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 it was to install domestic water meters in Ireland.

From the outset it appeared ludicrous that a country with Ireland's rainfall should have 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)



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Gerry Adams, six others avoid charges in McConville killing

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

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.

Adams, 66, was arrested last year on suspicion of involvement in the disappearance of Jean McConville, a 38-year-old widowed mother of 10 whom the Irish Republican Army believed was a British informer. Detectives freed Adams without charge after four days of questioning, but sent an evidence file to prosecutors.

Northern Ireland’s deputy director of public prosecutions, Pamela Atchison, announced that Adams and six others arrested in the McConville probe would face no charges. Atchison said evidence was “insufficient to provide a reasonable prospect of obtaining a conviction against any of them.”

Adams, whose Irish nationalist party leads Northern Ireland’s Irish Catholic minority, called the decision “long overdue.” He said he had been falsely accused as part of “a sustained and malicious campaign seeking to involve me with the killing of Mrs. McConville.”

After his release from custody in May 2014, Adams said detectives had grilled him about audio tapes from two IRA veterans, Dolours Price and Brendan Hughes, both of whom had identified Adams as an IRA commander in Belfast in 1972 responsible for ordering McConville’s killing and disappearance. Price and Hughes gave their accounts to researchers on condition that their comments not be published until their deaths; Hughes died in 2008, Price in 2013.

Adams’ alleged immediate superior in the Belfast IRA in 1972, Ivor Bell, was charged last year with aiding and abetting McConville’s murder on the basis of the tapes. The 78-year-old’s trial has yet to begin.

Before Tuesday’s announcement, prosecutors briefed McConville’s relatives about the decision. Some of her children — who were separated into different foster homes after being told that their mother had abandoned them — have campaigned since the mid-1990s for Adams and other alleged IRA commanders to be held to account. They reject IRA characterizations of their mother as a spy.

Her remains were found near a Republic of Ireland beach in 2003, and forensic experts said she was killed by a bullet to the back of the head. McConville was among more than a dozen Catholic civilians whom the IRA killed and secretly buried without admitting responsibility in the 1970s and early 1980s. The IRA did admit responsibility in 1999.

One son, Michael McConville, said his family didn’t intend to let the IRA off the hook.

“Those who ordered, planned and carried out this war crime thought that their guilt could disappear along with her body,” he said. “But it has not. And we will continue to seek justice for our mother and see those responsible held to account no matter how long it takes.”

Irish Network USA plans confab

The Boston chapter of Irish Network USA will host a national conference in Boston next month, bringing together more than 300 delegates from across the country to explore what it means to be Irish American in 2015.

There will be an informal welcome reception at Mr. Dooley’s on Thursday evening, Nov. 5 with the formal conference beginning on Friday at the Seaport Boston Hotel.

Discussions and panels at the conference

will be on various Irish American issues, but will have a predominantly economic focus. Cultural issues and sports will also be topics at the meeting. This year, the conference will also include a panel dedicated to women and the role they play in Irish and American connections. Next year marks the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising, which will also be a topic on the agenda.

The keynote address will be given by Mark Redman from the Ameri-

can Chamber of Commerce in Dublin. On Friday evening there will be a reception at the Massachusetts State House to celebrate Irish Network Boston’s fifth anniversary.

The local chapter was established in 2008 by the Irish government in response to the global economic crash and the instability that followed. There are now roughly twenty chapters in the United States.

More information is at irishnetworkboston.net

Kenny accepts Quinnipiac degree

The prime minister of Ireland has received an honorary degree from Quinnipiac University in Connecticut. The school is home to Ireland’s Great Hunger Museum, which houses a large collection of art, artifacts and printed materials related to the

Irish Famine.

Prime Minister Enda Kenny said in his Sept. 24 remarks that the museum is a symbol of hope at a time when millions of people around the world today are being forced to leave their homes. He says he accepted the degree of

humane letters on behalf of the millions who lost their lives in the famine.

University President John Lahey praised Kenny as a passionate defender of the rights of others in Ireland, Africa and the European Union. (AP)

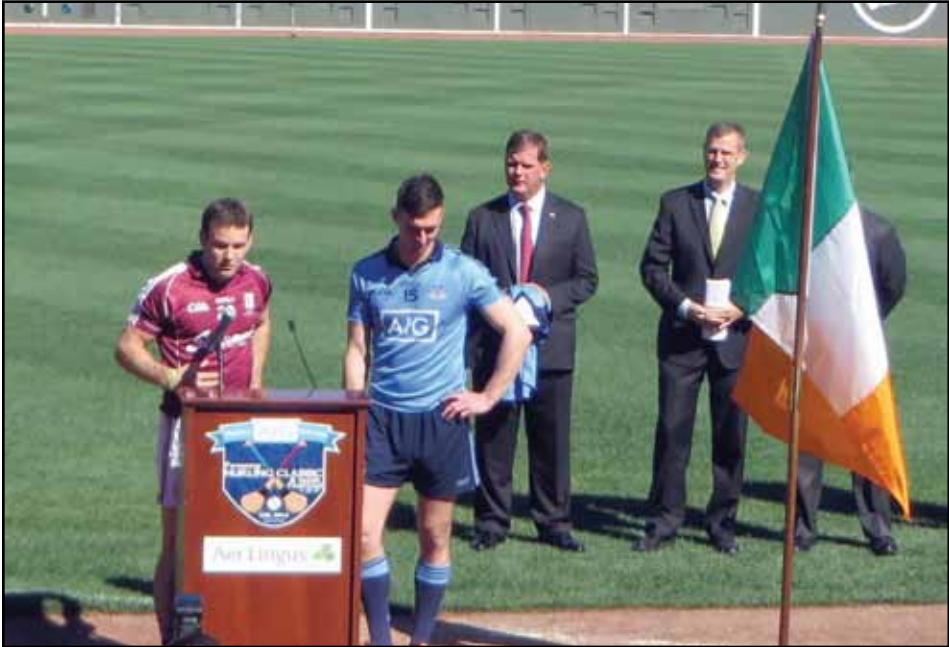
It’ll be Dublin vs. Galway in hurling match at Fenway in November

First-class hurling, called the world’s fastest field sport, will be on display at Fenway Park on Sun., Nov. 22, as two of the sport’s biggest teams — Dublin and 2015 All-Ireland Finalist Galway — compete in an exhibition on a pitch where the Red Sox play their games.

In addition to the AIG Fenway Hurling Classic, the festivities will include a lively Irish festival complete with Irish food, music, and dancing plus a performance by the Boston-based American Celtic punk band the Dropkick Murphys.

The match will come a day after the Boston College Eagles football team plays Notre Dame on the Fenway grounds.

The match has been in the planning stages for months, the Irish Independent reports in noting that it has the full support of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) and the Gaelic Players Association (GPA), both the Dublin and Galway county boards, the North American GAA board and



Mayor Marty Walsh and incoming Red Sox president Sam Kennedy unveiled plans for a Nov. 22 AIG Fenway Hurling Classic and Irish Festival at Fenway Park. Hurlers Dave Collins (Galway) and Mark Shutte (Dublin) were on hand for last month’s announcement. *Ed Forry photo*

FSM.

Aer Lingus, the official airline partner of Dublin GAA and the official travel partner of the GPA, are also backing the match, the newspaper said, and will provide flights for the entire travelling party.

Speaking on behalf of the GPA, Chairman Dónal Óg Cusack said: “The AIG Fenway Hurling Classic is a truly wonderful opportunity for us to exhibit hurling at a high profile US sporting venue, and there is none more iconic

than the home of the Red Sox. We believe that hurling ranks alongside the best sports in the world and the staging of this game in Fenway is part of our commitment to convey that message to a new and influential audience.”

Father Finn tribute at Social Club

Members of the Knights and Ladies of St Finbarr–Cork Club of Boston will host a “Thank You Celebration Party” from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sun. Oct. 4 to honor Fr. Daniel J. Finn.

The event will be held at the Irish Social Club at 119 Park Street, West Roxbury. Music for the event will be provided by the Denis Curtin Band and by “Erin’s Melody” featuring Margaret Dalton.

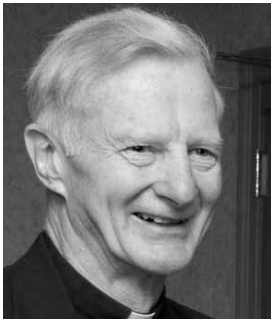
For more information, please call Mary Tannion, President of the Cork Club, at 978-646-4652

Father Finn, an immigrant from Kanturk in Co. Cork, has been a priest for some 43 years.

After retiring from St. Mark’s in Dorchester this past spring after 22 years as its pastor, Father Finn will assume new duties as the chaplain of the Irish Pastoral Centre.

The Cork Club is asking for a donation of \$10.00 per person so that Father Finn may continue with his works of charity.


At right: Rev. Dan Finn



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Crossing Ireland: Cherishing the fine moments while coming to grips with time and the roads

By Ed Forry

It was a glorious day in Dublin. My visit to Ireland's 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 Ballsbridge, and an attempt to make connections with some never-met Waterford cousins with whom I share a lineage extending back to my grandmother, Honorah Crotty 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 leased Omni Air 767's on the Shannon run for the summer. 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 see the familiar stylized shamrock on the plane's tail, but aside from an erratic video system, the double-aisled 2-3-2 seating configuration was acceptable – and the flight got us to Shannon in just five hours. It was my ninth visit to Ireland, and I have found the most difficult part of the voyage comes in those post-flight early morning hours after a night with no sleep. After all, we had left Boston at 7:40 EDT Wednesday night, and were on the ground at Shannon in the pre-dawn hours of Thursday at 5:41 a.m. Irish time, or 12:41 a.m. EDT, meaning we were not at all refreshed and ready for a new day while facing a 90-minute drive to Galway, in a rented car – on the wrong side of the road! 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 the day 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 driving on those left-sided Irish roads. (More on this later.)

Once in Galway in mid-morning, there was a chance to get in a nap at a friend's house, and then it was off to lunch with family at a wonderful seaside restaurant, Moran's on the Weir. I recalled the late Mayor Tom Menino telling me that it was his favorite place to eat in that part of the country.

The gathering was a birthday meal for a Galway native who was back home to celebrate with some family members, and our gift to him was our surprise appearance at table. I never did buy him a present, reasoning the cost of plane tickets for me and my companion, his sister, was sufficient to show the level of my esteem.

