Echoes of three decades of memorable music, and tour band fellowship will resound this month as the fiddles of Childsplay fall silent

By Sean Smith

Special to the BiR

Understand, it’s not as if Bob Childs minds Childsplay to end. For more than three decades, the Boston-based all-star fiddle ensemble for which Childs serves as artistic director as well as namesake has gathered almost every fall to present a series of concerts featuring music from Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton, American, Scandinavian, and other folk traditions. The hallmark names derive from the fact that its fiddlers, all skilled musicians in their own right, play violins and violas created by Childs, who also takes part in the performances. Childsplay has released seven albums and two collections created by Childs, who also takes part in the performances. Prime Minister Boris Johnson hopes that electing a new crop of lawmakers will give his Conservative Party a majority and crack open the stalemate that blocked his plan to take Britain out of the European Union by the end of October. Earlier that week, the EU had granted Britain a three-month Brexit extension, until Jan. 31. But after three years of inconclusive political wrangling over Brexit, British voters are weary and the results of an election are hard to predict. The Commons vote was 438-20, with dozens of lawmakers abstaining, for a bill authorizing a national election on Dec. 12. The date was to become law once it was approved on Wed., Oct. 30, by the unelected House of Lords, which does not have the power to overrule the elected Commons. But even before the result was announced, the political parties were in campaign mode. Johnson, who was forced to abandon his vow to lead Britain out of the EU on Oct. 31 “do or die,” accused his opponents of seeking to frustrate voters’ decision to leave the EU and prolong the

Rothstein to leave JFK Library post; Flor will succeed him

Steven M. Rothstein will step down from his position as executive director of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation at the end of the year and will be succeeded by Deputy Director Rachel Flor, who will begin transitioning into the role next month and assume full responsibilities in January 2020, according to a statement released by the foundation last Friday. But this month marks the finale of Childsplay, which will say goodbye with a mini-tour of New England and New York culminating in two shows (3 p.m. and 8 p.m.) on Nov. 24 at Sanders Theater in Cambridge. "The touring costs and logistics associated with taking a large group on the road have simply become too great.” But he also points to what he calls “a changed landscape” for folk and acoustic music in an era of proliferating entertainment choices and increasingly segmented media. “We hear how CDs are in decline, and there just doesn’t seem to be as much folk, acoustic, and traditional music on the radio anymore. It’s become more

Decision on Brexit put off until January; Britain to hold national election on Dec. 12

By Jill Lawless

and Danica Kirka

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) – Britons will be heading out to vote in the dark days of December – on it, as it turns out – after the House of Commons on Oct. 29 bucked an early national vote that could break the country’s political impasse over Brexit — or turn out to be merely a temporary distraction. Prime Minister Boris Johnson hopes that electing a new crop of lawmakers will give his Conservative Party a majority and crack open the stalemate that blocked his plan to take Britain out of the European Union by the end of October. Earlier that week, the EU had granted Britain a three-month Brexit extension, until Jan. 31. But after three years of inconclusive political wrangling over Brexit, British voters are weary and the results of an election are hard to predict. The Commons vote was 438-20, with dozens of lawmakers abstaining, for a bill authorizing a national election on Dec. 12. The date was to become law once it was approved on Wed., Oct. 30, by the unelected House of Lords, which does not have the power to overrule the elected Commons. But even before the result was announced, the political parties were in campaign mode. Johnson, who was forced to abandon his vow to lead Britain out of the EU on Oct. 31 “do or die,” accused his opponents of seeking to frustrate voters’ decision to leave the EU and prolong the
The 2019 Irish Invitational Golf Tournament Aidan Browne, Co-Chair of the Irish Invitational Golf Tournament

Ted Sheehan presents a grant to John Sugrue of Co-Chair of the Irish Invitational Golf Tournament in late September.

After golf in Kerry, the IAP distributes $80K in grants

Chairman of the Irish American Partnership Michael Clune, with Maeve Liston of Mary Immaculate College

CEO of the Gaelic Players Association, Paul Flynn, with Partnership Board Member and Co-Chair of the Irish Invitational Golf Tournament Aidan Browne, Co-Chair of the Irish Invitational Golf Tournament

The travel culminated in a gala dinner on October 1 at the Killarney Park Hotel, during which the Irish American Partnership disbursed $80,000 in grants to education and community programs in the southwest region. The IAP provides funding for education and community development programs in Ireland, North and South. Projects from the biennial tournament are granted to primary schools to enhance their library and science materials.

The Irish American Partnership (IAP) hosted the 2019 Irish Invitational Golf Tournament in Co. Kerry in late September. The competition’s generous sponsors include Waterville Golf Links, Ballybunion Golf Club, and Tralee Golf Club. The play on the fourways and greens – and in the bunkers – brought American and Irish players to the elite layout in support of Irish education.

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Community support of Irish education.

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Baker names Sherrill House CEO to Nursing Facility Task Force

Sherrill House, a not-for-profit skilled nursing and rehabilitation center, has announced that its CEO, Patrick Stapleton, has been appointed by Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker to serve on the state’s recently established Nursing Facility Task Force.

The 15-member panel is charged with evaluating ways to enhance the financial stability of skilled nursing facilities, to ensure their continued existence in the skilled nursing industry and is certified by the American College of Healthcare Administrators. He joined Sherrill House in 2003 and has served as CEO since 2005.

To the nursing home industry in Massachusetts,” said Stapleton of his appointment. “There will always be a need for skilled nursing facilities and the level of care that they provide, particularly as the aging population continues to increase. I look forward to fulfilling the mission as laid out by Governor Baker and the Legislature.”

Stapleton has more than 20 years of experience in enhancing their role within the industry and is committed to improving resident care services, and to address current workforce challenges.

“I am honored to serve with this exceptional board and members who have made all of this possible. We look forward to continuing to work together and to ensure that our residents are cared for with the highest level of care.”

From left, Ronnie Millar, IHEC executive director; Robin Jones, Solas host; Laissie Moore, Consul General of Ireland to New England who accepted the Solas Award given to Leo Varadkar, An Taoiseach of Ireland; John F. Donahue, Solas host; Linda Dorecna Forry, of Southeast Construction; Tony Rodriguez, Solas Awardee and BPS student; Maura Healey, Massachusetts attorney general and Solas Awardee; Kevin Mawe, the IHEC’s acting board chair.

Irish Pastoral Centre events in November

- The Irish Pastoral Centre at 512 Gallivan Blvd. will host author Maureen Vaughan on Thurs., Nov. 7 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss and read from her autobiography recalling her daughter’s struggle with addiction.
- On Fri., Nov. 15 the IPC will present Dr. Jonathan S. Steinberg. “The Brain and Addiction.” Admission is $10.

Solas Awards Presentation and Gala Dinner at the Irish Social Club, 119 Quincy Ave., Braintree. Music by the Notley Henry Irish Show Band from 7-11 p.m.
- At the County Donegal Association’s 11th annual banquet at Florian Hall at 7:15 p.m., Irish music by Erin’s Melody will perform.
- At the Sligo Association’s annual dinner dance at the Irish Social Club, 119 Quincy Ave., Braintree, Music by the Notley Henry Irish Show Band from 7-11 p.m.

The Irish Cultural Centre presents
- “A Family’s Journey” at 6:30 p.m. to discuss and read from her memoir recalling her daughter’s opioid addiction.

Sun., Nov. 3 - The Irish Cultural Centre will hold its monthly Irish Mass, 11 a.m.
- The Irish Social Club in West Roxbury will present “A Night for Mike.” Mike is being treated for stage three colon cancer.
- At the Charitable Irish Society present an Irish concert with the tenor Tom Comerford and Andreas Durkin in concert from 7-11 p.m. Admission $20.
- The Irish Pastoral Centre will sponsor an Irish dance benefit “Borrisie Place.”
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One man’s pilgrimage to the Seaport

Jim Carmody’s odyssey began a few miles away

By Jack Thomas

Jim Carmody is manager of the elegant Seaport Hotel overlooking Boston Harbor, and from the Irish enclave in Dorchester, where he grew up in a lower-middle-class two-decker as one of eight children in a family living paycheck to paycheck, the distance, geographically, is a 14-minute drive, but culturally, it’s about a million miles.

The pilgrimage began when he was a pupil at St. Ann’s grammar school, and then went on to Cathedral High School in the South End, and on for degrees from the Culinary Institute of America and Cornell University, followed by assignments in the food and beverage industry at the Four Seasons in Chicago and Dallas, the Omni International in Atlanta, the Boston Harbor Hotel, Tufts-New England Medical Center, where he was head of general services, and, finally, since 2004, Boston’s Seaport Hotel and Seaport World Trade Center.

It has been a long odyssey impossible to navigate without the movie Jim has exhibited since boyhood. “When Jim was five years old,” recalls his older brother, Charlie, “he was playing in the street near our house when a car came along. Jim ignored the car, kept playing in the street. The car slowed, and when the driver beeped, Jim turned and – remember, he was five years old – glared at the driver and yelled, “Go around me!"

Audacious, to be sure, but as time would show, not out of character. A few years later, at age 14, Jim was caddie at the old Wollaston Golf Club in North Quincy, and he bribed to beat Pecksniffian golfers address him patronizingly – “Requi- et, boy.” One blistering day, he was assigned to caddie for a physician in a party of three playing for big money. The physician was a good golfer, but he was having a bad day. So was Jim.

