

January 2018

VOL. 29 #11

\$2.00

All contents copyright © 2018
Boston Neighborhood News, Inc.

BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

Boston's hometown
journal of
Irish culture.

Worldwide at
bostonirish.com



Celtic Roots in rehearsal at West Bend Music, whose co-founder George March formed the band.

Sean Smith photo

The 'Keltic Kids' are now history; 'Celtic Roots' says it much better

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Please, don't call them "kids" any more.

This past year, the Cape Cod-based ensemble of school-age Irish musicians formerly known as "Keltic Kids" changed its name to "Celtic Roots." The time was ripe, members say: When the group began about five years ago, most of them were eight or nine years old, without much performance experience. Since then, the band has appeared locally at BCMFest (Boston Celtic Music Fest), been on radio, done some school and benefit concerts and — by the way — opened for popular Irish/Americana quartet We Banjo 3. In addition, some of

the members have enjoyed success in the Mid-Atlantic Fleadh Cheoil and other Irish music competitions.

"We just felt we should have a more mature name," summed up fiddler Ashley Dawn, 14, who added that members also decided to adopt a "band uniform," complete with ties, to affirm its shared identity.

So everyone got into a circle and fired off suggestions.

"It was a huge debate," recalled fiddle, flute, and whistle player Jonathan Ford, 13. Ultimately, Ashley said, Celtic Roots was "one of the only serious names that came around." However they came up with it, Ashley, Jonathan and their Celtic Roots colleagues — Jonathan's sister Bailey, 11 (piano, concertina,

step dancing); Lili Hay, 13 (fiddle); Fern Tamigini-O'Donnell, 13 (fiddle, vocals); Alex Birdsey, 14 (fiddle); and Gavin Rice, 14 (banjo, mandolin, bass) — have embraced the name and its connotations.

"Celtic Roots" suggests a sense of connection to the music tradition that the group members have made their own, individually and collectively. But the word "roots" could also have a generational dimension — a reference to the caring adults who encourage and assist young musicians' immersion in the tradition.

Foremost among these, in the case of Celtic Roots, would be fiddler Clayton March, a co-founder of

(Continued on page 11)

Fearful times across Boston for undocumented

Feds are grabbing immigrants,
then deporting them speedily

BY PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

President Donald Trump is keeping his pledge to unleash US Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to ferret out illegal immigrants, and the impact of the directive on Boston's Irish community has swelled over the last year. The immediate future looms even worse for Irish who have overstayed their visas or fallen into other undocumented and illegal categories.

According to the Irish International Immigrant Center in Boston, ICE has rounded up at least 17 local Irish, most of whom had remained in or near Boston in violation of their 90-day holiday visas. Over the past three months or so, ICE has seized and deported an ever-rising number of Irish nationwide. In the larger picture, in the eleven months since Trump signed his executive order on rounding up illegal immigrants, ICE has made 33,366 more arrests than in 2016, a leap of 30 percent.

ICE and the administration have refused to provide national numbers of Irish who have been swept up in the agency's net, leading to speculation that the White House does not want to anger the many older Irish-Americans who, although supportive of Trump's efforts vow to crack down on illegal immigrants from south of the border, Asia, and the Middle East, might take exception to men and women from Ireland being added to the mix.

(Continued on page 14)

Aidan Browne is building a legacy of Irish sport in Boston

BY TYLER McMANUS
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Aidan Browne, a partner at the Sullivan & Worcester law firm, is a "go-to" person with vast experience representing US and Irish companies., so when he received a call in 2015 from Fionnuala Quinlan, the Consul General of Ireland in Boston, it was not an unusual event.

"Aidan, I have some people from Dublin in town," she said. "It's the founder and CEO of the Gaelic Players Association (GPA) and one of his colleagues. Would you mind meeting them?"

Browne had never heard of the GPA and he was hesitant at first. A Dublin native, he is a devoted fan of the annual All-Ireland Gaelic football and hurling (the women's version is called camogie) championships. But his only playing experience was in a youth parish league for St. John Bosco School.

However, after the consul general mentioned that the CEO of the GPA was Dessie Farrell, the captain of the 1995 All-Ireland Champion Dublin Gaelic football team, Browne agreed to meet with him and his colleague.

"I sat with doing with Dessie, and as he explained to me what he was doing, what his philosophy and ambitions

(Continued on page 14)



Aidan Browne:
a "go to" man on
Irish affairs.

'HIS DUTY WAS DONE TO THE LAST'

On Jan. 16, 1908, BPD officer Lynch made the ultimate sacrifice



Patrolman John T. Lynch

BY PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

First of two-parts

"For God's sake, keep him away and don't let him shoot me again!" shouted Patrolman John T. Lynch at Officer John P. Doyle, who had rushed across icy, snow-cloaked Arch Street to the corner of Summer and Kingston streets as three shots pealed though the chill evening air of Jan. 16, 1908.

The 23-year-old Lynch's muscular 6-foot-2-inch frame was pinning another man to the ground. In the man's right hand was a smoking 38-caliber revolver. "I saw Lynch on top of a man, holding the hand that grasped the revolver and turning it away from him," Doyle later said to reporters.

A crowd had begun to gather.

As Lynch rolled off,

Doyle pounced on the gunman and pushed the revolver away from him as Lynch lay crumpled in the snow, writhing in agony from a bullet that, according to the later police report, "had entered the right side of the officer above the liver and entered into the vitals." Despite the grievous wound, Lynch had refused to let the shooter escape.

(Continued on page 14)



I work in Hollywood but I keep my money
in my hometown-Kevin Chapman

Check out City of Boston Credit Union -
visit CityofBostonCU.com



Membership open to anyone in Suffolk or Norfolk counties.



CITY OF
BOSTON
CREDIT UNION®

IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER



An agency accredited by US Department of Justice
One State Street, 8th Floor, Boston, MA 02109
Telephone (617) 542-7654 Fax (617) 542-7655
Website: iiicenter.org Email: immigration@iiicenter.org

An Irishman’s journey from Cork to Quincy, and beyond

When Tom Cronin, a Mathematics and Actuarial Science graduate from University College Cork, was deciding where he would spend twelve months on his J-1 Intern visa in the United States, he was drawn to Boston’s vibrant culture, rich history, and deep connection to Ireland. Since his arrival, he has found Boston to be a welcoming city with strong and supportive Irish networks.

Tom found an internship with the Quincy Chamber of Commerce through Irish contacts, and he will be spending

the year there as assistant director of economic development. The position complements Tom’s studies at university, putting theory into practice, and providing him with hands-on international experience.

Tom’s position at the chamber also enables him to maintain a connection with his hometown; part of the role includes supporting Quincy-based businesses as they look to develop internationally, particularly in Cork. This fosters greater economic partnership and success between the two cities.

Tom is thriving in Boston, and in only a few short months has quickly immersed himself in American culture. “Since touching down in Boston from Cork a couple months ago,” he says, “I’ve been able to experience a lot. From trying out the night life, playing with Harvard soccer teams, cycling from Boston to the tip of Cape Cod, going to live gigs, and trips to New York City - it’s been great. I couldn’t recommend Boston more!”

At the IIIC, we wish Tom all the best as he continues his journey here in the US. If you are



IIIC J-1 Intern Tom Cronin takes a break from his bike journey across Massachusetts to Provincetown.

interested in taking on an Irish student or graduate for a 12-month internship placement, please contact Paul Pelan (617-542-7654, ppelan@iiicenter.org).

Matters of Substance

Prepare for the New Year by picking a “theme”

Here we are after “the holidays”! The endless lists are done and crumpled in the corner, along with the wrapping paper. Maybe you have been running from party to party to see friends and family, eating a lot, maybe drinking a lot, along the way. You may be happy, yet exhausted as you survey the past few weeks.

As 2018 is cresting, we surface to face the new year along with the bracing chill of Boston’s wintry months. While we hope that most of you have been surrounded by love and happiness these past weeks, we also know that the holidays often bring sadness, grief, and stress. It can be a lot to manage: finding joy while also experiencing the loneliness



Our Wellness services team, Siobhan Kelly (left) and Rachel Reisman, LICSW (right), is here to help you in realizing your wellness goals, coping with substance abuse, stress, and anxiety, and in preparing for the year ahead.

that the season can bring. For many immigrants away from “home,” it is also a time filled with memories and, occasionally, the pain of not being able to return to those we love. For those trying to stay sober, or managing anxiety and depres-

sion, the holidays may add unseen stressors. It is hard to stay healthy while many around us and the omnipresent ads are encouraging us to do otherwise.

As 2018 unfolds, take a moment to consider how you would like it to play

out for you in particular. A very small percentage of us actually stick to new year’s “resolutions”, which leads to disappointment. This is not the way to start a new chapter. Instead of following a “resolution”, think of a *theme* for your year. Consider gratitude, honesty, forgiveness, sobriety, or connection. Keep it simple, and not something that involves spending money or jumping through hoops. You will benefit more from a quiet awareness and cultivation of something that will benefit you. Making an effort to cultivate your own personal theme, even just a little each day, can bring big rewards physically, mentally, and spiritually.

To select your new year’s theme, find a quiet moment to reflect about what is bogging you down emotionally. Perhaps it’s a relationship, a harmful pattern with alcohol, a lack of community, or age-old wounds. Envision how a change might feel or look; find people, places and situations that will help get you there.

We are here to help you with this, too. We are happy to support your goals for 2018 and to be a coach in your corner! Take advantage of our free and confidential wellness services. We can discuss what you would like to change in the months ahead and will be on this journey with you.

Whether you are feeling a bit battered by the holiday buzz, or energized to take on the new year in a different way, we would love to hear from you. Our Irish classes, starting on Jan. 18, are also a way to feel connected, learn something new, and fill yourself with a little bit of home!

Happy Holidays from Rachel and Siobhan!
rreisman@iiicenter.org
617-542-7654, Ext. 14;
skelly@iiicenter.org
617-542-7654, Ext. 15
Facebook: Irish Outreach & Wellness Services Boston-IIIC



IRISH LANGUAGE CLASSES



WHAT:
Irish language course for all levels
Hosted by the Irish International Immigrant Center in partnership with Cumann na Gaeilge

WHEN:
Thursdays 6:15 - 8:30pm
January 18th - March 8th

WHERE:
Irish International Immigrant Center
One State Street, 8th Floor
Boston, MA 02109

CONTACT:
Siobhan Kelly
617.542.7654, ext. 15
skelly@iiicenter.org

FEE:
\$112 for CnaG members
\$128 for non-members

Become a member of CnaG by visiting their website: cumann-na-gaeilge.org.



Immigration Q&A

I just got my green card; so now what?

Q. *I have just been granted permanent resident status in the US. Can you give a summary of my rights and responsibilities regarding such issues as travel abroad, reentering the US, losing my green card, and registering for service in the armed forces?*

A. With your permanent resident status (green card), you can live and work legally anywhere in the US. You can petition US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for green cards for your spouse and unmarried children. Generally, after living here for four years and nine months (two years and nine months if your status is based on the fact that your spouse is a US citizen and you are still living in marital union with him/her), you can apply to become a US citizen.

You can travel outside the US whenever you like. You must have your green card, along with a valid foreign passport, with you to present to US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) when you re-enter the US. You should keep a record of the dates each time you leave and return (backed up if possible with travel documents such as airline tickets and boarding cards), and it is important always to re-enter the US legally by using a CBP border checkpoint, including brief trips over the border to Canada and Mexico.

When you travel abroad you must be careful not to “abandon” your residence in the US. If you want to leave for more than 12 months you must get a “reentry permit” from USCIS before you leave or CBP will presume that you have abandoned your status and may not readmit you. A reentry permit is granted at the discretion of USCIS for specific purposes, for example, going abroad to attend university, or going to your original home country to take care of an elderly or ill parent.

Also, if you leave for more than six months but less than a year, you are not automatically presumed to have abandoned your US permanent residence, but you can face scrutiny on this issue from CBP when you return. It is important to consult with us at IIIC or with your immigration lawyer before taking a trip out of the US lasting more than six months.

Even if you have a green card, immigration authorities can prevent you from reentering the US, or deport you if you are in this country and if you are convicted of certain crimes. Certain offenses that may not seem very serious could be viewed as grounds for deportation, or they could keep you from being readmitted if you leave the US, or from obtaining US citizenship. If you are charged with a crime, it is *essential* that you consult an immigration lawyer as well as a lawyer specializing in criminal cases, as the law involving the consequences of criminal convictions on a person’s immigration status is extremely complex.

If you are a male at least 18 years old and under 26 at the time when you got your green card, your responsibilities include registering with Selective Service (even though there is no military conscription in effect in the US at this time). If you do not register, you may be subject to criminal prosecution. If convicted, you could be deported. Failing to register may also prevent or delay you from becoming a US citizen. You can get the necessary form at any post office, or you can register online at sss.gov.

Other responsibilities of permanent residents include filing accurate federal and state tax returns annually and paying any taxes that you owe; reporting any change of address to USCIS within 10 days; and having your children who are permanent residents register with USCIS within 10 days of turning 14. Your green card does not entitle you to vote in US elections or serve on juries – you must be a US citizen for that. Doing so as a legal permanent resident amounts to a false claim of US citizenship and can have very serious consequences.

Visit one of our weekly legal clinics for a free, confidential consultation on your specific questions about any immigration-related issue.

Disclaimer: *These articles are published to inform generally, not to advise in specific cases. The US Citizenship and Immigration Services and US Department of State regularly amend regulations and alter processing and filing procedures. For legal advice seek the assistance of IIIC immigration legal staff.*

Irish International Immigration Center

FREE LEGAL CLINICS 2018 FOR IMMIGRATION ASSISTANCE

Downtown Boston
One State St., 11th Floor
Boston, MA 02109
Tuesdays at 4 p.m.
January 2
January 16
February 6

Brighton
The Green Briar Pub
304 Washington St.
Brighton, MA 02135
Mondays at 6:30 p.m.
January 8
February 12

South Boston
Laboure Center
275 W. Broadway
So. Boston 02127
Tuesdays at 6 p.m.
February 27
April 24

Dorchester
St. Mark’s Parish
1725 Dorchester Avenue
Dorchester 02124
Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
January 24
March 28

Boston is often called “the most Irish city in America,” and there’s always plenty to do all across the city to celebrate Irish American culture. The BIR invited the major Irish groups to give us an advance on their events planned for the new year, and here are just a few dates to pencil in:

Thurs., Jan. 25 – Irish International Immigrant Centre (IIIC), with the support of the Arbella Insurance Foundation and Geraghty Associates, will launch the Arbella Foundation Immigrant Learning Center at One State Street, Boston, 12:30pm. The new classrooms and meeting rooms will be used for the education of immigrant and refugee families, and to provide immigration legal services.