In Galway, I searched out the premises of Claddagh Jewellers. Located downtown at the junction of Shop and High streets, this store hosts a pair of video cameras that stream live pictures 24 hours a day. The site (claddagh.ie) has become one of my favorite online destinations, as I can sit at my kitchen table in Lower Mills and people-watch as the throngs pass by.

That day we found a young woman busker singing and playing her guitar, and informed her she was appearing live around the world! I called home to Dorchester and asked my daughter to go online and check it out. She quickly spotted me and made a screenshot of the scene, marking my own first worldwide streaming video web appearance.

That night, we dined with old friends Liam and Pauline Ferrie at their home in Menlo, and wished Liam well as he was preparing for a second bypass surgery. (The operation took place last month, and he's well on the mend while planning to resume his active Camino trekking.)

By Sunday, I had made the adjustment to driving in Ireland. Although familiar with traffic rotaries from my daily run through Kosciuszko Circle, in truth I was unprepared for the protocol of rotary driving (they call them roundabouts) over there. The Irish rule seems to be that drivers actually stop before entering if someone's already in the circle. What a quaint system! It was an adjustment, but soon I got used to it.

The drive to Dublin was some 200 kilometers – about 140 miles – and it was an easy and largely uneventful



(Top)- Streaming from Galway: two video cams enable "people-watching" live on the internet; (Right) Della Costello and Ed Forry pictured in a selfie on a blue-sky day on St Stephen's Green.

ride. The road, called a dual motorway, was not crowded, and the Irish actually stay to the left in their travel lanes, using their signals to change lanes, and rapidly moving left again once they had passed. I found the drive to Dublin to be easier and far less stressful than a Friday night run down Route 3 to the Cape.

One of the discoveries of our road trip was finding how useful my iPhone 6 was in navigating the roads. I asked the phone's Siri to tell me where I was, and plugged in a destination. Each time, she gave step-by-step map instructions, and pointed me through the streets of Dublin precisely to our B&B townhouse in the city. Our stay was on Lansdowne Road, just steps 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 the nearby Roly's Bistro, a place I recalled Tom Menino saying was his favorite Dublin restaurant!

We walked the city that Monday morning, sitting on a bench in St Stephen's Green. It was a warm and bright blue-sky day, a great atmosphere filled with joyous Dubliners who have learned to cherish each moment of summer sunlight. Two days later, on the motorway heading south, we drove through an hour of heavy rain. After a stop in Wicklow to see a cousin and her delightful children, we were on the road to search for those other relatives in a place called Ballymacarbray, Co. Waterford, near the Limerick border town of Clonmel.

The one disappointment was that once we were there, time did not allow me to meet the cousins, May Guiry, her children, and grandchildren. (May's ten-year-old 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 Fitzpatrick, and she drove 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 \$78.) 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 to my bed and get in some decent sleep before hitting those Irish roads. Refreshed, I can get acclimated in short order, which should preserve the nerves of any passengers sharing my adventure of 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
Special to the Reporter

Having had two rounds of chemotherapy, my wife is now beginning what she calls Plan C. She says. "I'll continue treating for as long as they have letters in the alphabet or I'm too tired to go on." It has now been two years since she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

She prefers to think of it as a journey rather than a battle. If 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 destination more remote.

Thank God! The crew on the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center line remains as loving as ever. What a marvelous service to humanity, offering sympathy, support, comfort, and hope to passengers and their families. With Pope Francis bringing his message of love and compassion to the United States, I can think of no profession that delivers those virtues more than those in health care. In a country that places such emphasis on a pedestrian vision of "success," there can be no higher calling than offering the gift of love to those in need.

After 53 years of marriage, I try to prepare myself for a time when my wife will no longer be here. Knowing she was home or would be coming home always provided great comfort. We did not have to be talking or even be in the same room for me to feel her presence. She was here and everything was all right. There was nothing we couldn't handle together. I was never truly alone and the house was never vacant.

With her gone, for the first time in my life I will be lonely. My children will keep me fed and entertained but when I go home, it won't be the same. I must face the reality that she will not be back and cope with how much I depended upon her. It will take time, but there is no alternative. Millions have gone through it before. 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. Belief in a hereafter offers the hope of reunion, justice with mercy, joy, peace and eternal love. Belief in oblivion offers just that – nothingness. It makes no distinctions. There is no truth, no accountability, 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 time comes, 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.

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 up a steep grade and round a waterfall that spills down a rocky slope. A mist arises and obscures the tracks as we proceed. At this point there are no fixed destinations. Sad families disembark from time to time along the way. We cling to the hope that our turn can be postponed. The horizon has shrunk; time is now measured in weeks and months. What hope remains is sustained by prayer and the support of friends and family and the knowledge of a life well lived.

Fortunately, the atmosphere on the train does not reflect the dismal terrain. The lights are bright, and 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."



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Reflections on a worn gravestone on Copp’s Hill

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

Sometimes, glimpses of an old gravestone or a memorial trigger historical memory, compelling one to pause and ponder their significance. In the Copp’s Hill Cemetery stands one such marker, a weather-beaten stone that bears the name of Captain Daniel Malcolm.

The Boston Irishman died in October 1769, some six years before “the shot heard round the world” ignited the American Revolution. The merchant would not have the opportunity to stand with Sam Adams, John Adams, John Hancock, and other future rebels against the Crown, but he played a pivotal role in standing up to the British before his death.

Wrote the historian John Bernard Cullen: “The stone over it [Malcolm’s grave] ...is of hard blue slate, two inches thick, and showing about a yard above the ground. The inscription is a just statement of his merits and reputation; but an additional wreath is added to his laurels by the vindictive bullet-marks of the British soldiery, who used this stone as a target, and peppered the gravestone of the man who feared nothing less than a British bloody-back.”

In 1768, Captain Malcolm’s “Irish temper” was up. Red-coated troops on Boston’s cobblestones and dirt paths muttered the word “rebel” at Malcolm and other Boston merchants. In response came growls of “tyranny” from colonists.

The simmering tensions boiled over on June 10, 1768, when the sloop Liberty, owned by Hancock, slid into Boston Harbor and docked at Hancock’s wharf (later Lewis Wharf) with a load of wines from Madeira, Spain. Shortly after the merchantman moored, customs official, or “tide-waiter,” Thomas Kirk strode aboard the Liberty, sat with the ship’s master in his cabin to sip rum punch with him, and waited for the crew to offload the sloop’s cargo. Then, as was the practice with all incoming cargo, the tide-waiter intended to inventory the goods and tally the port duties the shipowner had to pay.

Port officials had long allowed colonial merchants

to declare only a portion of imported goods and to unload the rest of the cargos without duty payments. The Crown, strapped for cash, however, had ordered customs officials to halt the practice and charge fees on all imported goods.

Hancock had no intention of paying the duty. He ordered the Liberty’s captain to hold the official captive until the wine had been unloaded and removed from the docks. At about 9 p.m., the sputtering customs official was restrained for what would turn into hours. He was not released until the cargo was long gone. Hancock had flung the gauntlet down at the Crown. Malcolm was ready to do the same.

A pair of customs officers – Collector Joseph Harrison and Comptroller Benjamin Hallowell – strode aboard the sloop the next day and seized her for “violation of the revenue laws.” As word spread along the docks, a throng of enraged colonists gathered alongside the Liberty, Malcolm quickly taking the lead.

The crowd’s anger soared as Hallowell, according to Cullen, “marked the vessel with the broad arrow, and signaled to the warship Romney as she lay anchored in the stream.”

The Romney’s commander, Captain Comer, dispatched 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 Malcolm standing alongside the sloops and shouting his protests. Cullen notes: “Malcolm...said [the Liberty] was safe where she was, and no officer nor anybody else had a right to remove her. The boats arrived, and the excitement increased. Malcolm and the other leaders of the populace threatened to go on board and throw the frigate’s people into the sea. Suddenly the sloop’s moorings were cut, and before anything could be done to prevent it she was gone from the wharf.”

As the customs officials foolishly waded into the crowd rather than leaving in 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 wreckage ablaze. The two officials fled to Castle William, fortunate to be alive.

Order would be restored in the following days, but the tension would percolate inexorably in the coming years. Cullen writes that Malcolm’s “fellow citizens appreciated him, and showed their confidence by selecting him as their representative in the troublesome and dangerous crises in which he was an actor; but there is every reason to believe that his proper sphere was not diplomacy, but active and aggressive resistance.”

It is safe to speculate that the Irishman who was laid to rest at Copp’s Hill in October 1769 would have stood front and center in the Patriot cause in 1775.

A Post-Papal Visit Note: Prominent Congressman and practicing Catholic Paul Ryan wasted little time in paying attention to Pope Francis’s appeal for the House and the Senate to help the poor and the afflicted. The lights of the papal jet had barely vanished on the horizon before Ryan and his acolytes were once again fighting to strip health care from people able to receive it with help from the government. Ryan vowed to “stop Obamacare in its tracks and start working toward a more affordable, higher-quality, patient-centered system.” Kids with preexisting conditions that can bankrupt families? The oh-so-Catholic Ryan and his crowd don’t care. Denial of health care for preexisting conditions for anyone of any age? More than okay for Ryan and company. Caps on health insurance? Bring ‘em back, say the Wisconsin rep and his toadies on the Ways and Means Committee. If they cared one whit, they’d have a plan, an idea, something.

It would be laughable if it were not such a blatant lie that the Republicans in Congress will “start working” for a replacement for Obamacare. They have had years and years to craft a replacement or even a viable alternative, but there is no genuine plan. None. When the pope urged Congress to remember the Golden Rule, it seems that Ryan and his ilk remembered half of it – “Do unto others...”

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 could be in serious danger of collapse. There is deep resistance within the Unionist community, especially among the political leaders, to cooperating with Nationalist politicians, and very little trust between the sides.

Since early this year there have been a number of skirmishes between the sides and in fact among all the political parties. First there was the issue of bribes 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 uproar ensued on the Unionist side, with assertions that Sinn Fein should not be in government if they were involved with such a killing. No proof has ever been offered of this connection and the chief of the PSNI has said that the IRA is no longer operative.

But that statement did not slow down or inhibit the various Unionist parties in their making of a huge issue out of the killings. First the minor unionist party, the UUP, said it would leave government if Sinn Fein was not kicked out of the Parliament. Then, not to be outdone, the largest Unionist Party, the DUP, said

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, using words like “step aside” rather than quit so that they were still technically still in their positions.

The whole episode was a farce and an attempt to embarrass Sinn Fein. Still, threats were made, calls were made to David Cameron, Britain’s prime minister, and continuous fighting took place within Unionist ranks.