“I lost his ball twice, once because I ducked to avoid getting hit, and the ball disappeared in deep grass. The physician was furious, and the amount he left for me was $2. I told the caddie master I was classified as an “A” caddie, and the fee was $2.50. He told me to get lost. Caddies were not allowed in the clubhouse, but I marched into the locker room, demanded to know where the physician was, then walked into the shower and told him he owed me 50 cents. I was suspended for two weeks, but I got my 50 cents.”

The Carmody family of Dorchester is another colorful entry in the remarkable tale of the Irish in the United States, and one more narrative about immigrants who struggle to make it to America, and then find a home in a strange land, adapt to a new culture, cope with prejudice, work at two or three menial jobs to stave off poverty, and then, often, raise large families and educate their children so that, eventually, in a generation or two, they assimilate.

The Carmody Family’s chapter begins with a coincidence. One day in 1929, the German steamship S.S. Karlsruhe glided into Boston Harbor and tied up at Commonwealth Pier, 500 yards from the site of today’s Seaport Hotel. Among those disembarking were a little girl, Mary O’Grady, who would become matriarch of the Carmody family, and her brother, John. She was ten, he was eight, and they made the crossing unchaperoned.

As they trudged down the plank to take their first steps on United States soil, she waved an American flag and he the Irish flag.

Mary was 22 when she married an Irish bus driver named Joe and moved to a modest house on Narraganset Street in Neponset, where they raised eight children in a setting so traditional it makes Norman Rockwell paintings seem heartless.

Over a lunch of tuna nicoise at the Seaport Hotel, Jim, at age 66, is eager to describe his cheerful childhood. “When it came to parents, I was the odd one out. When I was 10, I asked some construction workers who were building a new building. ‘Do you have a code at work?” He ignored mundane pressures, and led a happy life. “I didn’t know we didn’t have any money. None of us did. We all went to St. Ann’s with white shirts, our shoes shined, and as altar boys, our cassocks were clean, our shoulders shiny. With three brothers in, my mother would sew colored thread into the toe of socks so we’d know whose sock was whose. My color was purple.”

As Jim learned, older brothers like Joe can be a blessing. “When I was 10, I asked some construction workers for work. They told me to clean a crawl space under the building. I worked three days, six hours a day, and when I asked to get paid, they said to beat it. “I went home in tears. Joe was in high school. My mother told him to take care of it. So, Joe and I went to

Home, sweet home for lots of Carmodys

Above, the house on Narragansett Street in Dorchester where Jim Carmody, his parents, and seven siblings lived upstairs and the children’s Nana and Pa, at right, lived on the first floor.

A family keepsake: A Boston newspaper was on hand in 1929 when ten-year-old Mary O’Grady, the future wife of Joe Carmody, and her brother John, 8, arrived in Boston after an unchaperoned voyage across the Atlantic from Co. Sligo. Mary is waving the American flag, and John the Irish banner.

The managerial touch: Jim Carmody, vice president and general manager at the Seaport Hotel & Seaport World Trade Center.

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The Boston Irish Honors 2019 for Distinguished Public Service
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Bill Brett photo

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One inducement to work was perser- vasive: a shortage of cash. “One Saturday morning when I was 10,” recalls Jim, “my father took me grocery shopping. I asked for this and that, and he’d say no. At the register, he showed me the bill, about $95. At home, he pulled out a pay stub that showed a take- home pay of $85.

“How can that be?” I wanted to know. “You just paid $55 for grocer- ies. How are you going to pay the other bills?”

His message: Stop asking for things we can’t afford.

“Raising eight kids on a bus driv- er’s salary? A lot of men would have packed it,” says Jim. “My brother Joe says our father was “constructively oblivious.” He ignored mundane pressures, and led a happy life. “I didn’t know we didn’t have any money. None of us did. We all went to St. Ann’s with ironed shirts, our shoes shined, and as altar boys, our cassocks were clean, our shoulders tidy. With three brothers in, my mother would sew colored thread into the toe of socks so we’d know whose sock was whose. My color was purple.”

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the site. He told me to stand back in case trouble broke out. He asked for my money, and they told him to beat it. ’Suppose I go to the press and tell them you’re hiring under-age kids and not paying ’em?’ Well, we got our money.”

Jim worked odd jobs to pay high school tuition, caddying from age nine and canvassing the neighborhood for bottles to redeem, sometimes in batches of 20 cases. At 14, he answered a newspaper ad and after assuring Howard Johnson’s in Dorchester that he was 16, he was hired to cook. To pay for courses at Boston State College, he cooked overnights shift at Hayes-Bickford, and when short for tuition, siblings May, Joe, and Charlie chipped in.

“A guest speaker at Cornell was Isadore Sharp, founder of Four Seasons Hotels, who talked about excellence and uncompromising quality. I was mesmerized, and I decided that was my career.”

Jim’s conversation is crowded with references to food, rhubarb pie, and soda bread, and his mom’s prune souffle and working on menus at Tufts to keep a promise to Julia Child to improve hospital food.

“A waiter approaches to ask if he wants to take home the remainder of his tuna niçoise. “No, thank you,” said the manager of the hotel, which enables him to head upstairs to a board meeting without a doggie bag.”

Bostonians like to pick on Seaport District, dismissing it as a mobocracy of traffic, and a hodgepodge of architecture devoid of the traditional bricks of Back Bay and South End. Not Jim Carmody.

“The Seaport is a phoenix rising from a sea of old parking lots, where Pier 4, Jimmy’s, and the No Name were the only attractions,” he says. “The partnership of Fidelity and John Drew was a catalyst. Strategic investments by government have led to explosive development. Roger Berkowitz, Joe Fallon, and Barbara Lynch sent market signals that we were ready. The Boston Convention and Exhibition Center and Vertex Pharmaceuticals were so large the nation took notice. It’s an expensive place to live, work, and play, but reflective of the investment required in today’s market to develop.”

And who lives there? “The demographic is skewed to the young with fair representation of empty nesters,” he says. “The population is international, diverse, highly educated, socially active. Within a year 2,000 units of housing will come on line within a block of the hotel.

“Like every other neighborhood, Seaport has its challenges,” he concedes. “One battle is what retail survives, given high rents and online competition. Traffic is another drum, but I hope for a monorail, North to South Station, connecting through the Innovation and Design Center. Fidelity’s redevelopment of Commonwealth Pier will bring an iconic building and new vibe to old bones, and the water sheet will see more ferries and water taxis.”

When you arrive for lunch at Jim Carmody’s small home on a side street in Milton, you are not surprised to be told that he is in the yard, grilling chicken for lunch. But you are startled to see him rush into the kitchen, having burned himself on a side grille, and what’s pressed to his blistering finger for relief is a frozen pouch of green peas.

The home is where Jim and his wife, Theresa, raised their four children: Casey, 37, of San Jose, a speech therapist; Michael, 34, of Falmouth, a bartender at Bucatino Restaurant; Frances, 31, of South Boston, catering sales manager at Boston Harbor Hotel; and Mary, 29, of Germany, who is studying for her doctorate at the University of Freiburg.

After introductions to three of Jim’s siblings – Ellen Joyal, of Marshfield, Joe, of Oxford, and Charlie, of Middleborough – you settle down at the dining room table for lunch of an exquisitely grilled chicken marinated in tangy Dijon
‘I grew up Jesuit,’ says Grace Cotter Regan

By Tom Mulvoy

For some, the notice released by the Jesuit order on Aug. 24, 2017, came out of the blue; for others, it seemed appropriate by a certain measure: “Today, the board of trustees of Boston College High School announced the election of Grace Cotter Regan as the school’s next president. Regan comes from Saint Mary’s High School in Lynn, Mass., where she used her formidable skills to grow and develop the urban Catholic school.”

“We are delighted to welcome Grace Regan as the individual who will lead Boston College High School. We look forward to our work together as we advance the BC High mission and our relevance as a preeminent and flagship Jesuit school for boys in the country,” said Rev. Brian Costello, SJ, chair of the board of trustees.

“Grace’s leadership and background in education, advancement, enrollment, brand management, and her understanding of and fidelity to the Society of Jesus and the Catholic school environment make her the ideal choice.”

That sense of destiny becoming reality for some perhaps derived from what the school’s press release did not say in those first few paragraphs: Grace was assuming the presidency as the first woman selected to head the 154-year-old Jesuit (and Boston) institution where, for just six weeks shy of 50 years, her father had forged a legendary status as teacher, counselor, coach, athletic director, and, in retirement, chief booster.

He began teaching at the school on Sept. 6, 1960, which was also the day that his first child, a daughter named Grace, was born into a family with deep roots in the sod of Co. Cork in Ireland’s southwest, and a grand-maternal heritage drawn from the Polish terrain of Middle Europe.

She looks back at her Irish connections

“My mother’s parents - her mother was a Lehanes, her father was a Grace, emigrated from Cork through Ellis Island. My Nana, May (Grace) Lehanes, was one of 18 children born on the family farm in the village of Cloonakilty. Her brother Michael is my cousin Dennis Lehanes’s father, and my cousin PJ Lehanes is running the farm today. The Graces hail from a farm in Drinagh/Dunmanway.