Wed., Jan. 31– The Eire Society of Boston luncheon

Mark Your 2018 Calendar

reception at the Boston College Burns Library to celebrate the donation of several Irish Civil War-era letters to the library collection.

Thurs., March 15 – Irish American Partnership’s annual St. Patrick’s Day Breakfast, 8-10 a.m., Bosotn Harbor Hotel... American Ireland Fund’s St Patrick’s Evening Reception.

Sat., March 17 – **St Patrick’s Day.**

Sun., March 18 – Boston’s St Patrick’s/Evacuation Day Parade, South Boston preceded by the St. Patrick’s South Boston breakfast.

Thursday-Sunday, March 22-25 – 18th Annual Irish Film Festival, Somerville Theatre, with opening

night gala for best feature and other awards, guest filmmakers and after parties. Iortishfilmfestival.com.

Thurs., April 5 – Boston’s Irish Consulate plans a major event at EM Kennedy Institute to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement with former US Sen. George Mitchell as guest.

Sat., April 7 – Eire Society of Boston annual Gold Medal dinner, The 2018 honoree is James T Brett. Venue to be announced.

Sun, April 8 – Boston Friends of the GPA 2018 dinner, Intercontinental Hotel, Boston.

Thurs., Oct. 18–Ninth annual Boston Irish Honors luncheon, Plaza Ballroom, Seaport Hotel.

Thurs., Nov.15 – American Ireland Fund Boston Gala Dinner

Savin Hill’s McDonough shines as leader at Thayer Academy in Braintree

By DANIEL SHEEHAN
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

A Dorchester student-athlete is being recognized for his leadership on and off the gridiron this season. Mike McDonough, a senior at Braintree’s Thayer Academy, recently earned First Team All League honors and was awarded the Seymour Stadfeld Award for his contributions to the Tigers’ football program.

McDonough, 18, was co-captain of the team and played at the middle linebacker and fullback positions.

“Mike was our vocal and spiritual leader,” said head coach Jeff Toussaint. “He always got the team pumped up before games with encouragement--and a little bit of dancing!”

Ken Burke, the Tigers’ defensive coordinator, describes McDonough as a focused competitor and a student of the game.

“Michael quarterbacked our defense from the middle linebacker position from start to finish this season,” said Burke. “We asked him to be the point man on understanding film and understanding all of our defensive concepts; Michael ate everything up with enthusiasm and confidence.



Michael McDonough, Thayer Academy '18.

He was a true leader on the field, communicating everything play to play to the team and playing at a high level.”

According to faculty members, McDonough’s leadership qualities extend beyond the playing field at Thayer Academy, where he has served on the student government since his freshman year.

“Mike is a dedicated student, a determined and loyal teammate, and a thoughtful and caring school leader,” said Terri Lukens, McDonough’s faculty advisor. “He is an earnest and kind person, who has never backed down from challenge and difficulty.”

“Mike is fiercely loyal to his family, friends, teammates and school,” added Lukens. “In fact, he

won the prestigious Community Spirit Award at Thayer in the spring of his sophomore year because he is so well respected by everyone here at school.”

Mike’s father Brendan said his son, the oldest of four, has been a leader since he was a young kid.

“Academically, athletically, and most importantly morally, he has been an example to everyone in our family on a daily basis.”

According to his father, Mike is a quiet leader with a “calm and gently demeanor” off the field. But that changes the moment he steps on the gridiron and his “fiery competitive nature comes out.”

This spirit is what those around Michael say earned him the respect of his peers and teachers, as well as the Stadfeld Award, an honor given annually to a player who “warms both hands before the fire of life.” Brendan McDonough said his son embodies this mantra each day.

“He is not the type of kid to sit idle and wait for things to happen. Michael takes each day like it is his last day and lives it to the fullest. Importantly, he does it in a warm and kind way.”



McDonough, #44, captained Thayer’s football team at the middle linebacker and fullback positions, earning him Independent School league honors.

Movement seen for memorial on Deer Island for quarantine dead

There’s progress to report on efforts to establish a memorial to the Irish who fled on “famine ships” in the mid-19th century only to lose their lives in quarantine in Boston Harbor. More than 800 Irish men, women and children died and were buried in graves on Deer Island, and a committee has been at work to create a memorial.

John Foley, an East Boston attorney who is co-chairs the effort, said that

an 18-foot Celtic Cross is now being sculpted, and will be installed on a promontory overlooking the Harbor. “There has been considerable movement on Deer Island,” Foley said. “The stone wall is almost complete and we expect the delivery of the Celtic Cross in late winter.”

Foley and BIR publisher Ed Forry have been heading the effort to complete the task conceived two decades ago

by the late Bill and Rita O’Connell and they are working with historian Christine Kinealy and city archivist John McColgan to prepare interpretative signage for the site.

Foley had praise for the MWRA which controls the land, and Winthrop contractor Mike Carney and volunteer Mark Porter, who are among a group of volunteers to complete the memorial. Dedication ceremonies are tentatively set for next spring.



Charitable Irish Society awards its Silver Keys to three

The Charitable Irish Society (CIS), the oldest such organization in the Americas, hosted its 19th Silver Key Awards Reception on Dec. 6 at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel in Copley Square. Silver Key Awards were to presented Winnie Henry, the IIIC’s Ronnie Millar, and Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the Irish community. Silver Key honorees, above: Ronnie Millar, Winnie Henry, and Mayor Walsh with Sandra Moody, CIS keeper of the Silver Key (left), and Christopher Duggan, CIS president.

Ed Forry photo

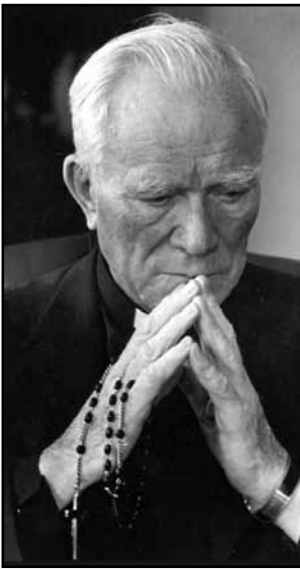


Father Peyton, ‘Rosary Priest,’ one step closer to sainthood

Pope Francis has declared a priest with Massachusetts connections, Rev. Patrick Peyton, CSC, as “venerable” in the eyes of the Roman Catholic Church, the third step in a five-step process leading to an individual’s canonization as a saint.

The fourth step, toward a recognition of beatification (the person as “blessed”) requires that a miracle (something verified by church officials as scientifically unexplainable, like a healing) has taken place through the intercession of the individual; the fifth step requires a second miracle, and approval leads to canonization, i.e., the declaration of the individual as a “saint.”

Rev. Peyton, a Holy Cross father, was born in Carricastle, Co. Mayo, in 1909, and emigrated to the US as a young man. While in the seminary in his mid-30s, he was stricken with tuberculosis and was given little hope of survival. He turned to



Rev. Patrick Peyton

the rosary, as his parents had instilled upon him as a child and, citing an intercession by the Mary, the mother of Jesus, Blessed Mother, he made a full recovery.

It was that recovery that colored his ministry. He was known over the world from then on as “The Rosary Priest” who coined the well-known

refrains “The family that prays together stays together” and “A world at prayer is a world at peace.” He founded Family Rosary, an organization dedicated to encouraging families to pray together, and spread his message through Catholic media throughout the 20th century.

Holy Cross Family Ministries, which carries on the works of Father Peyton, is now headquartered in Easton, MA, adjacent to Stonehill College. After his death at 1992 at age 83, he was buried in Holy Cross Cemetery on the college campus.

His supporters in the cause for his sainthood says that hundreds of testimonies to Father Peyton’s heroic virtue and holiness of life have been recorded, that tens of thousands of prayer cards containing a prayer for a favor through his intercession are in circulation, and that hundreds of favors have been reported.

The new year looms busy in Irish affairs

By Ed Forry

The New Year will bring some exciting new developments at Boston's Irish Consulate. In an end-of-year interview just before Christmas, third year Consul General Fionnuala Quinlan said she plans a March program on Ireland's literary legacy, and an observation of the 20th anniversary of the historic Good Friday Agreement in April.



"I am planning a major event at the Edward M Kennedy Institute on the fifth of April to mark the 20th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement. George Mitchell has agreed to speak at that gathering. I'll certainly be looking for a good turnout for that event," she said.

"We're also hoping," she said, "to have our Literary Festival again this year. That will be in early March. Last

year we had it at the Harvard Club and I haven't confirmed a venue just yet."

There's more. "St Patrick's Day, or St Patrick's Month, as I like to call it in Boston, will be a very big time of year," she said. "We will almost certainly have a Minister visiting, and there will be a good program of events, as there always is. And we are so lucky. With all the partnerships we have here in Boston, with all the community organizations, the cultural organizations, political contacts, and business contacts, we have a wide variety of activities that happen around St Patrick's Day in March, and, indeed, throughout the year.

"Last year we had visits from now-former Taoiseach and former Tanaiste, Enda Kenny and Frances Fitzgerald, and five other ministers, including Paschal Donahue, who is now the Minister for Finance. From a business and community perspective, and culturally, there's an awful lot happening in 2018 as well. So it's going to be a good year for the consulate."

The new year will also bring an important event for Quinlan and her husband, Ravi: "We're expecting our first baby toward the end of March," she revealed. "I am really looking forward to that!"

Since her arrival in the city in September 2015, the couple have made their overseas home in South Boston. She said Ravi "is from India originally but has spent more than half his life at this point between the US and Europe. But he's still very connected, his mum is still in India. He has lived the last 20 years between the US, France, and Ireland."

Quinlan says the baby will be born in Boston, and they will stay in the city after the baby arrives. "I get Irish maternity leave, that's six months," she said. "I'll be in Boston for the majority of the time. I will, of course, bring the baby home to Ireland at some point, so that family and friends get a chance to meet him."

She expects that her mother-in-law will travel from India for the baby's birth, and her parents plan a Boston visit in the spring. "They will be here the end of May, and Ravi's mum will be here around the time of the births, so we are lucky we will have plenty of support."

Hers will be the second new baby at the consulate, as Vice Consul Aoife Budd had her own baby last summer and will be back from maternity leave soon. "We have a wonderful acting vice consul at the moment, Susan Geraghty Krusell, and she will stay with us during the transition period," Quinlan said. "Dublin is still working out how they will cover my maternity leave, but I am confident they will come to a good arrangement to make sure that Boston is well covered."

"We had quite a change in 2017 but I am happy to say we have a wonderful team, a wonderful staff, doing an absolutely sterling job. So while we miss Carol D'Arcy (office manager) and Colleen DiNicola (visa officer) and the others, we're getting on with it."

New staffers include Jack Davidson on visas and Drogheda native Anne Byrne, a former volunteer at the Irish Pastoral Centre in Dorchester.

The Irish Consulate office is in Copley Square at 535 Boylston St. Telephone 617-267-9330. Public office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. The facility is closed to the public on Wednesdays, except for emergencies.

Don't bet big on anything that involves the Brexit negotiations

By Joe Leary
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

More confusion, anger, and misleading statements mark the continuing process to facilitate Britain's leaving the 27-nation European Union, which would be humorous if it were not so important to the people of Ireland. The British have voted to leave the organization that was created to initiate cooperation and healthier economies amongst European countries that had many years of war between them. However, the people of Northern Ireland, still a part of Britain, per the 1922 partition of Ireland, and Ireland itself voted to stay with Europe.



Joe Leary

There is a 313-mile border between Ireland and Northern Ireland, and it is the only land border between Britain and the EU requiring special agreements to deal with trade and the free passage of people. This situation presents a major problem for Brexit negotiators. The hard-liners, including the Protestant conservatives in the North, want a strong border complete with barriers and check points to reinforce their claim for staying with Britain.

The border was created in 1922 by Britain to keep warring Catholics and Protestants apart. Six of the nine counties of Ulster were attached to Britain in the partition because the other three had Catholic majorities and stayed with the South. This separation has caused thousands of deaths, shootings, and bombings since that time.

It is generally agreed that Ireland, North and South, would both be far stronger if they were together again and not set apart by this unnatural border less than 100 years old. The religious demographics have changed since 1922. According to the latest population figures, there are 6.8 million people living on the island of Ireland. There are 4.8 million in the Republic of Ireland and 1.8 million on Britain's side of the border. It has been estimated that less than half, or 14 percent of all of Ireland, mostly Northern hardliners, would vote to stay with Britain if they had the chance to return to Ireland.

The Brexit problem is whether or not the border will

Ode on Ageless Virtues Learned and Lived

By James W. Dolan
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

About a dozen members of the BC High class of 1956 gathered recently for lunch at Amrheins. Attendance at the annual event has diminished as class members have died or become disabled. The inevitable passage from youth to old age has taken its toll on the boys who, fresh faced and energetic in 1952, exited the former MBTA Northampton Station and walked to the old BC High on Harrison Avenue in the South End. It was there that we spent our first two years before moving to the new campus on Morrissey Boulevard.

It was a grand group of fellows, eager yet apprehensive, particularly after being told at orientation that many of us would fall by the wayside and never make it to graduation. The all-male environment had its advantages: Without girls there were fewer distractions, so we were funnier, less inhibited, and not as self-conscious as we otherwise might have been.



James W. Dolan

We were all required to wear ties and sport jackets. I swear some of my classmates wore the same jacket and tie for all four years. Those in authority didn't care how you looked as long as you complied with the dress code. I was in the same class with my cousin Craig, who wore a gray jacket with a ballpoint drawing of a flower in his lapel for the last two years.

The class quickly sorted itself out into the smart, not so smart, and by-the-skin-of-our-teeth sections. As expected, Craig and I were quickly identified as bottom feeders and gained early admittance to the latter group. We spent so much time in detention, aka "jug," that our parents thought the school day ended at 4 p.m. We continue to honorably represent that group at reunions.