Martin McGuinness, leader of Sinn Fein in the Northern Ireland Assembly, has told the Unionists to “put up or shut up,” adding that if they have any evidence, they should produce it.

All of this makes great headlines, but it does not help us understand what is really going on while progress on budget items and other important matters are not being addressed by the assembly.

Britain’s current Northern Ireland Secretary of State, Theresa Villiers, issued threats to everyone and finally set up a three-person panel to investigate all paramilitary activities. The Unionists think they have won, and that the evil Sinn Fein will be found out. This writer very much doubts any such thing will be uncovered and, predictably, the Unionists will complain even more loudly.

This is not good government. The Unionists have no proof or even any real evidence that Sinn Fein was involved, but they are nonetheless willing to shut down government to gain some sort of advantage.

There will be a Northern Ireland Assembly election next year. Let’s hope there will be changes. In the meantime, the good people of Northern Ireland will continue with their daily lives and try to ignore all the confusion.



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 support, 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.



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& Billy Higgins
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Thursday, October 8, 2015
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The fund helps the children of Southill, Limerick, Ireland achieve a better education and a better future.

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The Southill Children’s Fund is a 501c3 tax deductable charitable organization

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Reporter Call 617-436-1222

How Can LTC Insurance Help You Protect Your Assets?

Plan to create a pool of healthcare?

Presented by Brian W. O’Sullivan, CFP, ChFC, CLU

How will you pay for long term care? The sad fact is that most people don’t know the answer to that question. But a solution is available.

Many baby boomers are opting to make long term care coverage an important part of their retirement strategies. The reasons to get an LTC policy after age 50 are very compelling.



Your premium payments buy you access to a large pool of money which can be used to pay for long term care costs. By paying for LTC out of that pool of money, you can help to preserve your retirement savings and income.

The Department of Health & Human Services estimates that if you are 65 today, you have about a 70% chance of needing some form of LTC during the balance of your life. About 20% of those who will require it will need LTC for at least five years. Today, the average woman in need of LTC needs it for 3.7 years while the average man needs it for 2.2 years.

Why procrastinate? The earlier you opt for LTC coverage, the cheaper the premiums. This is why many people purchase it before they retire. Those in poor health or over the age of 80 are frequently ineligible for coverage.

What it pays for. Some people think LTC coverage only pays for nursing home care. It can actually pay for a variety of nursing, social, and rehabilitative services at home and away from home, for people with a chronic illness or disability.

The Medicare misconception. Too many people think Medicare will pick up the cost of long term care. Medicare is not long term care insurance. Medicare will only pay for the first 100 days of nursing home care, and only if 1) you are getting skilled care and 2) you go into the nursing home right after a hospital stay of at least 3 days.

Now, *Medicaid* might help you pay for nursing home and assisting living care, but it is basically aid for the destitute. Some nursing homes and assisted living facilities don’t accept it, and for Medicaid to pay for LTC in the first place, the care has to be proven to be “medically necessary” for the patient.

Ask your insurance advisor or financial advisor about some of the LTC choices you can explore - while many Americans have life, health and disability insurance, that’s not the same thing as long term care coverage.

Brian W. O’Sullivan is a registered representative of and offers securities, investment advisory and financial planning services through MML Investors Services, LLC, Member SIPC (www.sipc.org). Supervisory Address: 101 Federal Street, Suite 800, Boston, MA 02110. He may be reached at 617-479-0075 x331 or bosullivan@financialguide.com.

New consul general sets up shop in Boston

The Irish government has appointed Fionnuala 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 Breandan O Caollai, 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 relations. Prior to joining the Irish government, Quinlan worked as a journalist for several publications, including the *Irish Examiner* and the *Daily*



Fionnuala Quinlan
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.

Fitzgerald home at Rundel Park for sale at \$578k



By JENNIFER SMITH
REPORTER STAFF

Former Boston Mayor John “Honey Fitz” Fitzgerald’s Ashmont home is newly on the market, at a price of \$578,000, 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 Rundel Park off Ashmont Street in 1937, according to the Dorchester Historical Society.

Mayor Fitzgerald lived there until his death in 1946 and his wake in the home attracted a litany of public figures. Mrs. Fitzgerald died in 1964.

President Kennedy stopped by to see his grandmother in 1962, when the raised cul-de-sac at the crest of Ash-

mont Street was known as Arundel Park.

The Fitzgerald Bible, now at the JFK Library, traveled with the family from the town of Bruff in Lough Gur. It sat in the Rundel 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 dentil and crown molding 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 6-bed, 2.5-bath home will need a decent amount of modernizing attention.



Honey Fitz in a familiar pose.

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 become 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 keen to shed a few pounds but find that your weight loss efforts are punctured by your very own sabotaging behavior? *Often we want something in our lives but behave in ways that are contrary to achieving our goals. It’s uncomfortable letting go of food, and waiting until you’re physically hungry to eat. You might feel resistant to finding new ways to treat yourself that do not involve the biscuit tin. So what if the secret in managing self-sabotage lies in being comfortable with feeling uncomfortable?* A few examples:



Bernadette Rock and her daughter Keela.

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 when they receive compliments or attention about their weight loss. A new slim body means a smaller version of yourself. Some clients 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 “more would be expected of me now that I’m losing weight”.

These anxieties can push people back to the comfort of old eating habits. Instead can you start being aware of your specific fears and anxieties? If you are concerned about 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 cope and I can handle attention.”

Trickery: Amy mentioned that she walks into her local bakery telling herself that it’s just a loaf of soda bread she’s buying, but knowing full well that it’s croissants and scones that she’s really going to buy. It’s like a form of trickery. Once you learn to be honest with yourself, set aside the internal arguing, and make clear choices around food – either “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 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 someone offers you food, or because it’s “normal” to eat lunch at 1 p.m.? What would it be like if you choose not to graze throughout the day, and wait until you start feeling hungry? Remind yourself that it is normal that it will be uncomfortable in the beginning.

Give yourself a chance to take the first step: “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? So can you give yourself the opportunity to stay with the initial discomfort? Instead of thinking weight loss, think self-care: “This is my opportunity to start caring for myself.”

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

Wishing you good health,
Dr. Bernadette Rock, PhD

IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER



IIC NOTEBOOK Together for Hope Walk for suicide prevention

The IIC's Together for Hope Walk for suicide prevention and awareness takes place on Oct. 17, 2015 at Pope John Paul II Park in Dorchester, MA. Walk with us and help us provide vital support to people struggling with depression, loneliness, isolation, and access to care while contributing to our vision of a world without suicide. To register for the walk, go to our website iicenter.org/togetherforhope, download a sponsorship card, and find further information.

All proceeds support IIC's Wellness Services including counseling, crisis management, and suicide prevention workshops.

To end the stigma and taboo surrounding suicide, we need to talk openly about it. If you are feeling depressed, alone and hopeless, or experiencing thoughts of suicide, please give Gina a call at 617-542-7654, Ext 14, or send an email to gokelleher@iicenter.org for confidential support.

More visas for young Irish men and women

The IIC is pleased to share the good news that the US Department of State has approved a 50 percent increase in the size of our J1-IWT Irish student intern placement program. We are now able to assist 377 Irish students annually to come to the United States and help them find paid internships for one year in their area of study. Since the program began in 2008, the IIC has successfully sponsored and supported 1,000 interns.

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



Journey for Hope

The Irish government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the American Ireland Fund support and promote this program, an acknowledgment of the value of the J-1 experience for Ireland's young people. They view it as an investment in the future and a tremendous opportunity to build stronger links between the United States and Ireland.

The Boston business community has been a tremendous supporter of the program since its inception by employing Irish graduates in paid internships in a range of careers including business management, technology, human resources, and marketing. The approval of additional visas by the State Department is a testament to the successful outcomes that are possible when governments, organizations, businesses and individuals come together to work in partnership. The IIC is grateful to all of our supporters who helped to bring this about.

A new member for Learning Exchange team

The IIC is pleased to welcome **Helaine-Rose Goudreau** to the Learning Exchange Program team. With the recent increase in the number of J1-IWT visas, we expect the entire LEP staff to be quite a bit more busy from here on.

A Massachusetts native, and graduate of Connecticut College, Helaine pursued a work abroad program in Dublin, Ireland, where she held a position with a nonprofit



Helaine-Rose Goudreau

development company. Helaine is excited to support Irish students who are looking to engage in a similar experience, "I am eager to contribute towards the mission of the IIC, and am happy to join an organization that combines my fervor for immigration advocacy and my connection to Ireland."

Legal Clinics: The Irish International Immigrant Center provides free legal support and representation to the Irish immigrant community. Weekly legal clinics where you can receive a free and confidential consultation with staff and volunteer attorneys are held throughout the Greater Boston area. Upcoming Clinics:

Tues., Oct. 6, and Tues., Oct. 20 - IIC, 100 Franklin St. Lower Level, Downtown Boston. Entrance is at 201 Devonshire Street. **Tues., Oct. 27** - The South Boston Labouré Center, 275 West Broadway, S. Boston

Celebrate the holidays at IIC's Solas Celebration



Sen. Linda Dorcea Forry

This year's Solas Celebration will be the best yet and you can be part of it. With Jimmy Tingle as emcee, slam poetry by Harlym 125, Jamele Adams, and live Irish music, you will not want to miss this December event.

Sponsorship and tickets are available at iicenter.org. Join us on Thursday evening, Dec. 3, at the Seaport Hotel Boston and support IIC's immigration legal, wellness, and education programs for Irish immigrants.

The Solas Awards are presented to individuals who are committed to our vision of a society where all people are welcomed and valued, and enjoy



Jim Rooney

equal opportunities and protections. This year, we are honoring:

Mayor Martin J. Walsh, in recognition of his tremendous support of the various immigrant communities in Boston, and for his deep connection to Ireland, and his signing of the Boston-Belfast Sister City Agreement.

The Hon. Linda Dorcea Forry, a Massachusetts state senator, for her leadership with the Haitian Family Reunification Program, and her support for low-income immigrant families throughout New England.

James E. Rooney, president of the Greater Boston



Robert Coughlin

Chamber of Commerce, for his consistent support of our Center, his commitment to diversity and inclusion, and his tremendous accomplishments at the Massachusetts Convention Center



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Claim your Heritage. Apply for Irish Citizenship today!

If your parent or grandparent was born in Ireland, you are eligible to become an Irish citizen. Our attorneys will help locate your documents and file your application. Contact Foley Law Offices to begin your citizenship application at (617) 973-6448.

Immigration Q&A

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 did not 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. Once lost, LPR status can be regained only by beginning the LPR application process all over again.

After you become 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 assignment?