“When my Nana Grace came over, she found work as a domestic with a family in New York, on Long Island. My grandfather was then working at the family farm in Dunmanway.

Ah, the memories. My mother loved Savin Hill, and was so happy to visit my grandpa and aunts. While we lived in South Weymouth when I was growing up, we spent an awful lot of time in Savin Hill, where, when we stayed there and were going to bed, Nana would whip out holy water and spread it all around as we said our night prayers. And, of course, our dad was teaching and coaching at the high school less than a mile away. It’s wonderful to reflect back. You’d go there for a cup of tea, a piece of Irish bread, and just to sit with Nana and Papa. It was a warm, safe, and engaging place to be. And they just loved us all. It was special.

“I think all my Lehanes aunts and uncles, grand aunts, and uncles came to my wedding. I was the first grandchild on that side. So, I kind of had it all. My brother Mike and sister Kel would say, ‘Yes just another party for Gram!’”

The next generation: Cotters and Regans

“My mother and my father met when they were pre-teens. St. William’s parish, CYO, and the band played a big part in their lives and Dom Bianculli and Fr. Peter Hart were very big figures in their lives. Dad graduated from BC High in 1955 and BC in 1959, playing baseball and football, and I came along in September 1960, the first of three. I was followed by Kelly, now in Colorado, in 1963, and Michael, a Wrentham resident, in 1965.

“The BC High connection in my husband Bernie’s family is strong as well. His father (Class of 1934) and two brothers are alumni, but he’s a Catholic Memorial and BC grad who is now retired from his position as a produce broker with the firm Scott and Allen.

“Our boys split things up, too, in much the same way. Luke, now 28 and working with the Suffolk Construction Co. in Montana, went to St. Sebastian’s and on to captain the baseball team at Bowdoin after that. Bartley, or ‘Moe’, as he is known, graduated from BC High in 2012 where he was a three-sport athlete, most notably as captain and quarterback of the Super Bowl champions his senior year. He went to Stonehill, and later served as an assistant athletic director at Catholic
Memorial. He now works for Shields Healthcare Solutions."

• Sister Grace Regan,
SND de Namur?

In the late 1970s, when Grace Cotter was thinking about her life after graduation from Notre Dame Academy in Hingham, where the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur were in charge, her mind was awash with questions: Is God calling me to become a Sister of Notre Dame? Is that the best way for me to serve others? While the answer long term was a "yes," the question lingered as she moved on to Boston College.

"I was struggling with my vocation during those years," she said. "When I was in high school, we had this formidable group of sisters who involved us in helping the less fortunate, and we would go over to Columbia Point and help out in a soup kitchen and in other ways. I was always looking to pitch in with that sort of thing. When I moved on to Boston College, I kept up with service activities, and with graduation approaching, I was offered a placement with a Jesuit volunteer mission band, with the first option listed as San Quentin, the prison in California. That wasn't a big hit with the family, especially my dad."

"In the end, there were 17 of us who were sent out on missions; five, including me, went to Belize, a small country located south of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula; three went to Peru; and the rest set off for Jamaica. It was a special time for Belize, which used to be known as British Honduras; it was still celebrating its newly established independence. I taught at a high school for girls, among other positions. It was really amazing, a great experience. And I have gone back several times, one of which was with a troupe from Boston College in a service immersion experience. I so want to maintain my connection to the country where my dad was sent to the Jesuit mission band."

On to the task of making a difference

Under the heading "My Vocational Journey," the BC High Today magazine listed the following positions by way of introducing the new president to the student body and its alumni:

• Director of the Parent Fund, Special Events, and Donor Relations at the College of the Holy Cross.
• VicePresident for Development, theBostonPublic Library Foundation.
• Executive Director, Boston College Alumni Association.
• Executive Director of Advancement, New England Province of Jesuits.
• Head of School, St. Mary’s High School, in Lynn.

While making her way through these offices, Grace found the time to go back to the classroom where she earned a master of arts degree in pastoral ministry and spirituality from Boston College and a master’s in education from the University of Vermont.

This resume of accomplishment comes as no surprise to Grace Regan’s relatives, friends, and colleagues. She has an ardent and active fan club whose members are happy to say why they are sitting in her cheering section:

• John Fish, president and CEO of Shields Health Solutions, is a contemporary of Grace’s who grew up a mile from the Cotter home in Weymouth and came to know the family well. He was a star athlete, especially in football, at BC High in the mid-1970s with Jim Cotter when Grace was also roaming the campus, and the sidelines as the BC High Eagle at practices and games. Both of them later attended Boston College.

"I called her 'Slick,' after the star quarterback of the BC High Eagle football team," said Smith. "When I heard of her appointment, I couldn’t have been happier for her and the school. She’s a first-class person, multi-talented, warm, engaging. For over 50 years now, I have watched with appreciation as Grace has served with distinction in so many positions of responsibility."

When asked to come up with one word to describe Grace, Timothy O’Donnell, Class of ‘83 at BC High, retired president and CEO of OmniClaim, Inc., and now vice chair of the school’s board of trustees, offered "passionate," adding, “I see that on a daily basis, and it shows itself in many forms, most notably in her ubiquitous presence. Grace is present at events morning, noon, and night. At most any event - whether theatre or a sporting event, Grace will be there rooting for the boys. As a leader, she knows her presence sends an important message to the students, coaches, and parents of BC High.

"Grace also brings that same passion to her friends and family. The devotion that she showed to her father while he battled ALS was nothing short of awe-inspiring. On a daily basis, she demonstrated her love and passion for her father, and did so in a way that inspired others with her strength and optimism. Grace shows up – not just in the good times, but also in the most difficult times."

Chimed in Jack Connors, legendary Boston advertising executive, civic activist, and philanthropist: “Grace has always been very good at the many positions she has held. She’s savvy and works hard. In all, she displays the best traits of her parents.”

From the close friends and family fronts, Grace drew expressions of love and respect, even awe.

Gayle Corcoran, whom Grace calls a "bestie" friend of longstanding (they met in the ‘90s while prepping together at L Street to run in the Boston Marathon), said it’s “impossible to describe her in a word. When it comes to morality and doing the right thing, she is a Jesuit, for all practical purposes (‘I grew up Jesuit’ is how Grace puts it). She has always
By Peter F. Stevens

The adage “geography is destiny” holds true for John and Kathy Drew. From South Boston and Dorchester to today’s local waterfront, geography has very much helped to shape the couple’s lives.

Take a look at the soaring Boston Seaport district, and you’ll see the literal impact of geography there. Drew Company came into being. It took about three years for my company to establish itself, and the Great Woods project was a huge one for me.

“One thing about the ‘80s was that many politicians and developers believed that Southie and the Seaport were two areas to steer clear of. How was that going to be? Was there risk there? Sure, but, again, the opportunity I saw – the waterfront - always was in me. You have to be willing to take a risk you believe in.

Discussing the many obstacles to redeveloping the Seaport, Drew says, “There’s always a ‘NIMBY’ (‘Not In My Backyard’) factor that can come with big projects. With the Seaport, I had grown up in the neighborhood. I understood the importance of building trust by living up to what we promised we would do. We held extensive neighborhood and community meetings, emphasizing the help we would provide to schools, and the employability opportunities. We promised and delivered parks, public spaces, as well as underground parking for the high-rise buildings going up.

“Fidelity was a huge partner for us. They stuck with us. That’s so key in our business. Things don’t always go your way, sometimes through no fault on your part. For example, in 2008, when the economy nearly went down, we had a massive project on Summer and Congress Streets, with all the major retail pieces – Stop & Shop, Nordstrom, all the major retail pieces – and Congress Streets, with a massive project on Summer and Congress Streets. The retailers pulled out, and we thought it was a lost opportunity. ‘There’s always a ‘NIMBY’ factor that can come with big projects. With the Seaport, I had grown up in the neighborhood. I understood the importance of building trust by living up to what we promised we would do. We held extensive neighborhood and community meetings, emphasizing the help we would provide to schools, and the employability opportunities. We promised and delivered parks, public spaces, as well as underground parking for the high-rise buildings going up.

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Not so with the Seaport. During the interview, the couple has done. ‘The other side of the world’

Early in his career some 50 years ago, John Drew worked as chief of policy for Massachusetts Gov. Francis W. Sargent, and it was then that his development and redevelopment portfolio began to bloom. “I was responsible to find re-use for closed military bases and related sites such as the Charlestown and Southie Navy Yards,” Drew says. “I loved it, and my career took off from there.”

John Drew’s path to the Seaport’s renaissance began not so many blocks away from that very site. Born and raised in City Point, he was a member of St. Brigid parish and began his education at the parish grammar school. From there, he went on to graduate from BC High, earn his bachelor’s degree from Stonehill, and his master’s at Boston University.

Development Maestro John Drew and Kathy (Morley) Drew agree: “We’ve never forgotten how fortunate we are.”

Kathy Morley Drew grew up on Elm Street in Dorchester, a member of St. Ambrose Parish and was educated at the St. Ambrose parochial school and Gate of Heaven High School.