Only the Jesuits could have thought up some of the diabolical punitive assignments we received in "jug," what the kids now say stands for "Justice under God." Try writing a 500-word composition, every other word in pencil. Or, for the hard core, every other letter in different colored ink. The assignments included such thought provoking topics as "On the Inside of a Ping Pong Ball" or "How to Catch a Fly in a Bottle." Some of us would have preferred solitary confinement.

The smart kids took Advanced Everything. Those of us on the other end of the spectrum took Introduction to Everything. Occasionally, one of us would find his

be closed to free travel and free trade, thus preventing the people of Ireland free access and trade with each other as each European country will have to do at their airports. This is no easy task since Ireland is very small in terms of population, geography, and power.

The new prime minister of Ireland, Leo Varadkar, is working hard to see that Ireland is treated fairly. He has the backing of the rest of the EU members, and Ireland's Foreign Affairs Department and the Investment Development Authority, both extraordinary government agencies, are working with him.

But these are not the only issues. Recent polls indicate that the British people have changed their point of view and would most likely vote to remain with Europe. But the conservatives in Britain and the hardliners in Belfast (the DUP) want to leave and are not permitting another vote.

Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May has to negotiate with the Europeans while keeping her home constituencies happy. And Britain is not the land of shy politicians. Some political leaders are so critical of May's performance that they are openly talking about her resigning as prime minister within the short term.

Last month, May faced a revolt by her own party; it voted against her by taking away her power to sign any agreement with Europe without getting legislative approval first. This, of course, curtails her negotiating power rather severely. In the aftermath, she had to agree not to set any settlement dates until she received Parliament's approval first. The separation date is currently set at March 29, 2019.

Before the real negotiations began the Europeans required agreement on three things: The amount of money Britain would pay to the EU for current obligations. The offer is 39 billion pounds (41 billion US dollars.) Solutions to the question of European citizens current living in Britain. Would they have to go back to Europe, for example? And, most critically, the Irish border question.

No sooner had May delivered the answers than Britain's chief negotiator, David Davis, stated that the answers provided represented a gentleman's agreement, not a legal document. To which Europe's chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, responded, "There is no going back." Doesn't sound like they are all on the same page.

It is evident that Britain is going to have a difficult time over the next two years no matter what direction the talks take. No one should make a big bet on anything.

inner scholar and move up to Intermediate Something. But, for the most part, we managed to hold our own, clinging to mediocrity like shipwrecked sailors clutching driftwood. How we managed to make it to graduation was our first, and hopefully not our last, salvation experience.

We are now grandfathers in our late 70s, out of BC High 62 years and looking back on the lives that our high school experience enriched. Some of us have been more fortunate than others for reasons often impossible to explain. We all share a deep appreciation of the values learned and the friendships made at BC High. The significance of the words "a man for others" is as important now as it has ever been.

The BC High of today is different from the one we attended. It's more diverse and more academically demanding, but the values remain the same. We old grads are nearing the end of the line. We gladly pass the torch to recent grads, knowing they will face challenges requiring character and love, the powerful virtues implicit in the school motto. With this as a goal and a strong moral foundation, developed at least in part on campus, they, too, will one day join the ranks of proud alumni, present and, eventually, past.

BC High Nocturnal

It's late, school is not in session;
The classrooms and halls are silent.
Listen carefully and in the darkness
You can hear the sounds of classes past.

The air stirs as dim shadows suddenly appear.
Muffled sounds of laughter and boyhood banter
Filter down the hall as a door somewhere closes,
Unseen, the school remains in session.

It's then, when students past return,
To find their youth and bless its joy.
The brotherhood survives in memory and fact
As they make their way from class to class.

Oh yes! We too once walked these halls;
Lived, laughed and shared our youthful dreams.
The lessons taught are the ones you carry
The values learned have served us well.

For you one day will join us here
When winter strips away the years,
And all that's left to take above
Is how you lived and whom you loved.

- JWD

The Boston Irish Reporter is published monthly by:
Boston Neighborhood News, Inc.,
150 Mt. Vernon St., Suite 120, Dorchester, MA 02125
news@bostonirish.com www.bostonirish.com
Mary C. Forry, President (1983-2004)
Edward W. Forry, Publisher
Thomas F. Mulvoy Jr., Managing Editor
William P. Forry, Editor
Peter F. Stevens, Contributing Editor
News Room: (617) 436-1222
Ads: (617) 436-1222
Fax: (617) 825-5516 news@bostonirish.com
On The Web at www.bostonirish.com
Date of Next Issue: February, 2018
Deadline for Next Issue: Friday, January 19 at 12 noon

Published monthly in the first week of each month.
The Boston Irish Reporter is not liable for errors appearing in advertisements beyond the cost of the space occupied by the error. The right is reserved by The Boston Irish Reporter to edit, reject, or cut any copy without notice.

A mayoral milestone – 115 years from Collins to Walsh

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

At the moment that Martin J. Walsh takes his second oath of office as Boston's mayor this month, he further entrenches his status in the long line of Boston Irishman to hold the office. It was 115 years ago, Jan. 4, 1902, that Patrick Collins was sworn in as Boston's first Irish mayor of the twentieth century. He had come a long way.

In the 1850s as a demented preacher dubbed "the Archangel Gabriel" led a Yankee mob through Irish Catholic Chelsea, the rioters ripped the cross from the roof of the parish church, shattered windows, and kicked down doors. The mob dragged Irishmen and boys into the street and bloodied them with fists, feet, and clubs. Covering himself up as best he could, young Patrick Collins endured his beating—and never forgot it.

On March 12, 1844, in County Cork, Patrick Collins was little more than two when the Great Famine began to ravage Ireland. His father succumbed to pneumonia before his son ever knew him, and the boy and his widowed mother boarded a "coffin ship" for Boston shortly afterward.

Mother and son settled for several years in Chelsea's ramshackle, disease-riddled tenements where Collins learned to scrap against Yankee bullies and those of his own heritage alike. He also learned to read and write in a public school where he displayed a quick, facile intelligence.

With college out of the question for a poor immigrant youth, Collins worked as a farmhand and a coal miner in Ohio for two years before, in his teens, he returned with his mother to Boston and took a flat in South Boston. He spent his days learning the upholsterer's trade and many of his night studying at the Boston Public Library.

Collins knew his Irish history and likened Yankee prejudice to the British tyranny of his birthplace. He was a perfect recruit for local immigrants dreaming of an uprising against the British once the Civil War ended when the Irish, wearing Union blue, could apply their bloody battlefield lessons against the British. Sometime in 1864, Collins strode into a meeting of the South Boston Fenian Circle and began to establish himself as "a man to watch" in the movement. Enflamed by the would-be rebels' anti-British rhetoric, he became a Fenian recruiter. However, in the wake of their tragic-comic forays against British-held Canada after the Civil War, Collins became disillusioned with revolutionary violence, coming to believe that the only way to seize equality was through the ballot box.

A plea to my fellow scribes

"Optics, Fraught, and Reboot" – these three words now make up the height of lazy, cliché-ridden journalistic jargon. Whether on cable or network news, in print, online, and everywhere else that the Punditocracy lurks, the "optics" of these words are dreadful. They are "fraught" with linguistic sloth. And a genuine "reboot" of the media's political coverage appears nowhere in sight.

In particular, the denizens of FOX "News," CNN, and MSNBC unleash this unholy verbal trinity round the clock, each term delivered with sonorous or frantic import. Actually, because "optics" and "fraught" sound "oh, so intellectual," those uttering them want to remind you that they're the smartest kids in class. Put simply, they're the laziest.

To steal from the immortal Dr. Jonathan Swift, let's suggest a "Modest Proposal": For each time these words are voiced or written by journalists and pundits, \$25 or more should be deducted from the speaker's compensation. You might be pleasantly surprised at how fast people would start reaching for a thesaurus.

If those three words *ever* appear in this space, please tee off on this writer!

– P.F.S

In the fall of 1867, he walked into a different sort of meeting—South Boston's Irish Democratic caucus where he was welcomed into the bruising world of Boston politics.

Collins started small by winning a slot as a delegate to the state Democratic convention, and in 1868, he rode a wave of Boston Irish votes to the state's House of Representatives, where he quickly riled some Brahmins as a mouthpiece for "the ragged Irish." Collins won reelection and also crashed through a Yankee bastion by earning a law degree from Harvard in 1871. So popular was Collins among the local Irish, and some Yankees who grudgingly admired his "up by the bootstraps" work ethic, that he was elected to Congress. He loathed Washington, however, always believing he could better serve Boston's Irish in Boston. In the 1890s, he came back home for good.

Collins's neatly combed and parted hair, bristling mustache, and intense eyes were a welcome sight back in the wards. In an 1884 speech, he urged that

Irish Americans must never forget their roots, but that they must be assimilated into American life: "Those of us born in Ireland or who sprang from the Irish race are here to stay. We and our children and children's children are here merged in this great, free, composite nationality, true and loyal citizens of the state and federal systems, sharing in the burdens and the blessings of the freest people on the earth."

In 1899, the city's ward leaders persuaded Collins to run for the office that many supporters felt was his destiny all along—mayor of Boston. After a clash with Ward Eight titan Martin Lomasney, "the Mahatma," Collins lost narrowly to Republican Thomas N. Hart. Later, after negotiating a political truce with Lomasney and rival Democratic factions, Collins solidified support from Yankee businessmen and politicians who believed that he was conservative enough to be a "bottom-line" mayor.

On election night in November 1901, the Collins-Lomasney "machine" rolled to victory, crushing Hart by the largest margin in Boston's mayoral annals. Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., chief justice of the state Supreme Court, swore in Collins as Boston's second Irish-born mayor (Hugh O'Brien, in the 1880s, was the first) on Jan. 4, 1902.

When it came to political hardball, the local press lauded Collins as "a strong man and the city's defender against some of the most corrupt schemes that ever menaced it." In 1903, he was swept back into office on the strength of his honesty and his pledge to usher in an "Era of Good Feeling" for immigrants and blue-bloods alike.

His dream of peaceful coexistence between Boston's Irish Democrats and Yankee Republicans was short-lived. The news that he had died suddenly on Sept. 14, 1905, at the Hot Springs Resort, in Virginia, stunned the city.

The *Boston Globe* praised him as "a manly man among manly men, [who]...filled the public office to which he was called with high honor." Another writer called him "the recognized leader of his race." At Holy Cross Cathedral, Collins's constituents gave him a hero's send-off. Far from the soil of Cork, he was laid to rest near his mother, in Holyhood Cemetery in Brookline.

Today, a stately granite memorial graces the Commonwealth Avenue Mall. Before Irish Americans hustle past the bust of Patrick Collins, they should stop for a moment and take a look at his determined visage—it's that of a man who truly helped put the Irish on Boston's political map in the twentieth century and paved the way, ultimately, for Mayor Walsh.

Law's death a time for soul-searching

By BILL FORRY
EDITOR

Cardinal Bernard Law, the former archbishop of Boston who left our city in disgrace amid the clergy child abuse scandal that was exposed by brave victims, attorneys, and reporters at the Boston Phoenix and the Boston Globe, died in Rome on Tuesday at age 86.

Commentary

Law's legacy is that of a villain who covered up the criminal acts of Catholic priests who preyed upon the most vulnerable people in Greater Boston, including Dorchester's parishes. A 2003 report by Massachusetts Attorney General Thomas Reilly estimated that nearly 800 children had been abused by at least 237 priests of the Boston archdiocese over a period of six decades.

Law's 19 years as Boston's Catholic leader was a period of the most awful crimes and the cardinal himself was responsible for much of it. He re-assigned clerical child molesters, giving them further opportunities to victimize innocents and ruin lives.

Law was never held criminally culpable for his active role in enabling the crimes to continue; instead, he was disgraced and essentially exiled to live out his days comfortably and without penalty in the Vatican, where he remained one of the most powerful men in his church.

For Catholics like this writer, his death presents a tough ethical quandary. Our faith teaches us to forgive those who fail, to resist the human urge to condemn and pass judgment, and to pray for the souls of the departed that they may find eternal rest and peace with God in the after-life.

Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley, who has worked very hard, if imperfectly, to prevent further injury and to heal the deep wounds left by decades of church-sponsored depravity, embraced that conflict in his reaction to Law's death, which included another apology to victims.

"In the Catholic tradition, the Mass of Christian Burial is the moment in which we all recognize our mortality, when we acknowledge that we all strive

for holiness in a journey which can be marked by failures large and small," O'Malley wrote.

Law's failures were so consequential, so harmful to children, and to the church itself that the gift of forgiveness will be a bridge too far for many of us. But our faith—for those who do believe—will prompt many of us to try. There is no shame in that. A person can arrive at a spiritual form of forgiveness without succumbing to the sins of an apologist or choosing to forget the lessons of the sins themselves.

We recall from our own archives the day in 1984 when Law arrived in Boston to begin his duties. St. Ambrose in Fields Corner had been destroyed in a fire that week. As the Reporter's Ed Forry recalled, Law came directly to Dorchester to survey the ruins, console the parishioners, and offer a pledge to rebuild.

"It was an electrifying moment," Forry later wrote in the *Reporter*. "The visit lasted no more than 30 minutes, and there was a sense that this dynamic new bishop would soon chart a promising new course for his flock in the Boston Archdiocese."

St. Ambrose did rise from the ashes. The new Fields Corner church has become an important and valued institution, just as our remaining parishes and schools remain vital and valued parts of our community.

The bitter irony of the Law period in Boston is that the survival of our faith and church community in Dorchester has been realized not because of his leadership, but in spite of his abject failure to lead.

We hope and expect that Law's death will serve as a reminder that we must be always vigilant against a repeat of the sordid and chilling past that unfolded in our midst.

In 1984, then-Bishop Bernard Law surveyed the damage at St. Ambrose Church in Fields Corner, which was destroyed by fire two nights before Law arrived in Boston to assume his duties as leader of the Archdiocese of Boston (Reporter file photo)



BIR TRAVEL REPORT

Ireland offers winter-time delights, and, sometimes, snow

BY JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Most of us visit the Emerald Isle when fields and hillsides are sparkling with brilliant shades of green. So a snowy mantle across the land may seem a bit out of place. But, this is winter and, yes, it does snow in Ireland.