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? Were these circumstances within your control?

Where are your family ties, property, business affiliations, etc.?

Have you filed US resident tax returns?

In your particular case, it seems you did not intend to abandon your US LPR status. You should obtain evidence of your mother's diagnosis to illustrate to US immigration inspectors why you remained away for nine months. Evidence could include letters from her doctors and records from the hospital. You also should assemble evidence to address the points outlined above. You should return to the US as a LPR sooner rather than later and certainly within a year of your departure. An absence from the US of more than one year very likely would result in the loss of your LPR status. There is a reentry permit that can be applied for if one anticipates 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. See 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 processing and filing procedures. For legal advice, seek the assistance of IIC immigration legal staff.

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!

2015 Solas Celebration

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2015 | SEAPORT HOTEL

Purchase your tickets to the party at www.iicenter.org

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

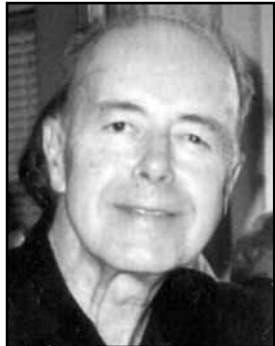
Poetry by Harlym 125
(Jamele Adams)

Honorees include: Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh, The Hon. Linda Dorcea 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

Boston Irish Reporter’s Here & There

By BILL O'DONNELL

Conservatives Target Obama Guest List – Despite the obvious love and joy that an excited American public lavished on **Pope Francis** in his public appearances here late last month, there was considerable behind-the-scenes dismay expressed during his visit from political conservatives and Catholic traditionalists alike. Together they were fighting an uphill battle against the tide of public approval of the Jesuit pope. The particular sore points with conservatives were two: the policy statements by Francis on immigration



Bill O'Donnell

and climate change and the guest list for his welcome to the United States at the White House by **President and Mrs. Obama**.

There remains deeply imbedded in conservative “folklore” a visceral belief that climate change and the dangers that it holds for the world we live in are unproven liberal ideas that impede industrial progress and threaten capitalism. This, of course, flies in the face of the overwhelming evidence given by the planet’s scientists that, leftist belief or not, the effects of uncontrolled climate change represent a ticking time bomb.

The second distressing sign to conservatives of a pope who appears to be generally supportive of policies emanating from the Obama White House was the presence at the impressive welcoming of an A-list of America’s nobility and a number of individuals whose places in life speak to the social, cultural, religious, and political diversity of the country. For these right-wing elements, many of whom have spent six plus years opposing President Obama’s agenda at every turn, seeing a hugely popular pope espousing what they see as liberal dogma before such a gathering was almost more than they could stand. While their complaints were many, certainly a lightning rod of outrage was the sight of the Catholic nun **Sister Simone Campbell**, the organizer of the “Nuns on the Bus,” and a favorite target of the right.

A right-wing news site describes some of the 15,000 at the Rose Garden reception for Francis as a “rogue’s gallery” of dissenters and their inclusion “a stunning show of political indecorum” designed to “test just how far Pope Francis’ notorious tolerance will go.” Sister Simone, outspoken and direct, has been a thorn in the side of conservatives; some paint her as the “pro-abortion executive director of the social justice lobby NETWORK.” Sister Simone, who, like many, was stunned by the “apostolic visits” from Vatican clerics aimed at reining in the nuns and their leader, says she is “pro-life, not just pro-birth.”

A broad-based criticism by conservatives of the guest list seemed to be especially virulent concerning the number of gay Catholics and LGBT advocates who had been invited, including a gay Episcopal bishop, Gene Robinson, and others with similar backgrounds. As the *National Catholic Reporter* noted, “Maybe American conservatives and Obama critics are more upset than the pope they say they are defending.”

Grace Notes For A Troubled Time – In the north of Ireland and in some nearby border counties the slog is difficult and often depressing, but amidst the bramble bushes a sliver of sunlight now and then shines through. Two of those sidebar events caught my eye and deserve attention.

- For the first time a British army regiment will field a GAA team in competition. The story came out of London and it involved a vote taken last month to admit a junior Irish Guards side to play in the London county championships next year. The Irish Guards GAA team has an existing 45-man panel that includes Irish players, players of Irish descent, and others who simply want to play.

The Irish Guards regiment was founded in 1901 by Queen Victoria and many Irish companies were disbanded after Irish independence, but not the Guards unit, which remains an active part of the British Army. Rule 21, the ban on crown forces joining the GAA, was abolished in 2001.

- A similar if more subtle “hands across the community” gesture is taking place in Fermanagh where members of the Church of Ireland in Derrylin reached out to help their Catholic neighbors. The generous actions by the minister, **Rev. Andrew Quill**, his daughter, and a friend began following a rash of break-ins into cars outside St. Mary’s Catholic Church and nearby churches. The pastor of St. Mary’s, Father **Fintan McKiernan**, commended the action and revealed his parish members would soon be following suit. “I appreciate it. It was a meaningful neighborly thing to do. We will be having car supervisors now at Mass, weddings, and funerals,” the pastor confirmed. The gift of caring can be a powerful force, it says here.

Not A Hoax; Jeb Said It – I missed the last GOP Elephant Walk debate, but someone asked me for my reaction to **Jeb Bush’s** answer on who should grace the soon to be redesigned \$10 bill.

I was told that Jeb (where’s that fire in the belly?) replied to the debate question by offering up former British PM **Maggie Thatcher** as someone to be pictured on the US \$10 dollar bill. Wow! He actually said that. No Eire Pub pint for you. In the first place why have a British citizen on our money? And, if you’re stuck on

that, then why have a divisive anti-Irish, anti-unions, pro-dictator politician as a symbol of American values and democracy. Please. Note to Jeb and his incipient presidential campaign: The Irish in America number an estimated 35-40 million people, many of whom are voters. Mrs. T is anathema to most Irish – and many Brits. Who is doing his research? Want a mulligan, Jeb, on that sappy answer?

Austerity Rules; Senior Travel Passes May End – There are threats abuilding to take away travel passes that senior citizens (over 60) in Northern Ireland use to travel and shop. It has been a privilege of age that the free passes are an accepted perk for the North’s 60 plus population.

Once the proposal moved from village rumor to a much-discussed possibility, the Northern Ireland Pensioners Parliament activated its lobbying arm in an intensive effort to kill that in-your-pocket fee. Advocates, including many not eligible for the senior travel pass, point out that “free travel allows the older population to have a more active and healthy lifestyle, and ensures it isn’t a financial burden.” Others note that the free travel should be praising what the Smartpass enables older people to do. These activities actually save money, help the economy, and secure a better public transport for everyone. Amen.

Boston’s Mayor Walsh a Tough Cookie – Globe columnist **Adrian Walker** took a few jabs at Connemara’s and Dorchester’s **Marty Walsh** late last month, but the mayor, zeroing in on the closing months of his first two years in the Plaza Parthenon, is still standing tall with his constituents.

Walker challenged Walsh on the \$1.5 million Boston has spent on lawyers and push-back against casino mogul **Steve Wynn** in working to get the best shake for Boston and its citizens out of the gambling operation designated for Everett by the state gaming commission. I think it will turn out to be money well spent and an essential element in protecting Boston against the rampaging billionaire from the desert. Walker, in his Sept. 25 column, tried to hang the 2024 Olympics end game as a “fiasco” around Walsh’s neck, but I and thousands of clear heads who were unconvinced by the flying IOC circus think the Walsh call was a win and protected the city against liability for unlimited shortfalls and a plan that had too many unanswered questions.

When you are an incoming first term mayor and Olympic supporters, many with their own goals and heady dreams, are championing a five-ring, world class extravaganza, what new mayor would be a skunk at the lawn party by going against the prevailing winds and not supporting such an event? But a few words spring to mind: due diligence and caution. The mayor was not giving anyone, from Mount Olympus or elsewhere, an open checkbook on the city’s finances or future.

Walsh worked to get a guarantee that Boston would not be left holding the bag for losses that could have croaked the city’s balance sheet. That’s a line of prevent defense direct from Rosmuc. The IOC couldn’t produce, and Boston closed down the shop.

The mayor of Boston doesn’t owe anyone an apology for protecting the city against potential harm, except maybe the local banks that will not be enjoying an Olympics-driven borrowing frenzy. That’s the “fiasco” we missed. And ain’t we lucky, Boston.

Two Who Marked Special Septembers – This year’s Rose of Tralee, **Elysha Brennan**, a Meath native, had several reasons to celebrate her Rose crown. The first of course, most would say, is that she was chosen the fairest of all on stage at the annual Rose of Tralee pageant in Kerry. What many did not know about the 22-year-old Elysha is that she is in remission from cancer and is still being monitored with check-up scans, her next scheduled for just before Christmas. She is being treated for Hodgkin’s lymphoma but tells family and friends that she is in the “height of my health” and looking forward to fulfilling her duties as Rose of Tralee. Go girl.

Across the water is a another wee girl, the twenty-something **Margaret Keys**, who had the thrill of her young life when she sang for Pope Francis in Philadelphia before an estimated audience of almost a million people during his appearance there on Sept. 26. Margaret, from Derry, recently lost her father. He had been a strong influence in her life and a strong supporter of her singing career. When she spoke about her father’s help and hopes, she said that performing for the pope became a greater ambition following her father’s death. When asked how she came to be selected to sing for the papal party, Margaret explained, “I performed on Vatican Radio while I was in Rome last year, and I believe that one opportunity leads to another.” She is following in the footsteps of another Derry girl, the Eurovision winner **Dana**, who has sung for several popes in her lengthy career.

“The First Queen Of Journalism,” Mary McGrory – If you were Irish American, and a news junkie who loved politics, you had a surefire crush on **Mary McGrory**, who wrote tellingly and factually about politicians and others whom she covered in a half-century as a reporter and columnist. She won the 1975 Pulitzer Prize for commentary for her articles about the Watergate scandal.

This Roslindale-born journalist was in her time arguably the most celebrated political columnist in America, first for the late *Washington Star* and then the *Washington Post*. She knew everybody who was anybody worth knowing in the Beltway. She was perhaps best known for her close ties with the Kennedy family. She and **John F. Kennedy** were close in age

and some thought she had a long and endearing crush on the handsome senator and president-to-be. Mary also traveled with and covered **Robert F. Kennedy** during his ill-fated 1968 presidential campaign.