The Drew family with Cardinal O’Malley

From left, Michael Pace, Maureen (Drew) Pace, Joanne (Drew) Brown, John P. Drew and his wife, Helene, Cardinal Sean O’Malley, Kathy (Morley) Drew, John E. Drew, Carolyn (Drew) Jepsen, and Chris Jepsen.
Drew’s mind continued to churn with ideas to make the waterfront an even more resident and visitor friendly area. “People would love a public park and this," he said, “and I’d like that, as well as a new school. More than anything, we want to create even more reasons for people to come to the waterfront even if they don’t live or work here. I think that a hockey and ice-skating rink could do well and be a magnet for high school and college students. It’s financially viable in hockey-mad Massachusetts and would open more doors to visitors.”

Opening doors to ventures funded through private and public partnerships is Drew’s stock in trade, his ability to understand and negotiate with politicians, fellow CEOs, and community leaders alike nearly unparalleled locally. He again cites Kevin White, Ned Johnson, and Joe Moakley as mentors who taught him how to navigate often treacherous development currents.

Drew speaks from deep experience when he describes what it’s like to cultivate relationships among bottom-line businesspeople, politicians with their varying agendas, and, from both realms, genuine visionaries and risk-takers. In many ways, Drew embodies the saying “no risk, no reward. You have to be able to work with both the private and public sides to get a project off the ground,” he says. “You have to be able to get all the principals to buy in—not just financially. The thing is to get everyone on the same page with vision, trust, and, of course, a strong financial plan.”

Stopping for a moment to reflect, Drew says, “Not long ago, Kathy and I came across an old article in which Tom Menino is talking about the Seaport and saying, ‘Nothing happens.’ Well, something’s certainly happening here now, and we’ve had groups from China, Japan, and lots of other countries considering waterfront development projects and coming here to see how we’ve done it.”

**Family and Community Come First**

The family histories of John Drew and Kathy Morley are classic “Southie” and “Dot” Irish. One of Edward and Theresa Drew’s two sons (brother Paul is deceased), John learned early on that three of his grandparents hailed from the “old sod” of Galway and Cork. Kathy’s parents both emigrated from Ireland, her father from Knock and her mother from Mayo. She was one of three children, with two brothers.

The couple look back with pride in their Irish roots and with fondness—actually, love—of their South Boston upbringing. “I had a great childhood in Southie,” John says. “Our parents and our neighbors were middle-class, hard-working people. My dad was a printer, and my mom was an operator at City Hall. We had neighbors who were cops, firefighters, IRS workers, contractors, laborers—you name it.”

“Anything that always stood out was how tight and supportive our community and parish were. It sounds cliche, but people genuinely looked out for each other. If someone ran into financial or medical problems, the community helped. That’s simply the way it was. When you’re raised that way, the desire—the duty—to help those in need becomes ingrained. Our upbringing was very Catholic, and we’re proud of the community values that the church, our parents, and our grandparents brought us.”

For her part, Kathy says, “My upbringing was similar to John’s. It was a happy time. It’s a full one with family, friends, and our close-knit parish. John and I met the old-fashioned way—a friend of mine introduced us. We were both 17, and we got married in John’s senior year of college.”

John jokes, “For a city girl, Kathy had everything—a driveway and a backyard. I guess I married her for her driveway.” Chuckling, Kathy teases, “I brought John over the bridge.”

Four children—three girls, one boy—and twelve grandchildren, the rest is history, family history.

Three of John and Kathy’s children have followed their father into the family business. John is deeply involved in the operations of the Reagan Center and Maureen manages the Drew Company’s business-to-business software platform and oversee the Dublin office. In Boston, Carolyn holds crucial roles with the company’s marketing department and also the company’s charitable commitments.

“Johanne’s the only one who escaped the family business,” John jokes. “She’s a pre-school teacher.”

Charity begins at home and also in the office Throughout their lives, John and Kathy Drew have devoted themselves to a wide array of charities and community aid. They have been unflagging in their support of public charities and, in a nod to their Irish heritage, the Ireland Fund. There are but a few of their civic and religious endeavors to help “the least among us.”

John is not one to talk about the many business and civic awards he has received. He prefers to reflect and elaborate about a charity that is especially meaningful to him.

“I feel deeply involved with the Adopt a Student Program, which supports Cathedral High School, right next to Holy Cross Cathedral. It pays deserving kids’ tuition and gives them the chance to achieve a great education and a path toward a great life and career that might otherwise be blocked for them. I tell anyone that it’s an example of how we can all help make things better one kid at a time.”

Once again, both John and Kathy emphasize that their Irish-Amerian, “Southie,” and “Dot” upbringings instilled in them a determinism to parley their success from finance and charitable service.

“We’ve never forgotten where we came from and how fortunate we are,” says Kathy. With another chuckle, she adds, “I’m not sure how many times John really listened to church, but there’s one I know he listened to.”

“Best sermon ever,” John responds. “The priest said ‘if you help others not to be thanked, but because it’s the right thing to do.”

It seems altogether fitting that a developer who is a proud Boston-Irish son of Southie has so changed and renewed a once-moribund seaport space that lies so near to the roots of his youth. “Geography is destiny” —the words apt for both John and Kathy Drew, whose charitable works stand as true testament to the values of their heritage.
lived their values whether people knew it or not. To me she is first a friend, then a mentor, and, thirdly, a fashionista; she’s a crazy shopper who used her umbrella to hook him by the arm, draw him close, and say, “This is my daughter, isn’t she nice?” Ellen shared her journey. • When Christmas came,” says Joe, “our mother would make sure all the kids had the same number of presents. And, I’ll tell ya, ‘Everyone got new underwear.’” For the Carmody children, the house was a commune, and with their grandmother downstairs, there was always a partner with whom to play checkers or old maid. But she also insisted on frequent recitations of the rosary in the dark Lent. “We knelt on the dining room floor while Cardinal Cushing recited the rosary on the radio,” recalls Ellen, “and God help you if you leaned back to sit on your heels.” • • • Even in trepidatious investigative reporters would exhaust themselves finding anyone to speak ill of Carmody. His wife, Theresa: “He deserves not only Father of the Year award but also Husband of the Year. Through good and bad times, he’s very consistent. He enjoys good times with each of the kids, he backs them up and lets them enjoy themselves. But he’s also here for the tough times. And that’s what life’s about.” John Drew, president of the John Drew Co.: “A great guy. I recruited him to work for me at Seaport Hotel, and worked with both the Boston Guild of Oenophiles. Our shared wine experience started when Jim was at Boston Harbor Hotel, and along with others, we ran Boston Wine Expo for 20 years, which has benefited more than two dozen local charities. Jim, by the way, is a good wine buyer – not me.” Larry Moulter, executive in residence, UMass Center for Collaborative Leadership: “When I’m asked what makes culture important, I think of Jim’s view – it’s built person by person, each sharing values that aren’t slogans but can be put into action daily as people go about their roles. He good at raising dollars, but knows it’s not just about money. It’s about mentoring and giving folks skills they need to achieve.” Cindy Brown, Boston Duck Tours: “I work with Jim on Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau. “He’s chairman. What I admire is his commitment to our industry. His integrity and honesty have led him to the success he’s earned, and I like that he doesn’t take himself seriously – he lightens stress with a self-deprecating joke. A good friend…” Nicole Hand, of the New England Center and Home for Veterans remembers 2003, “when our shelter was in danger of closing. He raised money to save the Shelter. He helped organize the annual “Leave No One Behind” gala at Seaport, raising $6 million for us. He partners with executive chef Richard Raymond and donates a world-class dinner for eight auctioned to a bidder. The meal is prepared in the winner’s home by Raymond, and guess who’s the waiter? Jim Carmody.” Dr. Deeb N. Salem, physician-in-chief, Tufts Medical: “If it’s been years since Jim was VP of facilities here, yet long-time employees still smile when his name is mentioned. He continues to have a soft spot for the hospital, participates in many of our charitable events, and helps family, friends, and guests who need medical care to connect with our physicians.” Sister Mary Black, CSJ, Jim’s home-school teacher at Cathedral High School: “I was attending a fundraiser at the Seaport Hotel, where Jim was then assistant to the general manager. He tapped me on the shoulder, and when I turned around, I said, ‘James Carmody, what are you doing here?’ He was surprised that I remembered him. Since then, he has been a remarkable help with the annual fundraising dinners I work on for Cathedral High School and for the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Boston. “We could not do what we do without his help. He’s turned to not only run a great hotel, but does so much for others – Cathedral kids, Sisters of Saint Joseph and many others that I have heard about from people in the fund-raising community. • • • As her mother lay dying, Jim’s sister, Ellen, learned a lesson about mothering. “She was bed-ridden with cancer for a year, and on her last week, I asked how she did it, eight kids, different personalities, and all the crises. “She said that, first, the crises do not come at once, and so you handle them one at a time. And with children of different personalities, you treat each accordingly, respecting who they are, and letting them know that they’re special to you.” Mary Carmody died in 1982, at age 64, and Joe in 1991, at 76. In going through his father’s papers, Jim discovered that at their wedding 50 years earlier, his mom and dad had danced to their favorite song, “Always.” On the day of Joe Carmody Sr.’s funeral at St. Ann’s Church, Jim concluded the eulogy by asking the congregation to rise and join him in singing their song. With autumn sunlight slanting through stained glass windows, the congregation sang the timeless words, “I’ll be loving you always … not for just an hour, not for just a day, not for just a year, but always.”
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The BIR is a family-owned news publication. In keeping with our own heritage, we tell the stories of exemplary Irish families and individuals who share our common roots in Boston and Ireland. Boston Irish Honors debuted in 2010 and has become an annual highlight on the fall calendar, with an appreciative audience of some 400 Boston business, civic, neighborhood and political leaders in recognition of Boston's Irish heritage.