In “Dubliners,” as James Joyce noted, “Yes, the newspapers were right: snow was general all over Ireland. It was falling on every part of the dark central plain, on the treeless hills, falling softly upon the Bog of Allen and, farther westward, softly falling into the dark mutinous Shannon waves.”

Snow in Ireland doesn’t come with the intensity or frequency that we experience in New England. Sometimes there is just enough precipitation – coupled with falling temperatures – to make Irish roads and sidewalks icy and dangerous. But snow also blankets the land in flakes that glitter like diamonds in the sun, so it is not entirely unwelcome.

Ireland is no less beautiful in winter months than it is in the other seasons and a trip in the winter can be just as enjoyable.

NEW YEAR
The New Year brings with it several bits of good news – especially for Ireland’s seals and wilderness lovers in Co. Mayo.

The Mayo News reports that last year a number of seals were stranded on Achill Island. Recently, a group of island residents tried to save a seal pup that had washed up on rocks at Keel Beach. Despite their best efforts, the pup died but, as a result of those efforts, representatives from the Seal Rescue Center in Courtown, Co. Wexford, plan to visit Achill this month to train local residents in measures designed to help stranded seals survive.

Seal Rescue Ireland is dedicated to rescuing orphaned, sick, and injured Common and Grey seal pups from around the coast of the Republic. For more information, see sealirelandrescue.org

BALLYCROY NATIONAL PARK
The other bit of good news for Mayo and visitors involves the magnificent wilderness known as Ballycroy National Park, which has already won Dark Sky status from the International Dark Sky Association.

If you’ve visited North Mayo but haven’t seen this Irish treasure, you’ve missed a great place to take a walk or hike, enjoy a homemade lunch, or a delicious dessert at Ginger & Wild Cafe in the Visitors’ Center. Be sure to look for fascinating displays there detailing Mayo’s history and its whaling and shark-fishing past.

With the transfer of Coillte land in the Nephin Mountains – known as “Wild Nephin” - Ballycroy will grow from 11,000 hectares (almost 28,000 acres) to more than 15,000 hectares (37,065 acres) and become the third largest of the six national parks.

Ballycroy National Park and visitor center has been open since 2010 and it’s well worth a visit.

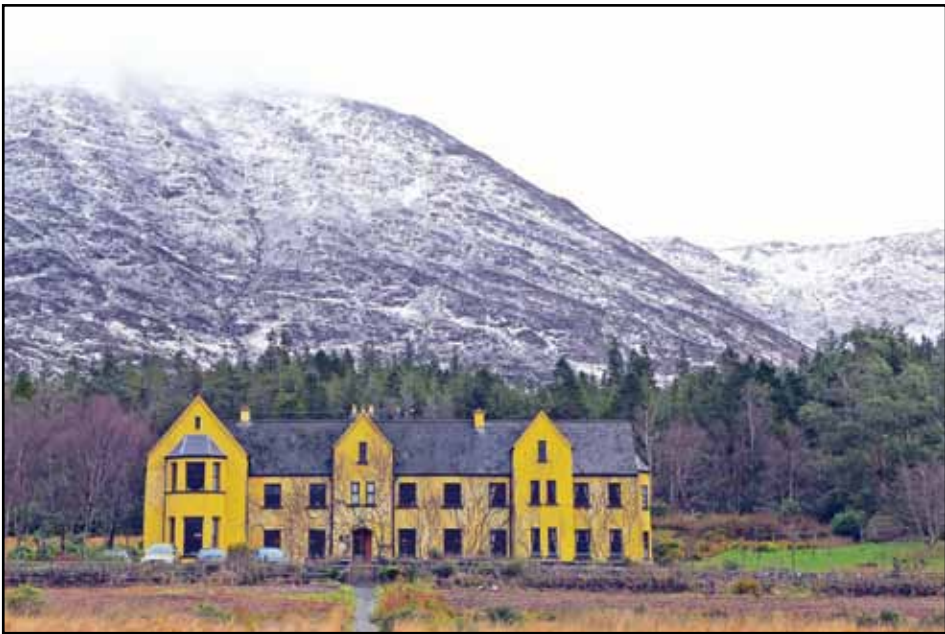
TRAD MUSIC
From Jan. 24-28, Dublin will host TradFest 2018, a five-day music festival that offers some 200 free events in various locations around the city to showcase traditional and folk music. Some of the locations include Temple Bar, St. Patrick’s Cathedral, St. Michan’s Church, Dublin City Hall, St. Werburgh’s Church, founded in 1178 and seldom open to the public, Rathfarnham Castle, and more. There will be pub sessions and special screenings, too.

Trad superstar band Teada will perform at Tradfest Gala Night. Chris Newman and Maire Ni Chathasaigh will bring their show to the City Hall. And Big Country, having recently completed a 30-year anniversary tour, will star in St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

Ireland’s traditional music as we know it has been around since the 18th century and its distinct instruments, such as the uilleann pipes, and dances are recognized worldwide.

TradFest attracts more than 25,000 visitors, with a third of those coming from America, the UK, and Europe. For more information, see tradfest.ie

FAVORITES
Is there a better time of year than



Snow-covered hills behind lovely Lough Inagh Lodge Hotel in Connemara. (D. Broderick photo)



Ballycroy National Park in Co. Mayo. Judy Enright photo



Snow on Co. Galway hilltops. (Judy Enright photo)



Boardwalk from Visitors’ Center at Ballycroy National Park in Co. Mayo. Judy Enright photo

the beginning to share my favorite Irish accommodations, shops, tourist attractions, towns, car rental companies, restaurants, and pubs? Of course, as our readers know, they will find their own favorites as they travel around the country and make scheduled and unscheduled stops here and there.

As a photographer, I love the West of Ireland for its ever-changing light and rugged landscape. And, since I am a great fan of Irish sheep, I especially enjoy the West where there are so many sheep, most of whom don’t realize they are supposed to stay in their enclosures. There are escape artists in other parts of the country too, but in the West it seems to be a given and I love that. Animals are not in the roads now as often as they once were but you do still need to be very aware when driving.

ACCOMMODATIONS
The best hotel accommodation I’ve experienced in Ireland is Lough Inagh Lodge in Recess, Connemara. Every single person there is welcoming, goes above and beyond routine duties to makes you feel like you’ve finally come home. Food is sourced locally when possible and is very well prepared. Rooms are spotless and beds are very comfortable. We give them high fives for everything!

We have also really enjoyed staying at The Sandhouse Hotel in Donegal as well as at some of the historic properties listed in Hidden Ireland (hiddenireland.com.)

When you travel the Causeway Coast in Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland, be sure you don’t miss Bushmills Inn for fine dining and outstanding accommodation.

Favorite B&Bs – and we do travel around and try new places – continue to be Cahergal Farm in Newmarket-on-Fergus (very handy to Shannon and expertly run by the McNerney family) and Riverfield House in Doolin where the witty Caitriona Garrahy is in charge.

CAR RENTAL
I have had cars from Dooley Car Rentals for many years and always request a four-door Skoda. Dooley’s cars are clean, in excellent condition, and the staff is responsive and gracious, so my experience has always been extremely positive. Enterprise bought the company last year, so we hope Dooley’s high standards and excellent customer service will continue.

FOOD
As our readers know, Irish food has improved hugely over the past 25 years or so. Back in the day, pub lunches were often not much more than dry ham and cheese sandwiches. Many pubs now serve full meals that are very well prepared.

We’ve had delicious meals at McDermott’s Pub in Doolin, Co. Clare; The Grainne Uaile in Newport, and Nevin’s Newfield Inn in Mulranny, both Co. Mayo. We’ve also enjoyed Sunday brunch many times at The Mulranny Park Hotel and lunch and homemade pastries at The Beehive in Keel on Achill Island. You’ll surely find your own favorites as you travel around the country.

ATTRACTIONS
There are so many outstanding tourist attractions all over Ireland that it’s easy to find some that match your interests. Among my favorites are the Giant’s Causeway and the Causeway Coast in Northern Ireland, Fota Wildlife Park in Co. Cork, Cliffs of Moher in Co. Clare, and Kylemore Abbey in Connemara. All are very different but offer visitors an assortment of things to see and do.

Be sure to take time to visit the Burren Center in Kilfenora and The Burren Perfumery in Clare, as well as the outstanding museums, historic sites, theatres, music venues, adventure companies all over the country. Of course, Dublin and other Irish cities have numerous attractions that welcome visitors. Be sure to check opening times in the off-season as many are closed.

And, don’t forget to take time to enjoy Ireland’s stunning landscape, especially along the Wild Atlantic Way, as well as attractions on Ireland’s Ancient East route.

We hope some of our Irish favorites will become some of yours when you visit this beautiful country. Enjoy the trip whenever you go and have a healthy and happy New Year.

BIR TRAVEL REPORT

Destination: Southeast Ireland
Featuring two nights at Dunbrody House, Wexford,
and a chat with its master chef Kevin Dundon

By Ed Forry
BIR PUBLISHER

I visited Ireland’s south-east coast late last summer, a trip that, for me, was truly an eye-opener. Until last year, most of my visits to Ireland were focused on Dublin, Galway, and Sligo, places that several cousins and family friends call home. They have all been great adventures, and after nearly a dozen such excursions, I even considered myself a bit of an authority about Irish vacations. But, except for a brief afternoon ride to Glendalough in Co. Wicklow 25 years ago, much of the east and south coasts remained unexplored for me.

Last year, I learned about Ireland’s Blue Book, a specialized marketing program for a collection of more than 36 Irish country house hotels, manor houses, castles, and restaurants. “Located throughout the island of Ireland these charming and stylish hideaways are the perfect choice for your holiday vacation in Ireland,” the brochure said. “They are also ideal for a midweek or weekend break and those seeking a romantic getaway.

“Activities vary from golf, fishing, spas and cookery schools or just relaxing in warm and comfortable surroundings.”

Through the Blue Book, I made arrangements to spend some time in two of the properties in Wexford and Cork.

In my first-ever visit to Wexford, I spent two marvelous days at the Dunbrody House, a small luxury hotel near President Kennedy’s ancestral hometown of New Ross, which is located on Ireland’s south coast on the Hook Peninsula.

Built in the 1830s, the Dunbrody is an elegant Georgian-style house with Irish oak floors, pitched pine window shutters, high ceilings, and twinkling chandeliers. And great food. For the past 21 years, it has been owned and operated by master chef Kevin Dundon and his wife Catherine, who themselves live on the property that overlooks the water.

Chef Dundon has gained a reputation as one of Ireland’s leading young “celebrity chefs.” He’s the author of several best-selling cookbooks, and hosts his own TV programs across Ireland. In recent years, he has become popular in America for his appearances on PBS, “Kevin Dundon’s Modern Irish Foods.”

I stayed in the Dunbrody for two nights, and after dinner one evening, Chef Dundon sat down in the lounge for a BIR interview.

You have a wonderful place here, Kevin, and the food is delicious. I know you’re a Dublin native. How do you come to be here in Wexford?



The Dunbrody House in Arthurstown, Co. Wexford, above, is located on Ireland’s south coast on the River Barrow, near New Ross, and just north of the Hook Peninsula and its historic lighthouse, an easy 75 mile drive from Dublin or Cork. The House offers a cuisine prepared by owner and resident chef Kevin Dundon, at right below. Guests enjoy breakfast and dinner in a luxurious dining room, or lighter fare in the the champagne bar, left below. Dundon and his wife Catherine purchased and restored the property 21 years ago, and offer guests fine food and a friendly, relaxed service combined with luxury accommodation all within the centuries-old walls of this beautiful Georgian property.



“I love Ireland and every spot has something special, whether it’s Galway, the wild Atlantic way, to Westport. I love Westport. But what I think we have here is kind of the untapped part of Ireland. The scenery around here is something else. It’s just like when I first came here and played down on the lawn, and I could hear birds. It’s a little piece of heaven.”

You have made a great reputation for your cooking skills. What’s your background?

“I was originally from Dublin but we’re down here for 21 years. I went to college in Dublin then I worked in some Dublin restaurants, then I got a scholarship to go to Switzerland. I went to Canada just for a year and I ended up spending seven and a half years in Canada.”

Where did you work in Canada?

“It’s now the Fairmont Hotel just outside of Banff, in the Canadian Rockies. I became executive chef there at the age of 22. It’s two 5-star hotels with 7 restaurants and banquet for 800 people. It was a great experience. I had met my wife Catherine when I was 17 here in Ireland. We stayed in touch and when we got caught up we got together again. I got her to move over to Canada and she always wanted to get me home.”

It must have been difficult for you to give up

that job and return home.

“I said I’d only come back for one of three things: One is the executive chef job at Dromoland Castle; or the Shelbourne Hotel; or my own country house. The Shelbourne was looking for an executive chef, so I got the job. That was back in ’94, at age 27. At that point, I had had three jobs.”

So you were back home in Dublin, and still a very young man at 27 in such a top position?

“I spent two years in the Shelbourne, which was fantastic because they got me into the whole Irish mythology end and I got to know all the journalists and who to buy food from, different suppliers. We had bought a house in Dublin and I had one of the best jobs around. Catherine was a manager, she had a really good job, and we had no children and this beautiful house in Ballsbridge in Dublin. We had no worries; we could do whatever we wanted to do whenever we wanted to.

“One day I was in the Shelbourne and it was a rough day; you know how those rough days work? I remember I left after lunch service and walked along St. Stephens Green just to clear my head before dinner service. I walked by a real estate agent’s window and they had all these large country houses for sale. Prices in Dublin had started to rise

but they really hadn’t in the country, and I thought, oh, we could do this if we want to do it.

We looked at a number of houses and we came across this house down in Dunbrody, so we made an offer, packed up everything, and sold the house and moved down here.

You moved from Dublin to Wexford and opened a new venture?

“When we opened Dunbrody, with the restaurant and six bedrooms, and then that summer we had 12 bedrooms. In 1999 we added more, we now have 22 bedrooms in the house here. It was a private house built by the Chichester Clark family as a hunting lodge. They were from Belfast. In 1906, they turned the house around. It was seven generations of the Chichester Clark family and then we bought it. The family built out the road from here to Wexford during the famine. They owned 14,000 acres between Antrim & here.”

Your American fans are familiar with you from your television work on the Food Channel and on PBS.