During 1980, my year with Congressman **John Anderson** and his national independent campaign for president, Mary occasionally joined the campaign, especially early when Anderson’s poll numbers were significant. She was the star of the campaign’s Big Foot reporters and I did my duty seeing that she got up and onto the bus with her coffee or tea. I forget which. She was delightful if crabby, particularly if the bus left earlier than usual. I had enormous respect for her and her skills, which held up well even after decades of writing about politics. She spent almost a week once with the campaign in Chicago, and, upset for one reason or another, she took to calling our hotel for press and staff “the abysmal Bismark.” But on balance she was a favorite during the occasions when she caught up with the campaign. A Boston gal and a hell of a journalist; what was not to like.

Some six years later, I re-introduced myself to her at the White House Saint Patrick’s Day party and mentioned the Chicago hotel but it rang no bells for her. Six years in politics is an eternity. Mary died in 2004, and hopefully her biography/memoir, “The First Queen of Journalism” by John Norris, does this hometown lady justice.

Student Finds Truth of NINA – A prominent American historian and others have long dismissed as myth the anti-Irish discrimination signs of No Irish Need Apply, or NINA, that were found at job sites and in help wanted ads beginning in the mid-1800s and continuing into the early years of the 20th century. Reports of the NINA signs were deemed as untrue claims of discrimination against the Irish that didn’t hold up after scholarly searches.

Now, however, as a result of research by a high school student, there is further proof and authentication that these NINA signs and advertisements not only actually existed but they also were widely seen and recorded, according to a recent story in the *New York Times*.

After the student’s research turned up several examples of NINA artifacts, the Times reporter, **Mark Bulik**, conducted a search of his newspaper’s data base. The earliest example Bulik found dates back to Nov. 10, 1854, in a classified ad for a nanny. It was the first of 29 instances that Bulik found showing No Irish Need Apply stipulations. In addition, he found many more classifieds stating that applicants be Protestant, suggesting a prejudice against Irish Catholic immigrants. It has long been said that “the truth will set you free.” Finally, to the naysayers, we have the proof.

Good Reading on the Vatican Curia and Whitey & the FBI – The *New Yorker* magazine continues to be one of the sharpest fact-driven investigative journals publishing today. In the Sept. 14 issue there is an excellent update on Pope Francis’s efforts to reform the Vatican Curia, by **Alexander Stille**. In the Sept. 21 issue, **Patrick Radden Keefe**, who grew up in Dorchester, takes a further look at the FBI and its long-term relationship with alleged informant Whitey Bulger that tries to answer the question of who worked for whom in the FBI-Bulger arrangement.

RANDOM CLIPPINGS

Weeks after the Irish water rates protesters hit the streets, thousands are still protesting in Dublin, not about the rates but about criminal charges brought against protesters in Tallaght. ... Minister of the Environment **Mark Durkin** of the SDLP is considering licensing all bonfires in the North. ... New British Labour Party leader **Jeremy Corbyn** has come out as a supporter of a united Ireland. ... The VW “Gotcha” cost in Europe is 6.5 billion euros; Ireland has been hit heavily. ... The Pawtucket Red Sox (only 50 miles from Boston) move to Providence has been killed and the PawSox are looking for another field to play on. ... **Monica McWilliams**, founder of the NI Womens Coalition, will speak at BC’s Devlin Hall at 5 p.m. on Wed., Dec. 9. ... BC will host two fine Irish writers onto campus this fall, **Paul Murray** and **Kevin Barry**. Call BC Irish Studies for times and venues.

US Sen. **Elizabeth Warren** has the IRS in her sights as she pushes to end lucrative tax breaks for private equity managers. ... Thought it might be a typo, but happily it’s true that the Irish government expects the domestic economy to grow by a stunning 6 percent this year. ... Irish President **Michael D. Higgins** is suggesting that local housing authorities should apologize to the homeless for the lack of social housing services. ... Ireland’s biggest hotel group is looking to purchase the well-positioned Gresham Hotel in Dublin for \$67 million. ... An immigration reform group is readying a large TV ad buy that will embarrass **Ted Cruz, Donald the Draft Dodger, and Scott Walker**, who has already left the campaign trail. ... Mass. AG **Maura Healey** is looking closely at pipeline routes that would cut across conservation land in the Bay State and New Hampshire. ... Glad to see that Dorchester’s Carney Hospital has turned the financial corner. It is looking at breaking even for the first time in years. ... Regulators are eyeing some Big Pharma cost increases that have some cholesterol-lowering drugs costing \$14,000 a year and other medications that are now priced in the \$100,000 and up range. Pharma cites research costs, but many drug companies pay more to advertise than for research. ... “Spotlight,” the tale of the *Boston Globe’s* Pulitzer Prize series on priestly sexual abuse, will be shown at the Hamptons International Film Festival in October, and will be on screens in theaters Nov. 6.

BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett

Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

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; 6.) 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.





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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 water 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 we 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.

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

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

When you've had as long and productive a musical career as Finbar Furey, picking out a defining moment might seem difficult. But in his case, there are at least two – and in both instances, he walked away from certain success.

The first time was in 1970, when he and brother Eddie were playing in the back-up band for the legendary Clancy Brothers, and decided to strike out on their own – leading, ultimately, to the formation of a band with their other brothers, Paul and George. And the second time was almost 25 years later, when Furey opted to leave the group he'd fronted for so long – and which had released a number of best-selling singles and albums – to pursue a solo career.

Furey didn't make either decision lightly, nor has he regretted them. And the result has been a decades-long odyssey that has taken him almost literally all over the world, forming cherished friendships and collaborations along the way, and affirming himself as one of the most beloved, and unique, figures in Irish music – a master of the uilleann pipes who can play a guitar and belt out a Johnny Cash song, or pick up a banjo to accompany one of his own compositions, without batting an eye. Oh, and by the way, he has also developed a side venture of sorts in film, having made appearances in Martin Scorsese's "Gangs of New York" and Michael Mahon's "Strength and Honour," among others, and contributed the score to the forthcoming "Occurrence at Wild Goose Lodge," which revolves around the 19th-century secret society called The Ribbonmen of County Louth.

Recently, Furey's travels took him to Somerville, where he performed at The Burren "Backroom" series. Sitting outside The Burren on a warm late-summer afternoon, greeted continually by friends, acquaintances, and fans arriving for his show, Furey is reflecting on his long-running journey and the people who have enlivened it, with the contented air of someone who has earned the right to wax philosophically.

"What would I be doing if not for music? I'd probably be an attorney in Washington, having a go against Donald Trump for president," he quips in a deep, gravelly voice, redolent of his Dublin upbringing. "I don't really know. What I do know is, Monday I fly back home to Ireland, and we'll see what happens then. God 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 still do it. I just love the music."

It would've been more surprising if Furey didn't love the music, since it was practically inscribed in the family DNA: After his fiddle-playing father Ted, from Salthill, went to the famous Puck Fair and heard Nora Connelly, a daughter of a travelling family from Kilfenora, play the banjo, he waited all of four days to ask her to marry him.

Ted set Finbar on the uilleann pipes at a young age; an All-Star cast of visiting pipers, like Willie Clancy, Felix Doran, Seamus Ennis and Leo Rowsome, would lend their expertise and guidance to Finbar. By the time he hit his teens, Furey had won a bushel of honors, including three All-Ireland titles. He had also left school, at his father's direction, to go and busk out on the road with the family.

"Dad didn't play the pipes, but he was important to me, musically," says Furey. "He would just listen to me, and if I needed something, I knew I could ask him."

Furey came of age in the late 1960s, when Irish music was in a transition period of sorts: The ballad bands, like the Clancys, Dubliners, and Irish Rovers, had made a big impression in Ireland, the US and elsewhere, but people such as Christy Moore, Donal Lunney, Andy Irvine, Mick Moloney, Johnny Moynihan, and Micheál Ó Dhomhnaill and sister Tríona were beginning to create a new sound – mining deeper veins of the Irish tradition and bringing in contemporary styles and attitudes – that would dramatically transform Irish music when the 1970s rolled around. Furey, a young man playing one of Ireland's most iconic instruments, was a perfect fit for this vanguard.



"Every night I go on stage, I think 'This music is bigger than me.'"

Sean Smith photo

Yet Furey's step out onto the big stage came first with the Clancys, when he and 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 an album of piping music with Eddie as accompanist on guitar and bodhran. "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 – but I wouldn't move without Eddie. So they brought him in as well, and off we went, and didn't we raise the roof. The Clancys were great, though, such wonderful ambassadors for the music, for Ireland. They taught us a lot about ourselves, about our Irish heritage."

Finbar and Eddie also learned a lot about show business, playing throughout Europe, America and elsewhere in front of crowds numbering in the thousands instead of the hundreds, performing on TV and appearing on two Clancys recordings. But after about a year, Finbar says, "it just got too big for me."

And more to the point, "I just felt we weren't finished with Ireland," Furey adds, "so I said, 'Eddie, let's go back.'" (Furey says he also thinks the clamor and attention he and Eddie had received playing with the Clancys would have likely turned them "into spoiled brats.") 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 known 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 intersected with that of Finbar and Eddie: Paul 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 Paul teamed up with Arthur to form Tam Linn, and after adding George, changed the name to The Furey Brothers and Davey Arthur (later shortened to The Fureys and Davey Arthur).

The next two decades saw the band flourish, their mix of instrumental pieces – led by Finbar's pipes and whistle and Paul's accordion – 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 "John of 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 15 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 generally well-received albums; Finbar also managed to put out a solo effort, "Love Letters," with his renditions of contemporary/popular love songs by the likes of Eric Clapton, George Harrison, Phil Lynott, Jim Croce, and Elvis Presley, 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 thought that perhaps the time had come to devote more attention to that part of his craft, and to 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 about as far as I could. So I went home and went fishing, took a year off to get my head together."

There was no animosity between him and his brothers about his decision to leave, Furey says: "I was more worried about whether they'd be OK without me, but I knew they'd do fine, really, and they have. We meet up now and then, and there's always laughter between us, and then we have to hold back the tears. The boys are very happy where they are, and I'm glad for them."

"I'm the most unpredictable human being you will ever meet – I'm terrible. The boys would always say, 'Don't predict where Finbar's going to go, because he just doesn't go there. You don't know. Just wait.' But I enjoy it; I haven't

missed yet. You reach for space, you know? Sometimes you get there, and sometimes you don't, but when you do, oh, it's fantastic."

A lot of it has been fantastic, certainly. He has continued to record, whether on his own or as a guest – he joined Mary Black for her cover of his own "Walking with My Love" on her "Stories from the Steeple" album – and even got a number one hit, with Gerry Fleming's "The Last Great Love Song," through his participation in an Irish reality TV series. His travels have taken him to, among other places, South Africa, where he sang with a Soweto choir. His foray into films and TV has clearly been satisfying and rejuvenating. He's also watched his children make their own way into music, especially Martin, now a member of The High Kings – his daughter Aine teamed with Martin in the band Bohinta and put out her own album, but ultimately decided to go into a different profession.