The event, in support of Boston and New England's own hometown Irish American newspaper & website, gives public recognition for achievements in public service, business and community leadership.

HONOREES OVER THE YEARS

2018
Rev. Richard “Doc” Conway; Mary and Bob Scannell; Dr. Trevor McGill, MD

2017
Nora, Annmarie and Bill Kennedy; Tom Tintel, Kevin Cullen

2016
Jim & Mary (Cahill) Judge, Senator Paul G Kirk Jr, Kevin & Joe Leary & family

2015
Margaret Stapleton, Mike Sheehan, BPD Commissioner William Evans family

2014
Katherine Craven, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, The Burke family of South Boston

2013
Therese Murray, Gerry & Bob Mulligan family, John P. Driscoll Jr.(Posthumous)

2012
Congressman Richard Neal, Brendan & Greg Feeney, Mary & Bob Muse & family

2011
Kathleen O'Toole, State Senator Tom Kennedy, & families of Joseph Corcoran, James Hunt Jr., & Mark & Tom Mulvoy

2010
Hon. Ed Markey, John Donohue, and Irish families of Peg Geraghty, Jim Brett & Mayor John B. Hynes

2018
Looking back: Irish Honors over the years

By Ed Forry

Ten years ago, when we first gathered with some friends and asked the Boston Irish to sponsor an annual luncheon featuring stories drawn from the rich Boston Irish large community, we had a central idea in mind: We hoped to encourage more people and families in our community to truly exemplify the best qualities of the Boston Irish.

In telling their stories, which speak to our heritage and history in Boston, we seek to reaffirm our immigrant roots and the strong bonds between the people and women who came here and made Boston our home.

It's an exceptional city because of all the cultures that have joined together to make it their home. It's a team effort. But we believe it is important for those of us with roots and heritage in Ireland to tell our stories — to pass forward the tales of exemplary people for those of us with roots and heritage in Ireland to leading businessman and philanthropist John Donahue, and of two individuals, families for the benefit of our children, ourselves, and our gathering at the Seaport Hotel on October 18.

Eight million stories in the city. That can be said later, and her son died just four years later.

One of my vivid memories came during the 2011 event, when Brockton State Sen. Tom Kennedy, who law- all of their stories compelling and inspirational, and women and families from many walks of life— from the compelling narratives of some 40 Boston Irish men and women since the beginning, remembers that his friend Tom Brett, a member of our luncheon committee, came here and made Bos -

Here I am three years into a new relationship following the death of 53 years ago. I must have thought it appropriate to bring you up to date on a phase of life neither expected nor prepared for. After all, this was a new relationship, and in each instance, all honorees delivered moving, inspirational and often humorous remarks as they spoke of the people and stories the examples they have set. Thus we called it Boston Irish Honors.

The December print edition of the Boston Irish Reporter will be on newsstands and at bostonirish.com.

For starters, we will be publishing curat -ing the site which has become the primary vehicle for pub- lishing our work. The print edition of the Boston Irish Reporter — the one you are holding in your hands— will continue, but in a seasonal form. It will no longer be a monthly, even daily pace.

This transition will be an exciting one for our news organization, which continues to draw reporters and editors from around the country committed to continuing to tell compelling stories, enhance what we do with new platforms.

On Oct. 18, luncheon, we unveiled the new look of “The Boston Irish,” something you will see more regularly in the months ahead. The logo of this online publication is printed alongside this story as well.

What will this mean and how we engage with you, our readers and advertisers?

For now, for this year, we will be publishing and curat- ing the site. In the future, instead of the familiar monthly cycle that was time-limited, even seasonal, this online publication, our team will be generating news and updates online in more of a weekly, even daily pace.

As we make this transition, we will introduce a new chapter to our newsroom. We're committed to continuing to enhance what we do with new platforms.

Friends and family call me “Merry” for good reason. It’s a name that captures her essential good nature. A great disposition masks her strength, courage, and perseverance in the face of life’s travails. One famous Greek philosopher once observed: “We’re not always in control of our lives, but how does one name the hand one’s dealt?” Our spouses seem a little awkward. Introducing her as “my girlfriend” would have wanted us to be happy. Although, I think she would approve.

Some years ago when I was younger and not nearly my current age, I found her, not as a product of a nation-wide search or a casual venture into the dating pool. Instead, I met her on a character trait I had never noticed in my younger years that served me well over the years: Dumb luck. Lucky, in a way that part was pre-programmed for me, but how does one describe, diagnose, identify, capture, and retain luck.

Sometimes we feel a little guilty with having such a good time after the loss of a loved one. I remind her that “you play the hand you’re dealt.” Our spouses can be an exciting one for us, and we choose to focus on enhancing the way we deliver your brand of community news about our community in this region.

“Merry” was the first name of my mother who now practices law.

For whatever reason, I seem to have had more pears. For whatever reason, I seem to have had more success than others, but how does one identify, capture, and develop the insight to nurture in me, but how does one describe, diagnose, identify, capture, and retain luck.

The dumb part was easy. It’s a name that captures her essential good nature. A great disposition masks her strength, courage, and perseverance in the face of life’s travails. One famous Greek philosopher once observed: “We’re not always in control of our lives, but how does one name the hand one’s dealt?” Our spouses seem a little awkward. Introducing her as “my girlfriend” would have wanted us to be happy. Although, I think she would approve.

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“Merry” was the first name of my mother who now practices law.
On the holiday, why ‘thanks’ in Russian and Gaelic

BY PETER F. STEVENS

As the calendar turns toward Thanksgiving, several prominent Irish Americans are doing their level best to turn the conversation away from platters of holiday “gobbler” to the wording of lies, and, in one case, an ill-advised confession to several of those whoppers. The Turkey Day menu from Irish American Hall of Shamers William Barry and Mick Mulvaney features elements of both Ukraine and American history. Mulvaney, as of this writing, is still holding on to his title as Trump’s acting chief of staff. In what may go down as one of the most stunning public “confessions” in the annals of the presidency, Mulvaney, in an interview on CNN Media, media affairs, and the news in general fal to “get over it.” The “it” was his admission that the Trump Administration has repeatedly used extortion and coercion as tools of foreign policy. That’s why, according to a spokesman for the president, their decision to withhold direly needed military aid to the Ukraine in exchange for the beleaguered nation’s new president doing the administration a little favor was legal. The potential Democratic rival Joe Biden for Trump’s 2020 reelection campaign distinguished himself by declaring, “Perfect,” belives Trump, and perfectly okay, blasts Mulvaney. Except that it’s not.

For any American president, the issue is not even “good prep,” because the magnates disparately contend. The mere act of any White House secretly holding back military aid is egregious by any accounting. It comes as no surprise that the Mueller Investigation is a “witch hunt” and a hoax, but also that the president’s pal Vlad could not have been behind interference in the 2016 election. Far from it. Trump has a hard time believing that Vlad was behind the poisoning of an erstwhile Russian spy in the UK. Putin, our president avers, is “good people.”

Now, racing in—or skulking around Europe—to prove that statement is Barr. He’s going to get to the bottom of things to unevil the “real” truth. It was Ukrainians, Brits, Europeans, and, of course, Barr’s privileged assistant, who helped Hillary Clinton. One question: How did that all turn out, Secretary Clinton?

As Americans sit down to our annual orgy of food and football this Thanksgiving, we should not neglect to thank our holiday hosts and hostsesses with a heart felt “spasiba” or “spasiba”—that’s “thank you” in the Kremlin. William Barr and Mick Mulvaney would likely understand.

Some of the pair of Irish Americans choose not to understand is the warning for the ages of Daniel O’Connell, “The Liberator,” one of the greatest human rights leaders of the 19th century. O’Connell contended that our Thanksgiving began with the arrival of the English chronicler Reverend Thomas Prince wrote: “As the winter came on provisions are very scarce to feed on clams and mussels and ground nuts and acorns, and those used up. But by February 5th, those were got with much difficulty during the winter season….on February 5th, the very day of the Mass in the Rock brethren was the daughter of a Dublin merchant and that it was he who chartered the vessel, loaded it with provisions, and who is said to have been the only person on board when it arrived in Massachusetts. This account is supported by the Massachusetts historical records revealed the tale, giving the Irish a fair claim to saving Thanksgiving.”

The question linger: Is a 1631 Thanksgiving or the customary date of 1621 correct? The accounts of Prince and Pilgrim leader William Bradford do not provide a clear answer.

According to Johncusack’s “How the Irish Saved Thanksgiving” Irish Central, Nov. 23, 2017), “it turns out, from records at the Massachusetts Historical Society, that the Pilgrims’ first Thanksgiving took place in December 1621.”

Some might think that Thanksgiving traditions do not reflect anything Irish, but they would be wrong to assume that the Irish are not deeply involved with the thing that is Irish, the Pilgrims’ first Thanksgiving might never have happened.