“I never really went after the TV stuff. A travel show came here to do a piece on Dunbrody House and they asked me if I would step into the house and do a cooking segment with them. From that they offered me my own TV show. That’s really how it happened.”

You have an elegant dining room here, and a mini-brewery with your own brand of beer. And I read that some guests come here to learn how to cook?

“The cooking school opened in 2000. Maximum of ten people, one on one. You get a lot out of it because we hold your hand throughout it. It’s one- three- and five-day courses. We just finished a master class of five days, and that one we do with a maximum of 7 people in the course. It’s a lot more intense, and five of the seven were Americans.

“I went to college for 3 years to study culinary arts and in Canada I did my masters. It’s like everything you do; it’s working with the right people and extracting what’s good and bad. We have our own kitchen gardens. I would say 90 percent of the food we serve here is grown or produced within ten miles of the house. The flavor is so brilliant because it’s literally coming out of the ground at lunchtime and onto your plate at night. The brewery also serves seven or eight beers.”

What advice would you give to someone wanting a career in the kitchen?

“I recommend that when you’re starting out you shouldn’t really work for more than one year under one chef; you should move onto the next, and you have his or her knowledge in your head, and go on to

the next. And once you get to the management level in a kitchen, at sous chef level, you should spend two to three years in the place just to show stability, because the first year you’re just learning, the second year you’re introducing your concepts and ideas into the place and the third year you’re reaping the benefit of the work you’ve done the previous two years.

“And then it’s time to move on and get your own place. When you get to head chef level you should stay longer. But the more successful you become, the less cooking you do, with meeting people coming in, and with marketing and executive committee meetings, you spend less and less time. So when we moved down here, I got back to doing what I love.”

About the Dunbrody

It features 22 bedrooms, including suites and juniorsuites. All major credit cards accepted. French / German spoken; USA Reservations Toll Free: 800-323-5463 Email: usa@irelandsbluebook.com. Bed & Breakfast prices per person: \$150-235 low season; \$160- 299 high season. Single supplement \$30 on standard double rooms, seasonal dinner menu \$79; mid-week seasonal menu \$65. Service charge at your own discretion. Weekend packages 2 B&B from \$300 per person; midweek packages from \$175.

The illusive search for happiness in ‘Three Sisters’

By R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Apollinaire Theatre Company kicks off the New Year with a production of Chekhov’s “Three Sisters,” as adapted by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Tracy Letts. Directed by Danielle Fauteux Jacques, performances run through Jan. 21 at Chelsea Theatre Works.

In this dark human comedy, the Prozorov sisters – Olga, Maria and Irina – are stuck in a provincial Russian outpost after the death of their father, a general in the Czar’s army.

They dream of happier times and long to return to the cosmopolitan Moscow of their childhood, but desire clashes with reality as they search for love, beauty, and meaning in their lives.

The award-winning Letts is the author of the plays “August: Osage County,” “Superior Donuts,” and “Killer Joe.”

At Apollinaire, Siobhan Carroll plays Irina, the youngest sister. A 2016 graduate of Boston University’s acting program, Siobhan grew up in Cleveland. Her parents emigrated to the states from Dublin in 1976. (Mom is from Clontraf, Dad from Artane.) Her father still knows Dublin so intimately that when Siobhan was visiting there by herself, he was able to guide her around the city streets by phone.

Siobhan’s local stage credits include: “Next To Normal” and “Midsummer Night’s Dream” at Arts After Hours, and “Romeo and Juliet” and “The Scarlet Letter” at Classic Repertory Company. She is currently an intern at Underground Railway Theater Company and assistant directed Central Square Theater’s production of “A Christmas Carol.”

We spoke during rehearsals for “Three Sisters.” Here’s a condensed look at our conversation.

Q. How does the Tracy Letts adaptation vary from Chekhov’s original script? Is the story still set in 1900?

A. It’s still set in 1900. I think the most noticeable thing for audiences – for people who have read the play – is that it’s very condensed . . . People say things more simply.

Q. You play Irina, the youngest of the sisters. One reviewer noted that Letts’s vision of Irina is that she’s more self-aware than usual “when it comes to her figuring out that the sisters’ collective problem is not the elusiveness of happiness, but their inability to embrace fully anything other than its absence.”

A. In everything that Irina does, she seems to have a goal of what happiness would be. If she would just make it to Moscow, she’d be happy. If she would work, she would be happy. If she would meet a certain man, she would be happy. Bizarrely enough, there are men around. And she does get a job . . . She always has this outward projection [focusing on] that object that would make happiness achievable. Then that object isn’t necessarily achievable, so she shuts off any possibilities of being happy otherwise.

Q. The production at Apollinaire takes place in multiple locations within the theater. How will that work?

A. The audience will move between acts. We’re using three spaces . . . It’s nice, a really cool, intimate feeling. Anyone who’s been in that building knows that the rooms feel kind of appropriate for a Chekhov play. It’s kind of like sitting in their house with the characters while the scenes unfold.

Q. What first drew you to the arts?

A. I got into theater when I was around 13. There’s quite a theater scene in

(Continued on next page)



(Top to bottom) Siobhan Carroll, Deniz Khateri and Becca A. Lewis in Apollinaire Theatre’s “Three Sisters.”
Danielle Fauteux Jacques photo



LÚNASÁ
THURS. FEB. 1, 7-30PM
SOMERVILLE THEATRE

  FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFO VISIT WWW.WORLDMUSIC.ORG



Excellence in Private Care

Curtin Home Care, Inc. (CHC) is Boston, Massachusetts’ premiere private Home Care Agency. Our professional services are highly personalized and staffed by carefully selected and screened personnel. We employ a wide range of medical staff including RN’s, LPN’s, CNA’s and Therapists. All personnel are licensed/certified as well as insured and bonded. In addition to Boston, we provide services to surrounding cities and towns. Our priority is assisting individuals remain in their home in a safe and comfortable manner. Please call 617-948-2551 today for a complementary initial consultation.

Now Hiring Experienced RN’s, LPN’s and CNA’s. Please email resume to: martina@CurtinHomeCare.com
www.CurtinHomeCare.com

COLLEGE ON YOUR TERMS

QUINCY COLLEGE

REGISTER NOW FOR WINTER AND SPRING
617-984-1710 QUINCYCOLLEGE.EDU

FLEXIBILITY YOU CAN AFFORD

The illusive search for happiness in ‘Three Sisters’

Cleveland, surprisingly enough. There’s a lot of opportunity for kids to take classes and be a part of shows, particularly in musicals. There’s a great performing arts center – The Beck Center for the Arts – near my house in Lakewood Ohio . . . It was a very welcoming community.

Q. Do you recall your first time on stage?

A. My first time was kind of scarring (Laughing). I was brought to audition for “Annie” when I was five, and I just didn’t understand what auditions were. I think I was a pretty outgoing child, but for some reason the thought of singing in front of people on stage terrified me, so I cried and I left. I made my Mom take me home.

Q. What kind of theater makes a connection with you?

A. The examples that are coming to mind oddly are in Ireland and involve Irish plays. I went to the Becket Festival in Enniskillen. I think it was for their 2015 season, and that was wonderful . . . I saw this French company, Theatre NoNo’s, production of “Waiting For Godot” in French, and that was one of the best things I’ve ever seen.

Q. With your folks born in Ireland, would you say you come from a very traditional Irish home?

A. I should be careful. They would laugh at me so much if I made them sound too Irish. I mean they just *are* Irish. It’s

one of those things, especially because they have accents – people constantly remind you that your family is Irish . . . I grew up in Cleveland where people aren’t adept at saying or knowing the name Siobhan . . . I don’t think I’ve ever gone into an audition in Ohio where I didn’t have to begin by explaining my name and why it looks like that . . . My brother’s name is Jason. He was born in Ireland. Ironically enough, he got a very American name and I got a very Irish name.

Q. Were you blessed with any special mentors as you’ve come along in the arts?

A. I had an acting teacher, Mitchell Fields . . . He probably encouraged me the most out of anybody I know to be an actor. The first thing he ever gave me to work on was an Irina monologue (from “The Three Sisters”). It’s a little cool and crazy to be coming back to it in that way . . . When I got the role, he was the very first one I sent a Facebook message to – it’s like, “It’s happening!!!”

R. J. Donovan is Editor and Publisher of onstageboston.com.

...

“Three Sisters,” Apollinaire Theatre at Chelsea Theatre Works, 189 Winnisimmet St., Chelsea. Through Jan. 21. Info at 617-887-2336 or apollinairetheatre.com.



Siobhan Carroll plays Irina in Apollinaire Theatre’s production of “Three Sisters.”



Remembering the Grandmothers

At left, a passerby moves past a mural in East Boston that is meant to pay tribute to grandmothers of East Boston from the early twentieth century up through the present, many of whom immigrated to the US. Murals celebrating immigrants are cropping up across Boston’s neighborhoods as part of the national “To Immigrants With Love” campaign.

Associated Press photo

Celtic Woman

Homecoming

LIVE IN CONCERT

LOWELL, MA
Lowell Memorial Auditorium
April 5

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
CELTICWOMAN.COM

‘Live at the Druid’ – a CD that captures the experience of a session – exquisitely

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

If an Irish music session sticks around long enough, it usually develops a core of regulars who invest time and energy in making the session happen – and, in the process, give it a personality all its own.

For some years now, the Druid Pub in Cambridge has been a go-to place for Irish music lovers on Tuesday nights (and Saturday afternoons as well). Its sessions attract not only a loyal local following, but also out-of-towners who happen to be in the area and know where to go for tunes and conviviality. So they squeeze into the corner “snug” located immediately to the right of the front door, with a view onto Cambridge Street, and join in the merriment.

Now, this atmosphere of music and fellowship has been captured on a CD released during the past year. “Live at the Druid” is the work of several devoted session regulars and other mainstays, who see the recording project as having short-term value – proceeds from album sales support several local charitable causes – and potential historical significance, as a snapshot of Irish music styles in 21st-century Boston.

As participants and organizers note, “Live at the Druid” is also a portrait of a community that preserves, promotes, and supports the music tradition. At a time when Irish music performances take place on stages large and small throughout the world, and can be viewed on TV screens, computer monitors, and smart phones, sessions like those at the Druid are a reminder of the music’s social aspect – as a focus for gatherings of friends and acquaintances who play for the fun of it.

“It’s such a great thing to have at the pub – people here get into it, and it lifts their spirits,” says Druid general manager John Blake, a Co. Clare native. “You see so many different instruments, so many approaches to the music at these sessions, but they play so very well together and are good friends. So many of those who show up, they’ve got full-time jobs, some of them families as well, and they play purely out of their love of the music.

“I’m very glad that we were able to capture something of what it’s like here when the music’s on.”

Limerick-born fiddler Seán Clohessy, a chief organizer of the recording project, is equally praiseworthy of Blake, Druid owner Michael (Mikey) Queally, and the pub staff for their long-time advocacy of the session.

“Mikey and the lads come from a background where they’re familiar with the music, and they really help make the session what it is,” says Clohessy. “The Druid has a reputation far and wide for hospitality, and that’s what I found the first time I came, back when the session was on Friday nights. Right from the start, it was a lot of fun: good ‘crack,’ good energy and a good crowd.”

The 19-track album, originally recorded at the pub in November of 2016, features 19 musicians in various subsections – solos, duets, trios, quartets, quintets and sextets – playing 15 instrumental sets and four songs. Their ranks include Irish ex-pats, Americans of Irish ancestry, and other Americans whose only claim to Irishness is through the music.

The opening selection is an apt scene-



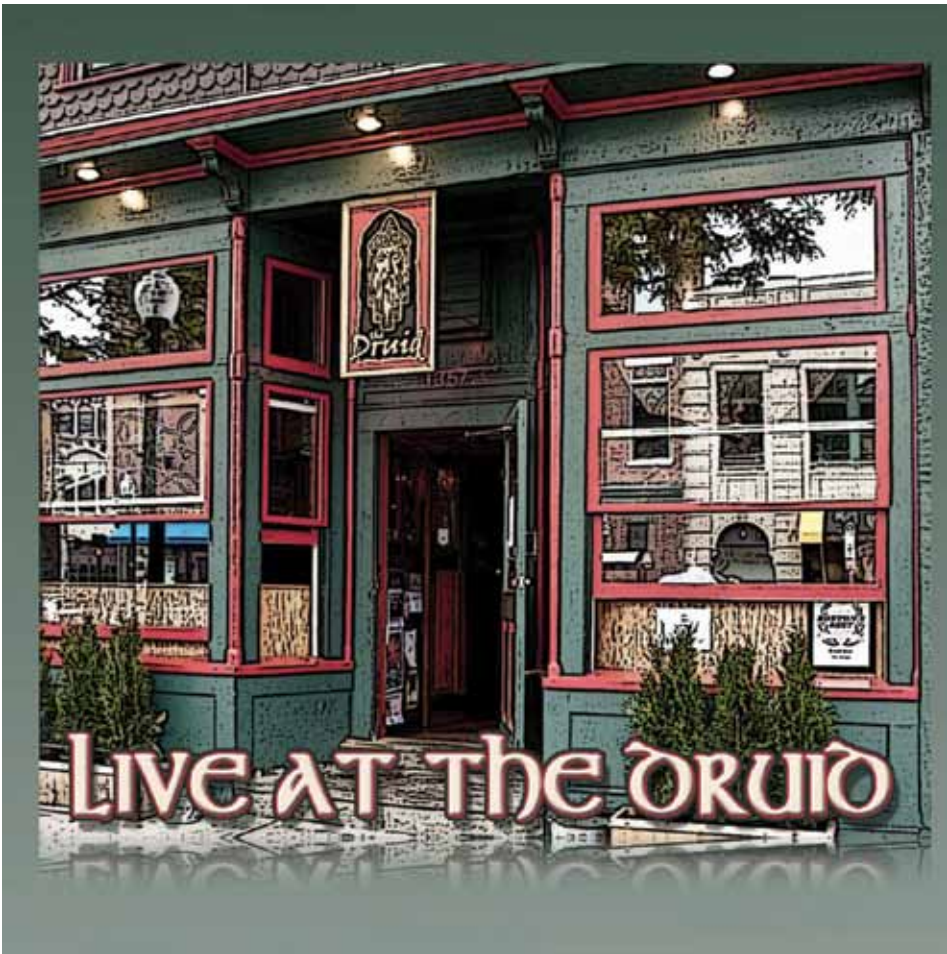
The “Live at the Druid” CD features many regulars from the pub’s popular weekly sessions. Sean Smith photo

setter: “As with many of the tracks,” the liner notes explain, “this set was decided on the spot, and captures the spontaneity and spirit of the moment.” Fiddlers Seán Clohessy, George Keith, and Tina Lech, along with Lech’s husband, Ted Davis, on tenor banjo, roar through a medley of the reels “Blackberry Blossom” and “Farewell to Connaught,” with energetic backing from guitarist Owen Marshall (a onetime Boston-area resident now living in Maine, and a member of The Press Gang).