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 when his creativity was at low ebb. He also endured some physical problems that curtailed the amount of time he could perform on the pipes – and new restrictions on traveling with instruments containing ivory have led him to decide against taking his pipes to the US from now on.

But on this day, certainly, Furey is not one to wallow. There is far more to be optimistic about, especially the outlook for Irish music – he's particularly enthused about the young County Clare trio Socks in the Frying Pan, and the Donegal-based pop/Celtic rockers The Screaming Orphans ("What a great name!"), both of whom he recently appeared with during his US tour. "Entirely too much fun for an old fella," he says. "But it's great to see the music like that. Makes me wish I was 20, 22 years old again."

Whether it's meeting the younger musicians, like Socks in the Frying Pan or The Screaming Orphans, or those of his age or older, Furey says he's constantly reminded that – whatever his accomplishments – he's a link in an incredibly long chain.

"Every night I go on stage, I think 'This music is bigger than me.' I don't think of myself as an Irish traditional musician, even though people might call me that. I mean, you have to be dead 50 years before you're a traditional musician. You think of great musicians, like a Willie Clancy, and how they learned what they did, and others learned from them. It's like a big well we're all dipping into, you know what I mean? And it'll never dry up as long as there are brilliant young musicians around. I think some of us, we're like old warriors sitting around the fire, sending out the young braves."

"All great heritage music – from Ireland, or from Native Americans, or from the Maori or from the aborigines in Australia – has that wheel, like a hub. We all got it around 50,000 years ago, and no one knows where it came from. I remember talking with a friend of mine one night on a bridge in Melbourne about heritage, and he asks me, 'Where did you get this?' and I say, 'I don't know,' and he says, 'There's 12,000 miles between us and we still have the same groove, the same heart.'"

At that night's concert, the packed-to-the-rafter Backroom is in the same groove, the same heart with Furey, as he and his accompanist, string bassist Paul O'Driscoll, take a leisurely stroll through his repertoire, beginning with "The Lonesome Boatman." At one point, he starts up "Walking with My Love":

And her laughter fills the evening air
I smile at her just strolling there
No need to hurry no not a care
Arriving at the chorus, he lets the crowd take over, while he continues softly strumming his guitar and smiling as much to himself as anyone else:
When I'm walking with me darlin'
When I'm walking with me love
With my love

The song ends, the crowd applauds with gusto, and Furey looks like he could do this all night. Again and again.

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, but 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, guitar, vocals) – will be at Club Passim in Harvard Square on Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. All three enjoyed phenomenally accomplished careers even before they began playing as a trio a couple of years ago, and released their highly acclaimed first album in 2014.

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. 7. Fisher, from a venerable singing family and active in Scottish music since the 1960s, is a Member of the Order of British Empire and holds a place in the Scots Traditional Music Hall of Fame as well. Rogers started out playing in the band of his 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 fiddle. The two have toured together several times in the past 20 years; they will be accompanied at the Backroom performance by Danish fiddler Harald Haugaard.

• Three 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 best-selling 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 wrap up the Backroom’s schedule this month on Oct. 21. Hayes grew up immersed in his native East Clare’s fiddle tradition (his father P.J. was a founding member 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 earned plaudits 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 performers for “From Clare to Here” will be Oliver O’Connell (accordion), Mickey Dunne (uilleann pipes, fiddle), Mick Nestor (flute) and Boston-area resident John Coyne (bouzouki). The concert begins at 7:30 p.m., and there is a suggested minimum donation of \$20. See michaeldunleavy.com for ticket information.

• The notloB Music series will present a concert by Emma Beaton and Nic Gareiss on Oct. 10 at Gregorian Rugs, 2284 Washington Street in Newton Lower Falls at 8 p.m. A native of Canada and daughter of Scottish immigrants, Beaton grew up playing Celtic music on cello but subsequently

expanded her tastes to include American roots and picked up banjo, all the while honing her singing talents. Named Canadian Folk’s Young Performer of the Year in 2008, she lived in Boston while studying at the Berklee College of Music and is now in Nashville. Gareiss is widely known for his innovative percussive dance style – he has performed locally at “A Christmas Celtic Sojourn” and BCMFest, among other events – but is also considerably skilled on vocals and bouzouki. The two released a CD in 2010.

General admission for the show is \$20, seniors and students \$15. Tickets are available through Eventbrite [eventbrite.com/o/notlob-music-6730833315].

• An event of a more participatory nature will take place on Oct. 15 when Boston College will host an Irish ceili as part of the Gaelic Roots series, led by Kieran Jordan, a Boston-based dancer, choreographer and teacher, with Seamus Connolly, director of BC’s Irish music programs, and area musicians. The ceili will be held in the Irish Room of Gasson Hall on BC’s Chestnut Hill Campus, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free. See bc.edu/gaelic-roots.

• Music of faith will be the focus when the Belfast Community Gospel Choir comes to the Irish Cultural Centre of New England in Canton on Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. Touted as Northern Ireland’s first and only multicultural choir, BCGC 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.” Comprised of over 100 auditioned singers from all over Northern Ireland who perform in various-sized ensembles, the choir – hailed as “the soul of Belfast” – appears at concerts, festivals, and civic, charitable, corporate and other events.

The concert is free. For directions or other information, see irishculture.org. To learn more about the Belfast Community Gospel Choir, go to bcgc.biz.



The Burren “Backroom” series welcomes Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill on October 21; also appearing this month are Archie Fisher and Garnet Rogers (October 7) and Eleanor McEvoy (October 10).
Sean Smith photo

Irish sessions

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Great Hunger Museum visit set for Oct. 17

Ár dTeanga Dhúchais i mBoston (ÁdTD), 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 (Músaeman Ghorta Mhóir) at 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.

Ár dTeanga Dhúchais means ‘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, béaloideas (folklore), and sean-nós singing.

Deadline to register for the trip is Oct. 3. Interested persons are asked to contact ÁdTD by writing to Peggy Cloherty, Uachtarán (President), 35 Vernon St., Brookline MA 02446, or send an email to eolas@ardteangadhuchais.org.

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CD Reviews

By SEAN SMITH

Buttons and Bows, “The Return of Spring” • There are so many reasons to like Buttons and Bows, not least because the group took its name from the old Dinah Shore hit (featured in the 1948 movie “The Paleface”), in tribute to their main instruments, i.e., accordion (buttons) and fiddles (bows). A bit of clever, pop culture-referencing humor in Irish music is not a bad thing at all – hey, there’s another band out there called Breaking Trad, whose album will be given some attention here in the near future.



But a better reason to appreciate Button and Bows is – actually, *four* better reasons are – because of the All-Universe attributes of the band’s members: accordionist Jackie Daly, one of the finest embodiments of the Sliabh Luachra tradition of Cork and Kerry around; guitarist-pianist-mandocellist Garry O’Brian from Clare, formerly of Aengus and Skylark, now a member of the Boys of the Lough and a talented producer and instrument maker as well as musician; and the fiddling McGuire brothers from Sligo, Manus – he’s played with Moving Cloud and the Brock McGuire band, won honors from the *Irish American News* and *Trad Magazine* – and Seamus, who released a highly acclaimed album of music inspired by Seamus Heaney’s poetry and co-founded the classical-traditional fusion ensemble the West Ocean String Quartet. Naturally, given all their

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’ 30-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 unadulterated 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 winsome waltz, “Oyster Island,” penned by Seamus McGuire, no less?

While Buttons and Bows has frequently extended its repertoire to include music from Quebecois, Danish, Shetland and other traditions, 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 sets of polkas (including one he wrote in honor of the storied Galway box player Joe Burke) and slides, or the McGuires out in front on a pair of reels (“The Prohibition/The Contradiction”) first recorded by the legendary Michael Coleman and Tom Gannon, with that classic Sligo flamboyance and ornamentation. There’s also a jig in the Donegal style from the famous Doherty family, and a striking Limerick air, the aptly named “An Ceo Draichta (The Magic Mist)” from the PW Joyce Collection that is followed by “The Stafford Dance,” which gives a nod to Leitrim tune collector Stephen Grier.

Daly and the McGuires obviously deserve the attention they get, but there’s certainly no overlooking O’Brian’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 Aibhilin,” named for his granddaughter, and a sequel of sorts to a waltz he wrote for her mother that appeared on “Grace Notes.”)

Given the interval between their last two albums – we’re talking from near the end of the George H. W. Bush administration to the latter months of the Obama era – it’s understandable to wonder when Buttons and Bows next makes it back into the studio again. Hopefully, not quite so long: They clearly still have a collective spring in their step.

Alyth McCormack, “Homelands” • A native of the Isle of Lewis (off the northwest coast of Scotland) now living in Dublin, McCormack has appeared on some two dozen albums and has two solo recordings to her credit, a body of work that covers a variety of music, from Celtic and folk to jazz, classical and indie. She has appeared with The Chieftains, and was the featured female vocalist in the 2012 “Christmas Celtic Sojourn” production. McCormack also has a lot of acting experience, so there’s a certain theatrical quality, albeit tastefully and judiciously measured, to her singing.

“Homelands,” as the title implies, is about the concept of “home” and its place in our imagination and emotions, not to mention our mythology. The matter is not a little complicated, suggests McCormack, who in the liner notes for the album professes a love for both her former and her present homes. What do we value most about our homeland, and how does that change – if it does – should we leave it? And if we stay but those we love go away, does that change how we feel about them, and about our homeland?



Some of the songs are well known and have been covered often: “The Lambs on the Green Hills” and “Carrickfergus,” from tradition, and Patrick Kavanagh’s “Raglan Road.” McCormack also does Martin Furey’s “My Grandmother’s Eyes” – written shortly before his departure to the US in honor of his grandmother, who had already seen many family members and friends emigrate from Ireland – and “Lord Yester,” the George Weir poem set to music by Roy Williamson (of the Scottish band The Corries), in which a woman sublimates her grief for the likely death of her lover by imagining him in distant lands.

Interspersed with these are McCormack’s starkly beautiful renditions of songs in Gaelic, such as “Bua-chaille ón Eirne (A Boy from Erne)” and “A Mhairi Bhoidheach (Beautiful Mary).” This makes for an exotic sort of contrast (especially if you’re not a Gaelic speaker) to the other tracks, and gives the album an overall heft and presence it might not have otherwise. McCormack also benefits from a supporting ensemble that includes her co-producer Brian McAlpine (piano, guitars, accordion), Aidan O’Rourke (fiddle), Joe Csibi (double bass), and her husband Noel Eccles (percussion), all of whom provide a sensitive and discerning – as opposed to overwrought and overdone – backing.