ONWARD

Brian Kennedy’s cancer and his return to the stage

BY PETER F. STEVENS

BIR STAFF

To say that Brian Kennedy has recovered from an formidable battle is an understatement. The acclaimed Northern Ireland singer-songwriter, whose song writer came age of in Belfast’s war torn cityscape during The Troubles, and his gifted voice war-torn cityscape during The Troubles, and his gifted voice helped keep you going and provided a clear answer.

Recently, Kennedy—who is a also a successful author, television star (The Voice-Ireland season 3) and radio host (Clare FM Saturdays, “Live, Love and Happiness”—spoke with the BIR from Dublin about his journey from The Troubles to his recov from The Troubles in November 2019

A. How would you describe your time with colon cancer the past two years? How did you manage to come through it? It was quite a difficult time, and then the very real

A. What is the most important lesson you learned from this experience? A. I always hoped I had a deep sense of empathy, but I think I always thought I was someone who was much more able to help. Letting go of control is something that is very important to you as you share your story with your fans during your upcoming performances in the states?

A. I would like to think that I’ll continue to be a voice for those who are as you share your story with your fans during your upcoming performances in the states?

A. I would like to think that I’ll continue to be a voice for those who are struggling with the disease, and the story is very powerful, and it’s about time that the story is told.

A. How do you think your story will help others? A. It’s important to me that people can see that there is hope, and that there is a way forward. People can hear the story of what happened to me, and see that there is a way to move forward, and that there is hope for the future.

A. What is the most important lesson you learned from this experience? A. I always hoped I had a deep sense of empathy, but I think I always thought I was someone who was much more able to help. Letting go of control is something that is very important to you as you share your story with your fans during your upcoming performances in the states?

A. I would like to think that I’ll continue to be a voice for those who are struggling with the disease, and the story is very powerful, and it’s about time that the story is told.

A. How do you think your story will help others? A. It’s important to me that people can see that there is hope, and that there is a way forward. People can hear the story of what happened to me, and see that there is a way to move forward, and that there is hope for the future.
Corner House sees its musical telling of journeys, experiences, and ‘moments lived, and to come’

By SEAN SMITH

Special to the BHR

By chance or design, the band sits at the edge of a crossroads, in close proximity to all manner of passersby happening through the center of Newburyport. In the same vein, Boston quartet Corner House lies at a musical crossroad, as its doors and windows open to the musical styles, genres, and philosophies at the metaphorical intersection: Irish, bluegrass, old-timey, New England contra dance, plus contemporary singer-songwriter folk.

For the band’s members, Bosten itself has been a corner house of inspiration and creativity, and a welcoming destination at the end of their journeys from disparate locations. Fiddler Louise Bichan, a native of Scotland,矶 Island; mandolin, mandola and bouzouki player Ethan Setiawan comes from batavia, Illinois; guitarist and lead vocalist Sean Murray from Indiana, guitarist and lead vocalist Ethan Hawkins from Virginia; Casey Murrigh, who plays guiutar and bass and joined the band last year, grew up in western New York.

With two PCs to its credit, including the recently released “Smart Folks,” and an impressive resume of past and future gigs, Corner House is the latest in a series of ensembles of current or former college students who seek to reconcile stable home life with lesser-known currents and interests, Corner House members feel fortunate to be in this particular corporative intersection: Irish, bluegrass and folk.

Everything’s developed pretty naturally and even when we first started, it was all these influences and interests, Corner House’s members feel fortunate to be in this particular corporative intersection: Irish, bluegrass and folk.

A sequence of tracks on the first recording show off the Appalachian side to Corner House, beginning with “Red Rocking Chair,” a classic lament of frustrated romance (“It’s all I can do all I can say/ Take me to your mama next pay day/ I can’t get along this-a-way”), that opens with some nifty flat-picking by Hawkins — the son of a bluegrass musician — and features lovely vocal harmonies; they then segue into “Speed the Plow,” an old-time reel that shares a name, though not the melody, with an Irish reel.

Besides “Friends with the Weather,” Corner House’s repertoire of original tunes includes “Gabe’s 24-Hour Tash” by Bichan, which has tunes of both Celtic and American fiddle traditions, and Murray’s arborial “Through the Snow-Covered Pines,” her clawhammer banjo style and Appalachian string band ambiance.

The cello can do so many things: it’s not just a neutralizing force in a band, but a key anchoring element, says Bichan, who also plays cello (his first instrument) in some instances. But ultimately, Bichan says, “we thought it would be awesome to have a cello, for its ability to convincingly mesh the different genres. Bichan anchors “Lucy House” to Corner House’s repertoire of original tunes. And even as they sort out how to accommodate — whether your moments lived and to come, songs of a song he co-wrote with Hawkins that Murray is currently enrolled, a name, though not the melody, with an Irish reel.

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For more about Corner House, including links to their recordings, go to cornerhouseband.com

Over 50 Years Of Experience

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Ken Lloyd & Brian O’Sullivan are registered representatives of and offers securities, investment advisory and financial planning services through MMI Investors Services, LLC, Member SIPC

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The historic Doyle’s Cafe in Jamaica Plain, which closed its doors for the last time in late October, hosted a reception with Bill Brett for his new book, Boston Game Changers.

1.) Mike Barry and Joannie Jaxtimer, Milton; 2.) Garth Davis, So. Boston; Sarah Codere, Somerville, Alice Tattersall, Cambridge; Mike Capasso, Roxbury; 3.) Catherine Towle, Quincy; George Manning, W. Roxbury; Maughan Towle, Hyde Park; 4.) Heather Grant-Ford, Revere; Lori DeSantis and Carla Osberg, Jamaica Plain; 5.) Peter Gillies, Diane Gillies, John Gillies and Caroline King, Reading; 6.) Carla Osberg, Jamaica Plain; 7.) Alan Rouleau, Dorchester; Sonia Garufi, Rodinale; 8.) Ted Garthland, Belmont; Jim Fagan, Plymouth; 9.) Gerry Burke, Doyle’s; Bill Lawler, Lawler Funeral Home, W. Roxbury; 10.) Gary and Lynne Smith, Wellesley; 11.) Monica McLane, New Jersey; Suzanne Noone, Belmont; 12.) Erica Shear, Somerville; Greg Sullivan, Allston; Maggie Farrell, Brookline; Emily Akin, Cambridge.
The BIR's Calendar of Celtic music and dance

In addition to the Childplay farewell tour coming up on Nov. 17 at 7:30 p.m., here are some other Irish/Celtic music happenings in greater Boston this month:

• The annual Massachusetts Fiddle Player's Association annual gala will feature Cape Breton, Scottish, Irish, and New England musicians on stage at the Westminster Regency Inn in Westminster, offering demonstrations and performances that are sure to please fans of fiddling. Music lovers will also have the opportunity to purchase tickets at the door. For more information, visit www.massfiddle.org.

• The Irish singer, music scholar, and author of “The Irish in America” will present a song and concert at Boston College on Nov. 7 at 6:30 p.m., sponsored by BC’s Gáidhlig Radio. Muller, an English-speaking Irishman, has amassed a diverse repertoire that includes traditional music, ballad, Fenian/Natinalist, maritime and Tin Pan Alley songs. His band, The Flying Cloud, has performed in locations ranging from Philadelphia to Johnstown to New Orleans. Muller is the host of “The Irish in America” on WBAI, and he has also been involved in numerous cultural collaborations, including with one another and with the Boston Area Irish Fiddlers’ Association.

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• The Boston Irish Repertory will present a play called “Come From Away,” which tells the story of the people who were stranded in Gander, Newfoundland, following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The play is based on true events and features live music by Fiddler’s Green. Performances are scheduled for Nov. 5 to Nov. 17, and tickets are available online at bostonirish.com.

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Echoes of three decades of memorable music will resound this month as the fiddlers of Childsplay fall silent, say goodbye

Continued from page 1

Childs, however, is not going into this last Childsplay tour with bitterness. He prefers instead to “about honoring the talent and commitment of the band,” and to focus on the fellowship and, most of all, the memorable music its members have created.

This year’s edition of Childsplay includes fiddlers and violinists with Greater Boston-area ties like Laurel Martin, Hanneke Cassel, Katie McNally, Sheila Fals, Amanda Cavanaugh, and Bonnie Bewick. As in past years, they are supplemented by a bevy of musicians on other instruments, among them Shannon Heaton (flute, tin whistle, accordion), Ralph Gordon (double bass), and Mark Roberts (banjo, bouzouki, mandolin).

Renowned Irish singer Karan Casey joined Childsplay in 2016 and appeared on its most recent CD. The fiddler, who will serve again as lead vocalist. Also returning is Kevin Doyle, long an audience favorite for his robust, spirited blending of Irish and American dance styles. Irish dancer Maureen Berry, whose credits include “A Christmas Celtic Sojourn,” is another of the special guests this year. And Childs hints that there are likely to be some “surprise visitors, including past Childsplay members, showing up on stage, especially at the last show.”

Childsplay first began its near-annual assembly in 1986, when several of Childs’ satisfied fiddle customers played a concert in Washington, DC; they invited him to join them the following year. The group’s tours have not always been confined to the Northeast. In addition to Washington, DC, they’ve performed in the Pacific Northwest and one year traveled to a festival in Mexico.