Elsewhere, Galway native Helena Delaney joins Clohessy (originally from Limerick) and Marshall for a pair of exquisitely delivered jigs (“Dancing Eyes/ Fly in the Porter”). Lech and Davis, who regularly host the Tuesday night session, offer up two other jigs, “Tar Road to Sligo” and “My Mind Will Never Be Easy,” as a tribute to late, much-beloved Druid bartender Paul Conneely. For a change of pace, Keith, Lech, Davis, and Clohessy nimbly make their way through the hornpipes “Galway Bay” and “Harp and Shamrock,” Limerickian John Coyne adding his bouzouki to Marshall’s guitar.

A hallmark of Boston’s Irish music community is its encouragement of young musicians, and “Live at the Druid” spotlights this, too: Jimmy Noonan (flute) is joined by his flutist son Seamus (12 years old at the time) on the reel medley “Mulvihill’s/Coalminer’s/Abbey Reel,” along with Lech, Davis, Keith, Clohessy, and Coyne. Coyne, meanwhile, accompanies his son Rory (then 11), an accomplished accordionist, and Seamus on a trio of reels (“New Policeman/The Drunken Landlady/Road to Garrison”), earning an enthusiastic response from the audience.

“Rory’s become a fixture there – he doesn’t know how lucky he is,” says Coyne. “It’s such a comfortable place, and that’s how it’s always been, from the moment I walked in: The warmth, the music just hits you and you feel like



you belong.” Coyne contributes two of the songs on “Live at the Druid”: the Frank Fahy composition “My Own Dear Galway Bay” and John Spillane’s “Magic Nights in the Lobby Bar,” which – appropriately enough – muses on the memories that listening to a musician or singer in a pub can evoke (“Where once you have been you can go back again/you can go go anytime, you can go anytime”).

Ronan Quinn, a Miltown Malbay native, sings the other two: James Thornton’s “When You Were Sweet Sixteen” and “Blue Green Bangle,” a Johnny Mulhern song popularized by Sean Tyrell, among others.

“One of the great things about the Druid session is folks feel comfortable singing just about anything,” says Clohessy. “We do get the ‘pure drop’ traditional songs, of course, but it’s perfectly OK to sing something that’s outside the tradition. And songs like ‘Sweet Sixteen’ or ‘Galway Bay’ are quite well-known and popular in session crowds, so they fit in just fine.”

Adds Coyne: “The sing-along culture is very strong at sessions, whether it’s ‘Galway Bay,’ or rugby songs or something by [English pop group] Oasis. This is another reason why the Druid is such a great place to play, because people get that.”

Other musicians appearing are fid-

dlers Nathan Gourley and Laura Feddersen, step-dancer Kieran Jordan, Frank Woulfe on concertina, Martin Langer on bouzouki, Kathleen Conneely on whistle, as well as Dylan Foley (fiddle) and Josh Dukes (guitar), who both recorded the proceedings – Dukes also did the mixing.

“Dylan and Josh don’t live in Boston, but they’ve played at the Druid lots of times,” says Clohessy. “Besides being fantastic musicians, they’re very well-versed in recording technology, and they have a good sense of the space and the vibe at the session. So we just felt that they were in a good position to capture the magic – and to play a part in it as well.”

Coyne feels that “Live at the Druid” also has value as an artifact of Irish music in Boston.

“I think it speaks to Boston’s distinctive sound in terms of the styles – Clare, Limerick, Galway, and so on – and repertoire that people play. So you can point it to and say, ‘When you go there, that’s what you’ll hear.’ What’s also important about the CD is that you don’t hear this Boston sound in a recording studio, but in the context of a warm, welcoming place that has been so important to the Irish music community.”

“Live at the Druid” can be purchased at The Druid Pub, 1357 Cambridge St., Cambridge, or at thedruidpub.band-camp.com.



PHILLIPS CANDY HOUSE

Handmade since 1925

Order Online at
phillipschocolate.com
or call 800.722.0905

- Delicious Handmade Chocolates
- Custom Corporate Gifts
- Handmade Phillips Cookies
- Favors for All Occasions
- Gift Baskets & Towers

818 Morrissey Boulevard • Boston | South Shore Plaza • Braintree

The 'Keltic Kids' are now history; 'Celtic Roots' says it much better

(Continued from page 1)

West Bend Music in Dennis Port, which provides lessons for all ages in several different kinds of music. March formed the band to get the youngsters to see music as a means of personal growth and fellowship – rather than an activity defined only by lesson and practice schedules.

"I didn't start out with the idea that they'd be a performance band," said March, who expresses gratitude to the Keltic Kids/Celtic Roots families for their support. "I just wanted them to look at music as something they could enjoy with peers, and not simply regard it as an obligation. It was really up to them where this was all going to lead."

Some of the Celtic Roots members, like Jonathan and Bailey, were familiar with Irish or other Celtic music, but others had had little or no exposure. So at the outset, March took things slow and easy, having them work on easy-to-learn melodies like "Camptown Races." As they progressed, he began to fill their repertoire with Irish tunes – beginner-level at first, then of increasing degree of difficulty – and to arrange these in sets. Nowadays, each member of the group has an opportunity to share with the others a tune he or she has learned.

"They've also taken on a lot more leadership of the arrangements: 'Hey, why don't end with this chord instead of that one?'" said March.

It's worth noting the important experiences outside Celtic Roots that have contributed to its members' development, such as getting instruction from other accomplished musicians like Laurel Martin, Sean Clohessy, Liz Carroll, and Kathleen Conneely, or attending the music school run by Boston's Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann branch. Ashley, Gavin, Fern, Jonathan, and Bailey all have competed in the Mid-Atlantic Fleadh Cheoil – individually, in various combinations, or as part of the Boston Comhaltas School youth ensemble – and finished at or near the top, in some cases going on to the All-Ireland Fleadh.

These kinds of experiences, March said, serve to broaden the group's perspective on Irish tradition, and bring them in contact with the wider Irish music community.

"What they've seen is



Celtic Roots performing at Summer BCMFest in Harvard Square. They'll be appearing at BCMFest later this month.

Sean Smith photo

how music can be a lifelong love for many adults. Some make a career out of it, others play just for fun, but music is a part of who they are. I'm very proud of what the group has achieved, and how they've now come to 'own' the music they play."

On one afternoon, Celtic Roots gathered in West Bend Music for a rehearsal, going over some new and more recent additions to their repertoire. March offered some direction and guidance, and played along with them, but there was plenty of discussion and back-and-forth among the members, too. Once they were in the midst of playing a set of tunes, you could hear the progress of five years. Better tonality. Less bum notes. Smoother rhythm. And an overall sense of confidence and purposefulness.

Spend some time chatting with the Celtic Roots members, and it's quite plain they do in fact "own" the music, as March noted. They will talk enthusiastically about favorite tunes, major musical influences and formative experiences, like attending a traditional music-focused camp or taking part in a fleadh.

And because they have a history, and a perspective on things, they can kid with one another. At one point in the conversation, the topic shifted to group dynamics and roles. Jonathan, who handles the stage

patter at gigs, and he clearly has the tools for it (such as employing the canonical "How's everyone doing?" line) – but his band mates good-naturedly chide him with anecdotes of jokes or quips gone wrong.

Jonathan shrugs it off with the aplomb of a show business veteran. "Hey," he said with a smile, "everyone learns by making mistakes."

Most of all, the Celtic Roots gang likes to talk about what Irish/Celtic music means to them, and the place it holds in their lives.

"I started out playing classical violin before I became interested in Irish fiddle," said Ashley. "A while back, I played classical for the first time in quite a while, and I thought, 'Wow, this is why I love Irish music.' Irish music has its own discipline, but at the same time there's a freedom to it that you can really enjoy. Irish music also has a sense of community that is very strong – I think about all the cool, fun people I've met through the music."

"I just think it's interesting what you can do with this music," said Fern. "I feel like it's something I have that I can share with others but also keep for myself, for my own enjoyment."

Added Bailey, "It's just so much fun, and it's

taken me lots of places – I wouldn't have gone to Ireland if not for the music – and helped me meet new people."

"If you play enough tunes, you can take different parts from them, put them together, and it's like you wrote it," said

Jonathan, who avers that getting involved in Irish music is "one of the best things I've ever done."

"I love it for the stuff you can do with it," he added. "There's just so much that's wonderful – even crazy – about it, and I love it."

Celtic Roots will be among the performers at BCMFest, which takes place in Harvard Square Jan. 18-21; see passim.org/bcmfest for information.

Experience the Emerald Isle without leaving the States!



Merry Ploughboys

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2018
8:00PM

Tickets:

Balcony Seating: \$25.00

Table Seating: \$30.00

Add a Pre-Show Dinner for only \$30 more!

Mechanics Hall

321 Main Street, Worcester, MA
508-752-0888 • www.mechanicshall.org

News bits from Comhaltas

The Boston Branch of Comhaltas (The Reynolds-Hanafin-Cooley Branch) will kick off the New Year hosting a Seisiun / Ceili on Sun., Jan. 14 at the Canadian-American Hall, 202 Arlington Street, Watertown from 3 to 7 p.m. Admission \$10. Live Irish Traditional Music under the direction of Tara Lynch, branch chairperson. Musicians, Set Dancers, and

Toe Tappers; All are welcome. Email: cceboston@verizon.net

Comhaltas's February dates are the 11th and the 25th. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. on Feb. 25th for a slow session (free admittance). Aspiring musicians are invited to attend. Comhaltas Set / Ceili Dance Workshop is held on Tuesday evenings at the Canadian-American Hall in

Watertown at 7:30 p.m. Beginners always welcome. Email: sallyharney@aol.com

Boston Comhaltas Music School: Spring semester begins on Sat., Jan. 20, at a new location: St. Joseph Prep. (formerly Mt. St. Joseph Academy) 617 Cambridge Street, Brighton. More info and Registration details: cceboston.org

CD Reviews

By Sean Smith
Special to the BIR

For this month’s column, we’re going to take a look at some recent recordings by Celtic artists with Massachusetts and New England ties.

The Press Gang, “Fortune It May Smile” • Formed in 2009 amidst the proliferating Portland, Me., folk music scene, The Press Gang had been doing just fine as a trio, centered around the power and artistry of Christian “Junior” Stevens’ accordion and concertina and Alden Robinson’s fiddle, with the intrepid backing of Owen Marshall on guitar and bouzouki. Their first two albums firmly established them as one of the best traditional Irish ensembles to emerge from New England in the past decade or so.



Then, a couple of years ago, Hanz Araki moved to Portland from the West Coast and brought not only his masterful flute and whistle-playing, but also his fine singing voice to the group. With “Fortune It May Smile,”

The Press Gang is as instrumentally robust as ever, and now they have an outstanding vocal presence to boot.

The band’s flair for putting together well-structured instrumental sets is front and center on the first track, a quartet of reels: Araki, on whistle, and Marshall (bouzouki) blaze along on “Seán Sa Ceo” with Stevens adding concertina the second time through,

before Robinson spearheads the transition into “Mick O’Connor’s,” Marshall doubling up on guitar; then it’s into the driving A-dorian “Jolly Tinker,” Araki returning on flute (meanwhile, listen how Marshall eases up a bit on the fourth part and works in chord variations), and finishing up with the effusive “Fox on the Town” by Richard Dwyer.

A jig set has fiddle and flute taking the lead on the darting “McIntyre’s,” Stevens’ concertina supplying a soft drone at the end until he launches into “I Was Born for Sport,” with its G/E-minor back-and-forth; they conclude with “I Ne’er Shall Wean Her.”

Other instrumental highlights include “Pearl O’Shaughnessy’s Barndance,” driven by Stevens’ accordion and Marshall’s express-train guitar, segueing seamlessly into the reel “Kiss the Maid Behind the Barrel,” played at ridiculously fast pace yet with full control; a similarly energetic assortment of polkas – the second of which has the arresting alternate title of “Captain Moonlight’s Army” – and another of slides; and a comely waltz by Kerry guitarist Matt Griffin, “Válsa an tSean Bhaile,” that features a graceful Robinson-Marshall duet at the start.

On the three song tracks, Araki proves he is at least as expressive a singer as he is a musician. His is a sweet-toned, sensitive yet deceptively powerful voice, which he utilizes judiciously, such as the crescendos on the traditional soldier-leaves-sweetheart ballad “Banks of the Nile,” heightening the inherent drama without overdoing it; or the way he swells the held notes in “Master Kilby,” one of the more wistful romantic songs in the British Isles tradition (associated with the legendary Nic Jones). And he’s strident but sympathetic on “Johnny Miner,” a commentary on the bitterness felt by coal miners about the demise of their profession, from the pen of Northern English working-class songwriter Ed Pickford.

Araki’s fellow Press Gangers, meanwhile, support his singing to great effect, such as Stevens’ soft piano backing on “Banks of the Nile” and Marshall’s lovely

guitar work on “Master Kilby.”

A gentle “Carolán’s Receipt” closes out the CD, and though cliché it may be to say that the end feels too soon, it is certainly the case here. The fourth album can’t come soon enough. [pressgangmusic.com]

Emerald Rae & Somer O’Brien, “Artifact” • Rae, a Gloucester native, has been a part of the Greater Boston folk music scene since her teens, and in a number of incarnations: a US Scottish Fiddle Champion with a special love for the Cape Breton tradition; a member of the Irish/American “alt-trad” band Annalivia; a practitioner of Cape Breton and Irish dance; and a solo performer whose interests have extended to songwriting and exploration of old-timey/Americana.

O’Brien, who comes from Pennsylvania and lives in Gloucester, has a similarly extensive curriculum vitae, with a background as a classical pianist but also as an accordionist whose repertoire encompasses jazz, Afro-Latin and European music.