Albums built around a theme sometimes make listeners work a little to fully appreciate them. “Homelands” doesn’t do that, exactly; yet, in a mobicentric society like ours where you’re seldom likely to live in the place you were born, pausing to consider just what “home” means to us nowadays is a not unreasonable task.

John Roberts & Debra Cowan, “Ballads Long & Short” • The first CD by this duo, both solid, stalwart performers of the British Isles and North American folk music traditions who have been familiar faces (and voices) at festivals and coffehouses throughout the Northeast, whether together, solo or in other collaborations: Roberts in particular for his longstanding partnership with his fellow Briton Tony Barrand, which includes the annual “Nowell Sing We Clear” concerts of Christmas music; Cowan, who lives near Worcester, has often ventured into contemporary folk, playing with the likes of Co. Down songwriter Colum Sands and American songwriters Si Kahn and Brooks Williams, among others.

Whether you know Roberts and/or Cowan, or you don’t, “Ballads Long & Short” is a delight for those who just like well-sung songs that span the spectrum of humor, fellowship, tragedy, mystery, love, adventure and fun, with slight but not insubstantial accompaniment (by Roberts on banjo and concertina) – sometimes none at all. Roberts’ rich British-accented tenor nestles against Cowan’s clear, mellifluous tones to highly pleasing effect.

Some of the songs reach back centuries, like the blood-chilling “Twa Corbies” (although this particular version was the work of 1960s/70s Scots singer Morris Blythman, who set the words to a Breton tune), or “The Golden Hind,” one of those ballads that has all the ingredients (incest, suicide, murder, intrigue) of a “Game of Thrones” episode. Others are of more recent vintage, such as Mick Slocum’s “Jim Jones,” a bitter song about the Australian penal colony that’s been covered by Bob Dylan, among others, and “The Broadside Man,” co-written by John Connolly (author of “Fiddler’s Green”) and Bill Meek. Parodists will surely appreciate the Kipper Family’s “Combing the Mane,” a maritime ditty that indulges in some hair-raising, groan-inducing wordplay.

Best of all, for those who like to do more than listen, there are plenty of very singable choruses on here, in songs such as “Bold Riley,” “When Fortune Turns the Wheel,” “Drive Dull Care Away” and “Garners Gay.” The long and short of it is, this is folk music at its most accessible and intimate, and altogether inviting.

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Des Bishop on stage
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He’s keeping things on track at North Shore Music Theatre

By R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

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 the obstacles in 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 Landegger.

Kevin P. Hill is the artistic director at the Beverly theater-in-the-round. Working with theater owner/producer Bill Hanney, Hill keeps an eye on virtually every aspect of every production to make sure it maintains the theater’s high standards.

That includes assembling a compelling season of productions, reaching out to directors, choreographers, and designers, holding auditions, casting each show, and making sure every production is technically sharp and runs smoothly.

A Waltham native with family ties that stretch to maternal ancestors in County Cork, Hill has had a diverse career as an actor, dancer, choreographer, and director. In addition to having appeared off-Broadway, he has directed and choreographed more than 80 productions across the country.

His impressive credits include touring productions of “Hello, Dolly!” “Anything Goes” and “A Chorus Line” as well as local and regional productions of “West Side Story,” “Falsettoland,” “Smokey Joe’s Café,” “Rent,” “Chicago” and more.

This past theater season he worked on Broadway as assistant to the director of the Tony-nominated musical “On The Twentieth Century,” starring Kristen Chenoweth. In addition to his theater work, he owns Hill Studios Dance and Fitness Center in Newton.

We spoke during rehearsals for “Billy Elliot.” Here’s a condensed look at our conversation:

Q. I know you’re very excited to be presenting “Billy Elliot” this month.

A. It’s funny that my story is a lot like Billy Elliot’s because I wanted to dance and my parents, I think, were worried about people making fun of me. They knew it was my passion, but they were just worried for me and wanted me to be in a more stable profession. An architect or something like that. Not that that’s more stable (laughs).

Q. What prompted you to include “Billy Elliot” in your season?

A. We always try to look for a family show . . . this show itself has so much heart. You just fall in love with this kid. And the dancing’s incredible. We choose Adam Peltz (to direct and choreograph). He’s the guru of “Billy Elliot” . . . We really wanted someone who knew the show but who also brought the heart to the show, and he has a lot of heart himself.

Q. Any local actors in this production?

A. All the ballet girls in the show are local. It’s wonderful. Our two Billys – one is from Chicago and one is from Oklahoma – are just amazing. We wanted the best for the show and we certainly have it.

Q. What was the first Broadway show you saw as a boy?

A. “Annie,” here in Boston; the touring company. I remember being seated in the very first row. I was there with my mother and my sister. I’ll never forget there was one point in the show where one of the cast members pointed right at me . . . I thought, that’s what I want to do.

Q. You spent some of your early years as part of Reagle Music Theater. What was that like?

A. That’s where I kind of grew up performing. I got my start there. Basically I wanted to learn every single aspect of theater . . . I started painting sets. Then I wanted to perform (so) I auditioned. My first show was “Oliver” and I just caught the bug. That’s all I could see myself doing.

Q. Eventually you made the transition from acting to choreographing and directing. How did that shift occur?

A. My first choreographic job was “Kiss Me Kate” at The Publick Theater in Boston. I got horrible reviews but it was only because I didn’t really know what I was doing . . . I had been a dance captain and I think at the last minute someone said, “Oh, could you put something together?” . . . I did a good job, but I didn’t know the whole story-telling part of it yet.

Q. So how did you expand your vision?

A. I taught at Penn State University. I was a professor there for five years . . . I really gathered my skills there. I started choreographing a lot more there and I started directing there . . . They gave me more opportunities.

Q. What’s your approach when you take on a new show?

A. I tell every cast I work with that every show that I do I treat as my Broadway debut – my Broadway opening – and I expect no less from the cast.

Q. So how did you and Bill Hanney first meet?

A. He owns another theater in Rhode Island (Theater By The Sea in Matunuck) . . . In 2010 I was hired to direct and choreograph “Hello, Dolly!” I had done the



Kevin P. Hill, Artistic Director at North Shore Music Theatre in Beverly.

show with Carol Channing and Leslie Uggams and Michelle Lee, so I had a big history with the show . . . And it’s funny, but no one ever introduced me to him at the theater. I kind of (asked myself), Why is this guy hanging around? (Laughing) I didn’t know who he was. But we got talking and from that point on we kind of became best friends . . . In 2013, he asked me to come on board and be artistic director (in Matunuck) and I jumped at the chance.

Q. And then came North Shore in Beverly?

A. (In 2013) he said, “Do you think you can handle two theaters?” Of course I wanted to . . . One of my many dreams and goals was to be the artistic director at North Shore. My mentor, I think, is (North Shore’s former artistic director) Jon Kimball. I performed for him back in 1994 in the musical “Good News.” I just loved Jon. I loved what he was about. And I said, “Someday I’m gonna take over.”

Q. So be careful what you wish for?

A. (Laughing) That’s right!

R. J. Donovan is editor and publisher of onstageboston.com.

...
“Billy Elliot: The Musical,” through October 11, North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly. Tickets: 978-232-7200 or nsmt.org

Dot’s Irish Heritage Festival offers dose of culture, family connections

(Continued from page 1)

Shea-Chaplin Academy of Irish Dance, as well as performances of sean-nos (old-style) dance. As always, there is sure to be plenty of spontaneous, participatory dancing among festival-goers.

In addition to the music and dance, the festival offers family entertainment, and cultural activities, as well as food and vendor booths selling clothing, souvenirs, novelties, jewelry and various other items.

Featured act Celtic Font is singer Mai Hernon and guitarist/singer Mick McEvelley. A native of Gurteen in Co. Sligo, Hernon has a solid background in performing and teaching traditional music of Ireland. Among her notable collaborators over the years have been Cathy



Fiddler Geoffrey Roman of the band Erin’s Guild did a little audience outreach at last year’s festival.

Jordan and other members of the group Dervish, Seamie O’Dowd, Dolores

Keane, Len Graham and Rosie Stewart. Hernon, who also performs with

the all-female four-part harmony band Beeswing, has three albums to her

credit.

McEvelley, who is from Cincinnati, took up acoustic guitar and tenor banjo as a child, and began singing American folk music while in college. Hearing the Irish Tenors prompted him to explore Irish music, and on a subsequent visit to Ireland he happened to hear Hernon on the radio – and was intrigued enough to find out more about her. They eventually made contact, formed a friendship over the years, and after Hernon immigrated to the US, got married. The duo’s repertoire reflects their merged backgrounds, mixing Irish traditional music and Irish/American folk.

Festival organizers Sean Weir, Patrick McDonagh, and Mairin Keady expressed their gratitude to the local busi-

nesses and other patrons who have provided support for the event since it debuted.

Added Keady. “We are so blessed with the best of talented bands, musicians, and dancers in this area. This day is designed to showcase our neighborhood that is so rooted in culture, heritage, and family. Over the years, this festival has evolved as another opportunity for families to gather and visit with old friends returning to their old stomping ground just before the winter sets in.

“It promises to be a great day for our Irish cultural heritage.”

For information and updates on the Dorchester Irish Heritage Festival, see dorchestirishheritagefest.com.

Plans in place for Boston-Cork flights beginning next May

(Continued from page 1)

we have on order, we now have exciting plans to offer low-cost flights from Cork to Boston in 2016 and Cork to New York in 2017. “We are delighted to offer a long-awaited service from the US to Cork and the southern parts of Ireland, which will create huge business, leisure and tourism opportunities. Our new Cork

to Barcelona route is also an exciting addition to our growing network.

Cork Airport Managing Director Niall MacCarthy said: “We’re delighted that Norwegian will operate Cork Airport’s first transatlantic service. Cork Airport has a robust hinterland with a well-developed industrial base and a fantastic tourism product. We’re sure there

will be strong demand for these new transatlantic services from both business and leisure passengers. We look forward to working closely with Norwegian and our local partners to promote these new services and to grow passenger traffic at Cork.”

The routes from Cork to Boston and New York will be serviced by single aisle B737-800 aircraft

and the new B737MAX for which Norwegian Air International will be Boeing’s European launch customer.