Wherever they may play, and whoever shows up to participate – the lineup has seldom been the same from one year to the next – Childsplay’s devotion to high-quality music is a certainty. Rather than employ a straight local band around which to craft its sets, the ensemble often invites special guests of its own choosing, sometimes spotlighting a few players at a time – maybe a fiddler and a guitarist or, for example, a trio of fiddlers by itself or with guitar, or piano – and the arrangements might include countermelodies and contrasting rhythms juxtaposed against one another. Their repertoire of tunes spans traditional as well as contemporary compositions, some of them by band members like Casel, Murphy, Heaton, and McNally.

Childsplay’s vocal numbers, whether sung by Casey or her predecessors Acóile Ó'Donnovan and Lissa Schneckenburger (who has done double duty as a fiddler as well), have been equally well-crafted and diverse. From traditional Irish or Scotish songs like “Bailing Off to Yankeeland” and “Rattling Roaring Willie” to Americana like “Dear Companion” and “Sweet Sunny South,” to contemporary material including Casey’s own “Dear Annie” and Steve Earle’s “Christy in Washington” – and even a cover of “Leve Me Tender” – Childsplay has been adept at creating arrangements and accompaniment that capably support the singer.

The archetypal Childsplay moment is when all its components are in synch with one another, whenChilds, Murphy, and Heaton harmonize as though the song were the same in every person’s head. “Childs’ role is to let everyone sing together, or gallop ‘Oran Mor’ as a jig or reel in unison, with the other instruments closely aligned. Every year’s repertoire is a couple of those moments,” he says, “and they’re so beautiful it’s hard not to get emotional.”

Childsplay has inspired many such emotions for its members over the years: the anticipation of putting forth or trying out ideas for new additions to the band repertoire; the delight in catching up with people you may not have seen since the last Childsplay tour; the exhilaration at putting in all that work and then sharing it with an enthusiastic audience. “Community” is an obvious and frequently heard description for the group, but it’s entirely apt. “It’s been wonderful to have an annual occasion to catch up with friends I see frequently,” says Heaton, “and a few I only see during the Childsplay events.”

Cassell, another long-time and frequent Childsplay performer, likens the experience to a fiddle camp: “We gather together, jamming.”

McNally was still in her teens when she first took part in Childsplay, following in the footsteps of younger musicians like Sam Amidon, Graham Duford and the Gawler sisters, Elsie, Edith, and Molly McNally, who marveled at as a child watching Childsplay shows from the audience.

“It was one of my first big fiddle competitions – I joined the band right after I got my fiddle from Bob,” she recalls. “It was so exciting when Bob called me up and casually asked if it would help me pay off my new instrument by going on tour with the band.” Not surprisingly, Childsplay performers’ memories incorporate not just the rehearsals and concerts, but ancillary and even unusual events or circumstances. For Heaton, there was the year a nasty “catchy bug” made the rounds, creating a “literally infectious camaraderie between musicians, dancers, and the tech crew. Almost no one was spared.” But the show went on.

McNally likes to remember a post-concert excursion in New London, Conn., to a dive bar near the hotel where Childsplay was staying. A1980s cover band was playing there, somewhere, she says, “we eventually had all of the other patrons at the bar doing ‘The Virginia reel’ to their music.”

Cassell, underscoring the fiddle camp vibe of Childsplay’s end-of-tour party that wound up taking place at the family home of one performer – despite the fact that her mom had to pack up and make the rounds. “We went to the store, bought a bunch of groceries,” and then chopped, cooked, grilled together and “sang up the wee hours eating and playing music.”

When Childs adds those memories and impressions to his own, he serves to affirm his pride and satisfaction in what Childsplay has achieved in its three-plus decades. “One of my favorite parts of Childsplay has been its intergenerational nature; we have always had a spectrum of ages, from teen to young adult to middle age and older. And to see the mentoring that’s taken place, to witness how people have grown – not just musically but personally – is something I’ve always been thankful for.”

“Although I’ve had a leadership position in the band, I’ve never tried to be directive, but to let the music emerge and allow people to stop forward and take on roles they’ve set for themselves.”

Childs has already had one important life transition recently, having largely retired from his violin-making after some 40 years due to eye problems. Childsplay’s finale, which will be filmed for another documentary – will be another.

“Endings in and of themselves are often difficult. But this is the opportunity to pay tribute to what Childsplay has accomplished. Karan Casey has called Childsplay a ‘second family’ and I appreciate that; it shows we’ve built a super-creative environment in which it’s possible to make wonder-full things.”

For more about Childsplay and its final concerts, including the two at Sanders Theater, go to childspaly.org.
Doocey’s "Music and Mischief” • music, not least in their repertoire. The trio may be grounded in tradition though the "Music Lúnasa in its full incarnation. And in the same vein, good cheer, and the same creative spirit that energizes with excellent musicianship (of course), abundant instance, and here he has joined with fiddler Farrell Flute and whistle player Crawford has often teamed not performing or recording as a full band, they cultivate layered, harmonic Lúnasa sound. The twin whistles - ford on whistle, offering a glimpse of that distinctive -

Kevin Crawford, Colin Farrell and Patrick Crawford’s slow reel, "The Headspinner," exhibits his ability as a tune composer as well as the outstanding -

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Ronan Organ of Cork, (right) at table with Arbella Insurance Foundation.

He has an Irish home away from home

Friendly, Irish, and sporty—these are the words Ronan Organ uses to describe Boston. Originally from Cork, Ronan was first attracted to this historic American city because of the Irish community, the professional opportunities, and his passion for sports. Having spent the past year in Boston, the IT professional has experienced all he had hoped for and more.

With an open-minded attitude, Ronan explored multiple avenues for finding an internship. He found that the best way to get noticed by potential employers is attending networking events and seeking the help of others with professional contacts. He says that organizations such as Boston Irish Business Association, Irish International Immigrant Center, and Consulate of Ireland in Boston are always organizing networking events that help you to gain invaluable contacts and mentors throughout your time in Boston.

Ultimately, it was through these connections that Ronan found the professional opportunity he had been looking for.

Aside from work, he has been able to take advantage of what Boston has to offer. He enjoys the people, the history, and the familiarity of the city. The greatest memory Ronan says he will bring back to Ireland, however, ties back to his love of sports. “To see my favorite American football team winning their 6th Super Bowl was something special for me. I was able to watch the Super Bowl in a Boston bar, go into the Boston Common to celebrate with Pats fans, and see Tom Brady holding up the Vince Lombardi trophy the following Tuesday in a duck boat outside the Government Center was something that is unique to Boston.”

Cheers to more wins for Ronan – and the Pats!

IIIC visits the ICC for the Irish Festival!

Ann-Marie, our Irish outreach coordinator, was out and about again last month on Sat., Oct. 19, she attended the Irish Festival at the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton where she had a great time meeting people and telling them all about the IIIC.

As always, the coloring competition was a big hit with the kids! Thank you to Steve, Maudy, and all the wonderful staff and volunteers at the ICC for all their hard work and dedication in making this event such a success.

Wrong way, right ways to residence through marriage to a US citizen

Q. I’m a US citizen who is engaged to be married to a man from Ireland. He is there now and we want to live in the US after we marry. Can he just come here as a visitor on the 90-day visa waiver, get married, and apply for a green card? Or can we get married in Ireland, after which he comes to the US on the visa waiver and then file his application?

A. Emphatically no in both cases. This is a fundamental mistake that is not at all obvious to people who don’t know the ins and outs of the relevant immigration law, and it happens quite frequently. The problem is that the visa waiver (as well as travel on most temporary visas) is granted on the basis of what the law calls “non-immigrant intent,” that is, the person traveling honestly intends to stay in the US for no longer than the period allowed by US Customs and Border Protection at the port of entry.

On the other hand, someone entering with temporary permission but who actually intends to stay in the US — to apply for a green card or for some other reason — has “immigrant intent.” So the immigration authorities would conclude that the person had committed “visa fraud,” which, generally speaking, renders him ineligible for benefits such as permanent residence, and, indeed, subjects him or her to removal from the US and a bar to entering this country from abroad in the future.

There are, however, two basic ways to get legal permanent residence for your future husband without legal problems. In general terms, they are:

1) The fiancé visa. You, the US citizen, file a petition with US Citizenship and Immigration Services for your future husband. This process includes providing proof that the two of you have met personally during the last two years and intend to marry in the US. Once USCIS grants the petition, the US State Department takes over the case. Ultimately, your fiancé has an interview at the US Consulate in Dublin. He receives the visa and travels to the US, after which he is able to marry you. As soon as the marriage has taken place, he can immediately file for permanent residence with USCIS and remain here while the application is being processed.

2) Consular processing for an immigrant (permanent resident) visa. With this option, you get married abroad. Then you file a petition with USCIS and, again, once it is granted the case is transferred to the US State Department. Your future husband then files an application for an immigrant visa, has an interview at the US Consulate, receives the visa, and travels to the US — only this time he enters with permanent resident status already granted and no further applications need to be filed in the US.

Which option is preferable for a particular couple depends on the details of individual cases. You can visit one of our weekly legal clinics as advertised in the Boston Irish Reporter for a free, confidential discussion of the options.