Hence, “Artifact” has a delightful polyglot quality to it: You can almost visualize Rae and O’Brien jamming on a Halifax pier one minute, and in the next performing in a little village square somewhere within sight of the Pyrenees, or doing a leisurely set in a Neapolitan café. Yet for all the moveable-feast vibe, there is nothing unpolished or amateur about their sound. The command of instrument each demonstrates enables them to confidently adopt, individually or together, the distinguishing characteristics of whatever musical realm to which they travel.

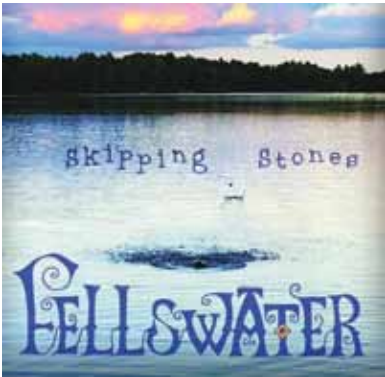
In this way, they can take on a pair of contemporary-style Irish slip jigs, “Soggy’s” (by Sean Og Graham of Beoga) and Michael McGoldrick’s “Farewell to Whalley Range,” and then proceed to the hot-blooded gypsy jazz of “Passion,” written by Italian-born musette player Tony Mureña and composer Joseph Colombo. Or a Scottish/Cape Breton medley (“She’s Sweetest When She’s Naked/Fiddler Play the Light Strathspey/Tim Horton’s/Wooden Whale/But Why Is the Rum Gone?” – the latter written by Boston-area fiddler Rachel Reeds) on one track, and on another wind their way through a Scandinavian/Breton mix (“Joker’s Pulska”).

Or consider another study in contrasts: On one track is a medley that begins with the solemn “Nathaniel Gow’s Lament for the Death of His Brother” and fires through Phil Cunningham’s 5/4 gem “Leire’s Trip To Cozac,” the traditional “Dark Night of Tomaidh” and “Fletch Taylor,” an original by her former Annalivia colleague Flynn Cohen; and on another is the spellbinding “Saros,” a composition of Stelios Petrakis, a musician and instrument maker from Crete, with its multiple musical influences from East and West – O’Brien’s accordion lends a pulsating undercurrent as Rae’s fiddle churns through the multiple key changes.

“Artifact” is an intersection where folk traditions and “high-art” music nestle comfortably, and unironically, in the capable hands of two top-flight musicians who display equally excellent chemistry, as well as an abiding sense of adventure and joviality.

And by the way, Rae is already at work on her next project, recording an album of 10 original songs. [emeraldrae.com]

Fellswater, “Skipping Stones” • Originally formed as a quartet a decade ago, Massachusetts-based Fellswater has in the past few years undergone a significant change to its roster. Co-founders Elizabeth Ketudat (fiddle), Sarah MacConduibh (flute, whistle, fife) and Jim MacConduibh (acoustic bass, bouzouki, guitar) welcomed Andrew McIntosh (Scottish small pipes, border pipes) – who succeeded original piper Matt Phelps – along with percussionist Kyle Forsthoff and husband-wife vocal duo Chris and Diane Meyers (Chris also plays guitar and octave mandolin). Besides its Fellswater tenure, the band’s collective background, experience and influences include classical, contemporary folk/folk-rock and fife-and-drum corps.



“Skipping Stones” is Fellswater’s first release with this expanded line-up, its third overall. The band has displayed a certain deliberateness in its approach to Celtic music – Scottish, Irish and Breton traditions among them – marked by meticulously arranged instrumental sets. Four on “Skipping Stones” stand out in particular, presenting tunes by leading latter-day Scottish musicians like Angus Grant, Adam Sutherland, John McCusker, and the late Gordon Duncan.

Among these are the opening track (“Strichen Gala/Road to Aikie Brae/Jig Ahoy”); a medley that includes Grant’s twisty-turny “Two-Fifty to Vigo” and “The Fourth Floor,” a characteristically intricate Duncan piece with all kinds of rhythmic mayhem; and sets featuring McCusker’s “Leaving Friday Harbour,” and

(Continued next page)

COME VISIT ANY

SOMERS PUBS

LOCATION FOR QUALITY FOOD,
HOSPITALITY & LIVE MUSIC

7 NIGHTS A WEEK!

Mr. Dooley's

BOSTON TAVERN

77 Broad St.
Boston, MA 02109
617.338.5656
mrdooleys.com

Hennessy's

HENNESSY'S OF BOSTON

HOOLEY HOUSE

Music Hall

25 Union St.
Boston, MA 02108
617.742.2121
hennessyboston.com

The Green Dragon Tavern

11 Marshall St.
Boston, MA 02108
617.367.0055
greendragonboston.com

Paddy O's

33 Union St.
Boston, MA 02108
617.263.7771
paddyos.com

Dorothy Nelly's

108 Blackstone St.
Boston, MA 02109
617.742.2090
dortynellysboston.com

Mr. Dooley's

Old Irish Village Pub

9 Depot Ct.
Cohasset, MA 02025
781.383.3366
mrdooleyscohasset.com

SOMERS PUBS

SOMERSPUBS.COM

THE BIR’S ARTS CALENDAR OF IRISH/CELTIC EVENTS

January 2018
The **BCMFest Nightcap** concert, “From Spark to Flame,” will be devoted to the stories that define the lives of musicians and singers, according to festival organizers. The concert, which takes place on Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. in The Sinclair (52 Church St. in Harvard Square), is the closing event for BCMFest (Boston Celtic Music Fest), celebrating its 15th anniversary with a four-day feast of music, song and dance that begins January 18.

A musician’s inspiration can come in many forms, say BCMFest organizers: family legacies; invaluable advice and guidance from a valued friend or mentor in the music community; a special time evoked through the melody of a jig or reel, or the verses of a song. At the BCMFest Nightcap, performers will share the songs and tunes that hold special meaning for them and talk about the people and experiences that provided the spark to light their musical flame. The concert will be an evening of fond memories and fine music, offering an insight into the talent, commitment and passion found in Boston’s Celtic music community.

Among the Nightcap performers are:

Pumpkin Bread—Conor Hearn (guitar), Maura Shawn Scanlin (fiddle), Steven Manwaring (mandolin), Aidan Scrimgeour (accordion), and Jackson Clawson (piano) play original folk music flavored with Celtic fiddling, spirited improvisations, and relentless groove. With songs that range from pensive and heartfelt to driving and playful, the band draws its strength not only from keen musicianship but its camaraderie and close-knit friendship.

Sailbow—With roots in the Celtic music scenes in Rochester, NY, and northern California, Emilie Rose (fiddle) and Casey Murray (cello) are students at Berklee College of Music and deeply involved with the school’s American Roots Program, and are happily exploring Boston’s Celtic community.

Molly Pinto Madigan—A BCMFest veteran, Madigan is a singer-song-



Pumpkin Bread will be among the acts in “From Spark to Flame,” the Nightcap concert for this year’s BCMFest.

writer (a past winner of the Boston Folk Festival Songwriting Contest) whose words and music have been greatly influenced and inspired by the folk ballad tradition of America and Europe, and sung with a voice that has been praised as “pure and sweet.”

Cape Breton Showcase—Fiddlers Rachel Reeds and Jake Brillhart will lead a tribute to Cape Breton’s distinctive music tradition, which has a long history in the Boston area that continues to this day.

Neil Pearlman—An innovative musician and creator of the “TradCafe” podcast—music and conversation with unique artists in the world of traditional music—Pearlman will host the Nightcap concert and converse with the performers about their musical odysseys and adventures.

Other performers were still being confirmed as of press time.

BCMFest is a program of Passim, a Cambridge-based non-profit seeking to build a vibrant music community through Club

Passim, music school, artist grants and outreach initiatives.

For updates, ticket information and other details about BCMFest 2018, see passim.org/bcmfest.

Other Irish/Celtic music events taking place over the next few weeks in Greater Boston:

- On Jan. 21, notloB music will present **Nic Gareiss** in “Solo Square Dance,” his one-person percussive dance show that commemorates the 80th anniversary of the Irish Dance Halls Act, which banned citizens from dancing in homes. Renowned for his joie-de-vivre, Gareiss has performed with the likes of the Chieftains, the David Munnelly Band, Beoga, Teada, and Le Vent du Nord and appeared in “A Christmas Celtic Sojourn” (he’ll also be performing at BCMFest), and is a scholar of dance as well—he holds a master’s degree in ethnochoreology from the University of Limerick. The show will take place at 3 p.m. in Hildreth House, 13 Ayer Road in Harvard.

Reservations are advised, and can be obtained at tinyurl.com/notlobtickets. For more information, phone 978-226-8862 or e-mail notlobreservations@gmail.com.

- Super-group **Lunasa** comes to the Somerville

Theater on Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m. For two decades, the quintet has been widely praised and respected for its layered, harmonically sophisticated, and quite modern treatment of Irish traditional music, marked by tight—but not suffocat-

ing—precise and polished arrangements yet full of passion and power. The event is presented by World Music/CRASHarts—go to worldmusic.org or call 617-876-4275 for tickets.

Geraghty ASSOCIATES PROPERTY MANAGERS

Studio and 1-Bedroom Apartments
Available in the desirable
Cedar Grove section of Dorchester.

Studios reasonably
priced;

1-bedroom units;
heat and hot water included.

Short walk to the Red Line.

Free off-street Parking.

Washing Machines
and Dryers in building.

Call Michael at 617-364-4000

GERAGHTY ASSOCIATES, INC.
Property Managers

P.O. Box 52, Readville, MA 02137-0052

Tel: 617-364-4000 Fax: 617-364-3157



CD Reviews

two more Duncan tunes (“The Famous Baravan” and “Zito the Bubbleman”). It’s the Scottish material that plays to the band’s strengths, especially when McIntosh is at the fore (fair to mention, also, that he does yeoman’s work on a batch of Northumbrian pipe tunes, with their unique decorations and outbreaks of eighth and sixteenth notes).

The vocal dimension obviously sets this Fells-water album apart from its predecessors. Diane Meyers’s deep, soulful voice lends itself well to Stuart and Wanda Samson’s anthemic “Shores of Caledonia,” and her lead and harmonizing with

Chris is quite appealing on a setting of Robert Tan-nahill’s “Are You Sleeping Maggie?”; the couple also are in fine form on “Star o’ the Bar,” by Scottish singer-songwriter Davie Robertson, a song about love that manages to be engagingly sardonic and philosophical at the same time.

Sometimes on the album, though, reach exceeds grasp. “The Blacksmith”—that much-covered ballad of romantic disappointment—comes off rather over-wrought here, and the attempt to interpolate the “Kid on the Mountain” slip jig into the song doesn’t exactly work. The rendition of Bob Dylan’s “Boots of

Spanish Leather” (from his early, folk tradition-influenced period) seems more a showcase for the Meyerses than a band piece. An excursion into Quebecois tunes lacks the lift and agility you expect from that tradition. And there are junctures where the music feels over-arranged—you wish for less instrumentation, more space for the melody or a tune’s innate rhythm.

But when it works—and there are plenty of times it does on “Skipping Stones”—the result is very pleasing to the ear. As the band’s new lineup continues to settle in, seven may well turn out to be Fellswater’s lucky number. [fellswater.com]



Boston Irish Honors awardees Aidan Browne, (right), and Kevin Cullen, (center), with the BIRs Bill Forry. Margaret Brett Hastings photo

Aidan Browne: ‘Go to’ man for Boston’s Irish

(Continued from page 1)

were for the GPA, in 10 minutes I got it, and I was hook, line, and sinker,” Browne told the BIR. “What I saw in Dessie was amazing passion, incredible knowledge, tremendous empathy for the players and the players’ situation, which gave rise to the establishment of the GPA because the GAA, the overarching body, was not focused on the needs of the players.”

The GPA was looking to bring a new format of hurling called Super 11s to the US. Dessie had met up with former Dartmouth College and NBA basketball player Walter Palmer, who had finished his playing career in Europe. While over there, Palmer established the Basketball Players Association of Europe for professional players.

“Walter’s whole focus has always been around the players in all sports,” Browne said. “He went on to become president of the World Association of Player Associations, so he’s got an amazing amount of experience, knowledge, and understanding of what the needs of the players are.”

Palmer agreed to become a consultant to the GPA. Not long afterward, he suggested staging the Super 11s at Fenway Park and his connection with Red Sox president Sam Kennedy (both Kennedy’s and Palmer’s fathers were ministers at churches in Back Bay) led to the 2015 AIG Fenway Hurling Classic match between Dublin and Galway, which was a huge success, posting the highest TV ratings for a sport other than baseball at Fenway Park. Fenway and AIG’s eagerness to see hurling return to Boston led to plans for the recently held 2017 AIG Fenway Hurling Classic on Nov. 19, under a similar Super 11s format.

The scoring in the three matches was supplied by goals worth either three points or five points, depending on from where they were scored. Galway, the defending All-Ireland champions, defeated Dublin, 55-39, in the first semi-final, then Clare topped Tipperary, 50-45, in the second semi-final. Clare went on to stun Galway, 50-33, in the final to win the inaugural Players Champions Cup.

“I think what you experienced is just how palpable the competition is between counties,” Browne said. “If they were playing that match on the moon, they’d still be ferociously pursuing the win and the success. And you saw it in every aspect of the game... [Clare] practiced the format for over six months. They really applied themselves to understanding this new format... So I think the teams took each of these games extremely seriously, and they wanted the pride of winning overseas, the pride of winning in Boston, the pride of winning the inaugural Players Champions Cup.”

Aside from competing for the cup and bragging rights, the GPA had long hoped to increase the appreciation of hurling and heighten the status of its players. The two Fenway events have done just that.

“They’ve already got high status in Ireland, but to be viewed and understood in these different markets is very, very valuable,” Browne said. “The GPA is about supporting these players. Its role is not to get into the business of making money out of these games for the sake of making money. It’s about raising the profile. When revenue accrues from these events, that goes to the players.”

Established in 2016, the Boston Friends of the GPA engages in support activities for the GPA and aims to increase the profile of Gaelic games in the US, with its feature event being its annual dinner. Last year’s dinner—the inaugural one in Boston—drew more than 400 guests and was a huge success. The 2018 dinner will be held on Fri., April 8, at the Intercontinental Hotel in Boston.