“Boston is an important market for Norwegian, and these new routes show our commitment to the US, where we will continue to grow our presence by offering high-quality service on brand new Boeing 787 Dream-

liners at the lowest fares,” said Norwegian’s Kjos. “We are excited to offer Bostonians even more European destinations from this east coast gateway at affordable fares without discounting on service, which so many Americans have been enjoying since Norwegian launched its transatlantic service two years ago.”

“Norwegian offers more

international destinations than any other foreign carrier operating here,” said Massport CEO Thomas P. Glynn. “We welcome their growth, their array of destinations, and that they offer budget-conscious travelers a great way to get to and from Europe.”

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Traveling People

Looking to tour Ireland? Guide choices are many, varied



Lovely Lismore Castle in Co. Waterford.

By JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Planning to book a tour of Ireland? As you probably know already, tours are a really great way to see the country through the eyes and dialogue of trained guides in the many all-around tour companies. There are so many things to see across the Irish countryside from churches and monuments to castles and thatched roof houses and so much more. It's always fun to get the guides' take on it all.

There are many tour operators that work in Ireland and many – like CIE and Brian Moore International Tours and more – that 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 super-specialized tour companies - such as Crafted Ireland (craftedireland.com.) Crafted Ireland offers a range of specific tours including whiskey, culinary, pubs, craft beer, golf, gluten-free, genealogy, Christian and others. The company has also designed a special package for the Georgia Tech-Boston College Aer Lingus College Football Classic on Sept. 3, 2016, in Dublin's Aviva Stadium. Hotels are filling fast, they say, so those interested are advised to contact Rebecca@customireland.com, and soon. The company promises "rather cushy packages of luxurious city-center hotels, game tickets, meals, transportation, visits to the best sites and pubs and, of course, all the craic."

But if football is not your thing, there are many, many other possi-

bilities with many other companies that serve the Emerald Isle.

KNOCKAHOPPLE
Want a truly unique travel experience in Ireland? How about joining a few other travelers (minimum two/maximum five) for a customized 10-to-14-day B&B stay at Knockahopple Cottage in Co. Tipperary?

We met owner and host Liam Hughes at Milwaukee's Irish Fest this summer and know that a visit to Ireland with him would be great fun and also extremely interesting and that you'd see bits and pieces of the country that you'd never see on your own or probably with anyone else.

Seems that in 1989 Liam was visiting extended family in Tipperary and asked a cousin if there were homes for sale in the area. As they drove around checking out the available inventory, he looked up on a hill, saw a derelict cottage, and said, "It's mine." That was it – Liam was hooked and returning to the land of his great grandfather, who hailed from Knockahopple.

Liam bought the cottage and says on his website (knockahopple.com), "I have lovingly restored Knockahopple Cottage. I have tried to be mindful of the feel of a traditional Irish cottage, but with all the modern comforts."

So, how does an American who buys an Irish cottage come up with the idea to offer tours? Well, that was not Liam's original plan but a 75-year-old friend of his mother's asked in 1999 if he could drive her and her friend around Ireland because she couldn't drive. He planned a 14-day itinerary with her by telephone, she and her friend stayed at the cottage, savored tea, homemade scones and Irish bread, and sat by the turf fire late into the evening talking about events

of the day and planning the next day's itinerary.

On her last day at Knockahopple, she sat down by the fire with Liam and told him how special it was to experience the Ireland that most tourists miss. She insisted, he says, that he put his passion for "the real Ireland" to work, "And on that day, Knockahopple Cottage and Tours began. In just a few short years, my business has grown," Liam says, "but remains small and personalized, which is exactly the way I intend to keep it."

"For Irish-Americans like myself, there is a strong bond with Ireland that calls us back to the place of our ancestors. There is something about the Irish countryside and turfburning in an open fire that makes one think of how difficult it must have been for our forefathers to leave a place as beautiful as this."

Liam has enjoyed numerous repeat customers over the years for his tours and already has bookings into 2018. Tours are designed according to the interests of the participants and include B&B, a light evening meal, and cocktail.

When he isn't touring, the talented Liam makes lovely jewelry (Liam-ShardJewelry.com) from shards of old pottery, much of which he finds in Ireland. We saw his work in Milwaukee and it is not only different but also very nice.

For more information about joining one of Liam's tours, visit the website or email Liam@IrishFire-side.com.

BOYNE VALLEY TOURS

If you're staying primarily around Dublin, you might look into Mary Gibbons' Tours, which offer a ramble through the Boyne Valley as well as fascinating visits to Newgrange and the Hill of Tara. At Newgrange, a listed heritage site, you'll see a Neolithic ritual center and passage tomb with architectural links to prehistoric maritime peoples of Portugal, Northern Spain, Brittany, Denmark, and the Western Isles, according to the website.

The Newgrange building is 1,000 years older than the pyramids and the oldest astronomical observatory in the world, completely intact since the Stone Age. The entrance stone and corbelled inner



The captivating wildness of Co. Kerry.



The beautiful Doolough Pass and Delphi Valley in Co. Mayo is the site of a walk every year to remember 400 famine victims who died in 1849 during a frigid march to Delphi House from Louisburgh. Judy Enright photos

chamber display amazing examples of Stone Age art from early farming communities in Western Europe.

The Hill of Tara, the ancient royal site of the High Kings of Ireland, was a political and religious center from early Celtic times and the site where 142 kings were crowned.

For more information about these tours, visit newgrangetours.com. Pickup can be arranged at various hotels and other locations around Dublin.

GRAND HIBERNIAN

Before we leave the subject of tours, here is an upcoming tour that might pique your interest: A well-known international tour company – Belmond Limited – which operates the Venice Simplon Orient Express and Royal Scotsman, plans to start luxury train service in Ireland next August.

The Grand Hibernian will offer 5-star accommodations for up to 40 in private, en-suite cabins. Belmond bought 11 carriages from Irish Rail

and spent \$10 million (9.3 million euro) refitting them to luxury standards. The company plans to spend another \$1 million marketing the service to wealthy Europeans and Americans.

Vacations by Belmond rail will be two nights (Realm of Giants to Northern Ireland), four nights (Legends and Loughs, Cork, Killarney, Blarney Castle, Connemara National Park and Galway) or six nights (Grand Tour of Ireland incorporating the other two tours plus a tour of Dublin.)

All tours will depart from Dublin. Visit Belmond.com for more information.

GUINNESS

Speaking of Dublin, we saw in a recent *Irish Times* online article that the Guinness Storehouse there was recently named Europe's leading tourist attraction by judges in the World Travel Awards. The storehouse topped the Eiffel Tower, La Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, the Acropolis in Athens, the

Colosseum, Buckingham Palace in London and Ribeira do Porto in Portugal.

The award was presented to the Storehouse during a ceremony in Sardinia. Paul Carty, Storehouse managing director, claimed the award "as a victory for Irish tourism. One in every two holiday-makers to Dublin visits the Guinness Storehouse," he said.

The Storehouse tells the Guinness story and has welcomed 13 million people since it opened in 2006. About 92 percent of the visitors are not Irish. In 2014, the top five visitor nationalities were American, British, French, German, and Italian.

TRAVEL

It's October so be sure to be on the lookout for the wonderful fall country fairs and Halloween events in nearly every county.

Enjoy Ireland whenever, however and wherever you go. The summer season has ended so watch for flight and ground deals too.



The thatched roof Irish cottage is a reminder of days gone by. This cottage is in County Clare.



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BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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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 /goh/ as in English “go”.

go breá	/goh BRAY-ah/	“fine”
go deas	/goh jes/	“nice”
go dona	/goh DOAN-uh/	“bad”
go maith	/goh mah/	“good”
go hálainn	/goh HAH-leen/	“beautiful”
go hiontach	/goh HEEN-tahk/	“wonderful”
go tapaidh	/goh TAhP-ee/	“quickly”
go réidh	/goh rey/	“steadily”
go díreach	/goh JEE-rahk/	“just/quite”
go huile	/goh HOO-luh/	“all/every thing”
go minic	/goh MEEN-ick/	“often”
go dearfa	/goh JEER-fuh/	“indeed”
go brách	/goh brahk/	“for ever”
go deo	/goh joh/	“for ever”

We all know the bumper sticker **Erinn go Bragh**,. “Ireland Forever”. This is 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”, “for” . “as” and even more.

go An Spáinn	/goh uhn SPEYN/	“to Spain”
go abhaile	/goh uh-VAHL-uh/	“to home”
go Corcaigh	/go KOR-key/	“to Cork”
go maidin	/goh MAH-jin/	“until morning”

To is also used in a number of idioms:

go leor	/goh lohr/	“enough”
go bhios do		
+ personal pronoun	/goh vees .../ “as far	as PPn know(s)”
seachtain go leith	/SHAHK-tuhn goh ley/	“a week and a half”
go dtí	/goh dee/	“towards”
go dtí go	goh DEE go/	“until”
go ceann tamaill	/goh kyown TAH-meal/	“for a while”
ó cheann go ceann	/oh KHOWN goh kyown /	“from end to end”

In Irish
“from head to head”
or “beginning
to beginning.”

Note that **ó** requires lenition but **go** does not.

Go is also used in “politeness phrases” such as “Thank you (very) much” – **Go raibh (mile) maith agat**, “Thank you (very) much” and **Go maire tú an lá!** , “Happy returns of the day!” or “Happy Birthday !”

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

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.” 6.) “Isn’t the weather fine today? 7.) “Fine ! It is wonderful. 8.) Right ! Yesterday was really bad.” 9.) “Yes. It was very cold.” 10.) “Thank you very much.” 11.) “Nora is a beautiful girl.” 12.) “They went to France for a while.” 13.) “Their daughter returned yesterday as far as I know.” 14.) “She was there until afternoon.” 15.) “Bill ate the whole thing !” 16.) “Nora quickly cleaned the house from end to end.”

Answers: 1.) **Dh’ól 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.) **Chuaigh sé go an teach.** 6.) **An bhfuil an aimsir go breá inniu?** 7.) **Go breá! Tá sé go hiontach.** 8.) **Ceart! Bhí inné go dona.** 9.) **Bhí. Bhí sé an-fhuar.** 10.) **Go raibh mile maith agat.** 11.) **Is Nóra cailín go hálainn.** 12.) **Chuaigh said go An Fhrainic go ceann tamaill.** 13) **Tháinig ar ais a iníon inné go bhfios dhom.** 14.) **Bhí sí ansin go tránóna.** 15.) **D’ith Liam go huile.** 16.) **Ghlan Nóra an teach go tapaidh ó cheann go ceann.**



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