Disclaimer: These articles are published to inform generally, not to advise in individual cases. Immigration law is always subject to change. US Citizenship and Immigration Services and the US Department of State frequently amend regulations and after processing and filing procedures. For legal advice seek the assistance of IIIC immigration legal staff.

IF YOU HAVE AN IMMIGRATION QUESTION, EMAIL US TODAY!

We're here to help!

Our door is always open if you need to talk, problem solve, or figure out the next step. We offer free and confidential support to all Irish and Irish Americans whether you are a newcomer or long-time resident of the US.

We PROVIDE
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• Suicide Prevention & Crisis Support •
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Upcoming: A Holiday Chat Night!

Join us to celebrate the Irish language in this special time of year! We will be hosting a Irish Chat Night with the consulate as we approach the holiday season. Keep an eye on our IIIC and Wellness Facebook and Twitter pages as we roll out the details in the weeks ahead!

Also pictured is William (age 6) with his mother Jill. William did a great job coloring the special IIIC Halloween pumpkin.

Ann-Marie welcoming people at the IIIC table.
The Irish have never forgotten their treasured antiquities

By Judy Enright

**SPECIAL TO THE BIR**

Ireland is notable for many things, but high on that list is the dedication of its residents and organizations to preserving and sharing treasured antiquities. In cities, towns and across the countryside, there are monuments to the past—buildings, castles, churches, abbeys, monasteries, and more, including portals and Neo-Lithic tombs. Rather than plow under such heritage, the Irish respect, preserve and share their treasures.

**KILKENNO**

We visited the town of Killenora, Co. Clare, this spring, ostensibly to visit the excellent Burren Centre. Next door to the Centre is the Killenora Cathedral, which boasts the largest concentration of high crosses in the country. These limestone crosses are believed to have been carved in the late 11th or early 12th century, and include the well-known Doony Cross. The cathedral, built in 1558 on the site of St. Fachnan’s 6th century monastery, has deteriorated over time but is still impressive so you can appreciate how much more impressive it must have been in its heyday.

The Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands has recently restored and looks much more impressive now. Be sure to stop at the Centre, which boasts the largest collection of early Christian crosses in the country. Burren Centre. Next to the Centre is the Castles in Quin and places like Knappogue and the Islands has restored Kilfenora, Co. Clare, a co-founder of the Abbey Church of Limerick in 1691. There is a 12th-century round tower and there is a spiral staircase from the basement to the top. There are 10 feet thick at ground level and there is a five-storied southern wall. And, don’t miss Cahir, once said to be Ireland’s top tourist attraction and you’ll see why when you visit.

The Abbey Centre in Co. Clare is an early Christian site that includes a cathedral, seven churches and two round towers, three high crosses and the largest collection of Early Christian graves on western Europe.

**TIPPERARY**

When you’re traveling across the country in search of historic castles and buildings, be sure to stop off in Loughmore, Co. Tipperary. Just off the N62, Loughmore offers history buffs the Purcell Fortress/Castle, the Abbey Church, the Mill, and the Cormac Memorial. The Purtells, known as the Barons of Loughmore, built their castle/fortress on the west bank of the River Suir with a five-storyed southern tower. The walls are 10 feet thick at ground level in the tower and there is a spiral staircase from the basement to the top. The last Baron, Nicholas Purcell (1652-1755), was a signer of the Treaty of Limerick in 1691. He added gardens, walks, domestic staff residences, smoking room, gun room and Romanesque chapel, four sitting rooms, a ball room, five bathrooms, four sitting rooms, a ball room, and the largest collection of early Christian graves in western Europe.

Poulnabrone Dolmen, or portal tomb, is a popular tourist attraction in the Burren in Co. Clare. Clonmacnoise in Co. Offaly is an early Christian site that includes a cathedral, seven churches and two round towers, three high crosses and the largest collection of Early Christian graves in western Europe.

The Abbey Centre in Co. Clare is an early Christian site that includes a cathedral, seven churches and two round towers, three high crosses and the largest collection of Early Christian graves on western Europe.

Cornwall is a popular tourist attraction in the Burren in Co. Clare. Clonmacnoise in Co. Offaly is an early Christian site that includes a cathedral, seven churches and two round towers, three high crosses and the largest collection of Early Christian graves on western Europe.

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You could scarcely mention Galway without urging visitors to head north to Connemara for a tour of beautiful Kylemore Abbey and Victorian Gardens. Kylemore is often said to be Ireland’s top tourist attraction and you’ll see why when you visit. The Abbey hardly fits into the historic-category, thanks to the Benedictine nuns who have overseen the property for nearly 100 years. In 1868, an Englishman, Lord Edward Molyneux, was touring Connemara and came upon an old hunting lodge set at the edge of a lake with mountains rising behind. He was stunned by the brilliant scene, bought the property for his life, Margaret, and built a castle there with 36 bedrooms, four bathrooms, four sitting rooms, a ballroom, billiard room, library, study, school room, smoking room, gun room and various offices and domestic staff residences. He added gardens, walks, and woodlands that eventually covered 13,000 acres. Sadly, Margaret died at the age of 45 after contracting an illness on a family holiday to Egypt. Benedictine nuns set up their community at Kylemore in the 1920s. They ran a day school and boarding school, which closed in 2010. During their time, the nuns have restored the Abbey, Gothic Church and Kylemore and Victorian Gardens to their former glory. Upgrades and changes are ongoing even today. Be sure to stop in Kylemore’s visitor centre, café and gift shop while there.

**DARK SKIES**

The 14th European Dark Sky Symposium for the Protection of the Night Sky that will take place in Mulranny, Co. Mayo, from Nov. 3-5, will be a sister event to The International Dark Sky Association’s 2019 Annual General Meeting & Conference: Tucson, AZ, Nov. 8-9. The intercontinental collaboration will gather scientists, activists, and anyone else who has overseen the 13,000 acres. He added gardens, walks, and woodlands that eventually covered 13,000 acres. Sadly, Margaret died at the age of 45 after contracting an illness on a family holiday to Egypt. Benedictine nuns set up their community at Kylemore in the 1920s. They ran a day school and boarding school, which closed in 2010. During their time, the nuns have restored the Abbey, Gothic Church and Kylemore and Victorian Gardens to their former glory. Upgrades and changes are ongoing even today. Be sure to stop in Kylemore’s visitor centre, café and gift shop while there.

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Decision on Brexit put off until January; vote to come

(Continued from page 1)

emy Corbyn said his party would vote in favor of an early election because the prospect that Britain could crash out of the EU without a divorce deal had been taken off the table. Brexit will form the un- avoidable backdrop to the election, but the left- of-center Labour Party is calculating that voters will want to talk about issues such as health care, education, and social welfare — all of which saw years of funding cuts by Conservative gov- ernments — more than about Brexit. The party’s position on the EU is convoluted, with a split between those who want to go through with Brexit and those who want a new referendum on whether to remain in the bloc. The strongly pro-EU Liberal Democrats have been eating away at Labour’s support in Britain’s big cities. “The choice at this elec- tion could not be clearer,” Corbyn said in a state- ment that did not mention Brexit. “A Labour govern- ment will be on your side, while Boris Johnson’s Conservatives — who think they’ve been born to rule — will only look after the privileged few.” The Brexit vote comes two and a half years before the next sched- uled election, due in 2022, and will be the country’s first Decem- ber election since 1923.

“Johnson, who said just weeks ago that he would ‘rather be dead in a ditch’ than postpone the Oct. 31 Brexit date, was forced by Parliament to seek the extension in order to avoid a no-deal Brexit.”

Lawmakers rejected an attempt by the Labour Party to hold the elec- tion in Dec. 5. The par- ty argued the earlier date would mean more students could vote be- cause universities would not have begun their Christmas holidays. But Cabinet Office Min- ister Oliver Dowden said Dec. 12 was preferable be- cause it gave lawmakers a few more days to finish up parliamentary busi- ness, and retained Brit- ain’s tradition of holding elections on Thursdays. Earlier, a last-minute hitch to the government’s plans emerged when opposition parties an- nounced plans to try to amend the terms of an early election to lower the voting age from 18 to 16 and expand the voting base to include citizens of the 27 other EU nations who are living in Britain. The government said it would abandon the bill if that plan succeeded. The amendments were not chosen for the vote by par- liamentary authorities, who judged that they would have fundamental- ly altered the legislation. Johnson took office in July vowing to “get Brexit done” after his prede- cessor, Theresa May, resigned in defeat. But the Conservative leader, who said just weeks ago that he would “rather be dead in a ditch” than postpone the Oct. 31 Brexit date, was forced by Parliament to seek the extension in order to avoid a no-deal Brexit, which would damage the economies of both Britain and the EU. Johnson plans to camp- aign as a leader who has a viable, strong Brexit plan for the coun- try but who has been stymied by an anti- democratic opposition and a bureaucratic EU. He has argued that with- out an early election, the British government would be like the car- toon character Char- lie Brown, “endlessly running up to kick the ball only to have Parlia- ment whisk it away.” An election is a risk, though, not only for John- son’s Conservatives but the Labour Party and the other EU nations who have posed for photo- graphs, and to avoid a no-deal Brexit, the EU27 has formally adopted the extension. It would be the last one. Please make the best use of this time.
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