Browne hopes to see the Hurling Classic expand to cities like New York and Chicago, which, like Boston, have large Irish and Irish American populations that would be represented by the participating counties. “If you did the same series of three games, you could have Mayo, Kerry, Dublin, and maybe Donegal,” he said. “Each of those counties are very, very significantly represented here in the expat community and also in the Irish American community. I think it would have great appeal... What’s complicated about putting these on is the very limited window of opportunity we have because of the season that the players have. There’s a total of about three weeks in November that you’ve got to get this tournament in... It’s always a challenge to figure out availability and who can actually come.”

For more information on the Boston Friends of the GPA dinner in April, contact Natalie Metz at 617-723-2707 or natalie@irishap.org.

(Continued from page 1)

Several Trump surrogates have claimed over the past year that the president’s focus is on illegal immigrants who have criminal backgrounds. On the campaign trail, he branded them as people who not only overstayed, but had played the system by grabbing every entitlement, like welfare and food stamps, they could find. Of course, he singled out Hispanics, conveniently sidestepping any overt references to Irish illegals, presumably aware that some 40 million Americans claim Irish descent. Just a week after Trump’s election victory, Anne Anderson, Ireland’s ambassador to the US, told the *Irish Times*: “The immigration issue is, of course, so live. We know about the large numbers of undocumented Irish that have been living in the shadows. Many of them now are living in fear, and that is a huge issue.”

In regard to illegal Irish, ICE acknowledges only that a surge in rounding up illegal immigrants has been under way at the administration’s order.

A year ago, people in the Boston Irish and immigration communities raised deep concerns over the fate of local Irish who had overstayed their visas. Ronnie Millar, executive director of the IIIC, and

well-known immigration attorney John Foley saw the crackdown coming.

ICE maintains that its agents search for anyone who has violated immigration laws and that the agency is especially concerned by those with a criminal past—the “murderers, rapists, et al”—that the president has spoken about. The IIIC confirms that most of the Irish seized by ICE in Boston have violated the 90-day visa waiver, but counters that most offenses are traffic violations and other minor infractions. At Boston courthouses, ICE officials have looked for and seized illegal immigrants standing in front of judges for such routine issues.

To Simon Carswell, of *The Irish Times*, Millar noted, “We have definitely seen in Boston greater enforcement, and we are representing a number of individuals and we are supporting them as best we can. There is a deep, deep concern about the increased activity here.”

Millar related that the IIIC “has heard of instances of undocumented Irish being arrested at home, including one individual who woke up to find two ICE officers in his bedroom. The increased clampdown on the undocumented has led some to consider moving home,”

‘HIS DUTY WAS DONE TO THE LAST’

On Jan. 16, 1908, BPD officer Lynch made the ultimate sacrifice

(Continued from page 1)

While grappling to control the thrashing suspect, Doyle shouted at onlookers to summon an ambulance and a police wagon from the Court Street Station while he kept urging his brother officer to hold on. “I jumped in to help and had no idea at first that Lynch was wounded. I supposed the shots must have missed, but as I jumped on the man, Lynch rolled over, and I saw he was hurt,” Doyle later told the *Boston Post*.

John T. Lynch had departed his family’s home, 11 Bainbridge Street, in Roxbury, at 5 p.m. on Thurs., Jan. 16, 1908, for his evening shift. For Lynch, wearing the blue and the badge of the Boston Police Department was his lifelong dream; less than a week earlier, he had made the jump from a reserve officer to a full-time patrolman “owing to fine work” that had caught the attention of his superiors.

The gravely wounded officer was born in Boston on Aug. 13, 1880, in the Lowell Street home of his parents, James and Mary Lynch. He grew up with three brothers and two sisters in a close-knit Irish Catholic family, and had graduated from the Phillips Grammar School before attending Boston English High School for two years. To help with the family’s finances, he worked for several years at a Leverett Street grocery and then landed a job as a clerk for the eyeglass firm Andrew J. Lloyd & Co where he learned to repair glasses. Still, he longed for a life with more adventure, a yearning that surprised no one who knew him or

knew of him.

Long before he donned police blue, he was renowned as one of the finest athletes in Boston, starring in track and crew. The *Post* noted: “He was a charter member of St. Joseph’s Athletic Association, West End.... He represented that organization in all branches of sport in the various track meets of this part of the country and was stroke of the famous St. Joseph’s crack four-oared crew of three or four years ago. Cups that Lynch won for his organization and banners and shields that he helped win now number among the most cherished trophies in the possession of St. Joseph’s Association.”

When Lynch turned 18, he enlisted in the Ninth Massachusetts Infantry and soon earned renown as one of the regiment’s finest sharpshooters. He mulled re-upping in the Army, but his desire to become a Boston police officer brought him back home. “Lynch was a man of magnificent physique,” a *Post* reporter wrote, “standing 6 ft., 2 inches, in his stockings and tipping the beam at about 200 pounds. For years he cherished the ambition to become a police officer and at the age of 23 successfully passed the examination for the police service. He was compelled, however, to wait for two years before he could receive his appointment. He continually looked forward to the day when he would be made a police officer.”

That day came less than a week before he encountered the gunman at the corner of Summer and Kingston.

he said, adding, “There are definitely people saying enough is enough, and they are returning to Ireland.”

John Foley told the BIR that the Irish who have come to the United States since Jan. 12, 2009, through the Visa Waiver Program are particularly vulnerable. They were required to file an application through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization, or ESTA. In effect, this is their travel permit. ESTA is not a US visa and applies only to foreigners visiting the United States by plane or ship. Any travelers entering through those venues must provide a “valid machine-readable passport or ePassport,” according to ESTA guidelines. If someone from Ireland tries to take a US-bound flight without an approved ESTA Travel Authorization or a valid US Visitor Visa, he or she might not be allowed to board. If someone overstays their allotted time—for the Irish it was good for two years—he or she is permanently out of the system and subject to immediate deportation.

Foley also pointed to another category of immigrants facing deportation. Trump and ICE have targeted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, which allowed

some three million children brought to the US by undocumented parents to come out of the shadows with legal status to remain in America without fear of deportation. Signed by President Obama, the DACA allowance has been overturned by Trump. Unless Congress takes action, DACA will end this month.

“If Trump keeps his promise to overturn DACA,” Foley said, “he’s talking about kicking out kids who all have clean records, are good students, and are positive in every way to America. A lot of these kids are Irish,” he added.

The IIIC is providing assistance to illegal Irish ensnared by ICE, but, as Foley points out, ICE is moving so fast to deport them that they are sometimes processed and put on a plane back to Ireland before anyone takes notice. The IIIC is telling illegal Irish never to follow ICE agents out the door unless they arrive with a warrant bearing a judge’s signature.

Foley, who has represented illegal Irish caught up in the ICE crackdown this year, spoke prophetic words not long after Trump’s win: “I’ve been doing immigration law for years now, but I’ve never seen so much fear in the immigrant community.”

At roll call, Lynch and fellow patrolmen were ordered to keep a watch for a notorious South Boston gang that had been robbing downtown stores in recent weeks. According to the *Post*, “owing to the numerous breaks by ‘yeggman’ [armed robbers] in the business section, officers on the beats were ordered to watch closely for suspicious characters.” That very night, two or three armed burglars reportedly had hit a clothing store at 364 Washington St.

Lynch began his rounds in Winthrop Square that frigid night and worked his way to Summer Street. Patrolman Doyle headed up to Arch Street. Just an hour or two into his shift, Lynch stopped short at the corner of Kingston and Summer Streets. He “noticed two suspicious men in a doorway” there and asked them what they were doing and what their names were.

One of the men, slightly built and barely 5-feet-5 inches, stepped onto the sidewalk and muttered that he was “John Murphy” of Andrew Square, South Boston.

“Ashe [Murphy] passed, Patrolman Lynch felt him for articles, as is the custom,” the *Post* wrote. “The man was clean. Lynch nodded and said, ‘I guess you are all right. You can go along.’”

The officer turned to the second man, who hesitated in the shadowy doorway and murmured that his name was “Foley.” As Lynch moved closer to frisk the man, “Foley” slipped a revolver out of his overcoat’s right hip pocket. Three flashes illuminated the corner,

and three sharp cracks echoed above Summer and Kingston. One bullet slammed into Lynch’s arm, another whistled over his shoulders, and the third ripped into his right side and through his abdomen before lodging in his liver. “Murphy” vanished into the night.

The badly wounded Lynch somehow wrapped his arms around “Foley,” took him down, and wrestled for the revolver as the shooter tried to twist away, but Lynch would not let go.

Passersby began to stop around the two men. Fred Shubert, of 191 Auckland Street, Roxbury, tried to help Lynch. “I rushed to the scene and arrived at the same time as Patrolman Doyle,” Shubert testified later. “I saw Officer Lynch on top of the man... holding the latter’s right hand, in which there was a revolver.”

As an ambulance and police wagon rattled up to the corner at about the same time, Doyle “got the ‘wristers’ (handcuffs) on ‘Foley,’” picked him up with several other officers, and tossed him into the wagon. Meanwhile, Patrolman Bartel and other Station 2 officers carried Lynch from the street on a stretcher, loaded him carefully into the ambulance, and raced off to the Relief Station Hospital in Haymarket Square.

Inside the vehicle, Lynch asked Bartel for something to kill the pain but then, according to Bartel, “seemed to fall into a stupor and did not speak again until he was being carried into the hospital, when he asked the doctor for a drink of water.”

Next: Death and The Aftermath

‘Shameful, heartbreaking,’ says IIIC’s Ronnie Millar

“In 2017, there’s been a 30-percent increase by ICE in arresting illegal immigrants. What’s unusual is that Boston is the only major city experiencing a rise in the number of illegal Irish being rounded up. We’ve wondered if this is because Boston is a sanctuary city, but so is Chicago, and there’s been no similar rise in the arrest and deportation of Irish. More Irish in Boston face deportation than in any other spot nationwide.”

The speaker is Ronnie Millar, executive Ddrector of the Irish International Immigration Center, as he talks with the BIR about the ongoing crackdown by ICE on illegal Irish in the Boston area

“Of course, the number of Irish facing deportation is not on the scale of other immigrant groups,” he says. “Still,

the Irish stand with our Latino brothers and sisters and those of all nationalities, races and religions. What’s going on is shameful and heartbreaking. Irish and other immigrants in Boston are being treated as criminals even though most have no criminal offenses whatsoever.

“ICE agents are acting with little simple human decency and compassion. They arrest people with no criminal background – other than a traffic ticket sometimes – and with American spouses and children. ICE places them with hardcore criminals,” Millar said. “Families are torn apart. Tom Homan, ICE Director, has said, ‘We’re coming after you [undocumented].’ They’re doing so with an aggressive, punitive approach and mindset.

“We’re trying to help illegal Irish and others

as much as we can,” he added. “We try to provide legal services, and because ICE is deporting people so rapidly, we’re working to help the families about to be left behind, to be separated. The suddenness of it all is overwhelming financially and emotionally for husbands, wives, and especially kids. Right now we’re dealing with two young Irish illegals who have American wives and kids and will be deported just in time for Christmas.

“It’s devastating and happening more and more in our community,” Millar said. “We’ve lost our way in treating good families like this. It’s like what was happening in Europe in the 1930s. “We should be better than this...”

– PETER F. STEVENS

Subscribe Today to Boston’s Own Hometown Newspaper

BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

A Subscription to the Boston Irish Reporter Makes an Ideal Gift for Any Special Occasion. Why Not Order One Today for Yourself, or for That Special Irish Someone in Your Life?

Order today, and we will send a gift card in your name.
Enclose \$35.00 for each gift subscription.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Gift from _____

Charge to Visa _____ Mastercard _____

Card # _____ Exp _____

This year, give a gift that comes in the mail each month!

Mail to: Boston Irish Reporter, 150 Mt. Vernon Street, Dorchester, MA 02125
We accept phone orders with your Visa or Mastercard.
Call 617-436-1222 Or Fax this order form to 617-825-5516

Subscribe Today!

to the Boston Irish Reporter

Call 617-436-1222

city compost

Home Service

Support Local Food Protect the Environment Be Sustainable

\$5 per Week or \$7 for Every Other

www.citycompost.com (978) 378-3048

EIRE pub

795 Adams St. • Dorchester

“President’s Choice”

Serving Lunch & Dinner Every day, 7 days a week

JOHN C. GALLAGHER

Insurance Agency

AUTO INSURANCE

Specializing in Automobile Insurance for over a half century of reliable service to the Dorchester community.

New Accounts Welcome

1471 Dorchester Ave. at Fields Corner MBTA

Phone: 617-265-8600

“We Get Your Plates”

AUTO BODY REPAIRS

(617) 825-1760

(617) 825-2594

FAX (617) 825-7937

Fitzpatrick Brothers CORPORATION

Free Pick-Up & Delivery Service

150 Centre Street Dorchester, MA 02124

Burials in Massachusetts or Ireland

Gormley Funeral Home

617-323-8600

2055 Centre Street West Roxbury, MA

www.Gormleyfuneral.com

MILTON MONUMENT COMPANY INC.

BRONZE MARKERS • CEMETERY LETTERING

“Serving Greater Boston since 1971”

1060 N. MAIN ST., RANDOLPH, MA 02368

phone: 781-963-3660

fax: 781-986-8004

www.miltonmonument.com

email: miltonmonument@gmail.com

Photography by Image Photo Service

• Weddings • Anniversaries • Banquets • Portraits • Reunions • Groups • Families • Special Occasions

(617) 291-6609

Harry Brett • Margaret Brett Hastings

The official photographers of the Boston Irish Reporter

NEW CALVARY CEMETERY

Serving the Boston Community since 1899 - Non Sectarian Reasonable pricing and many options to choose from.

Grave pricing starting at \$1,000

Package pricing from \$3,600 (includes grave purchase, first opening & liner for a weekday service). Cremation Niches starting at \$1,375 (Includes Niche Purchase, First Opening & Inscription)

617-296-2339

12 Month No Interest on Grave Purchases, Pre Need Opening Arrangements

Lots with multiple graves and oversized graves available.

Package price only available for an ‘at need’ service.

Overtime Fees apply to Saturday and Holiday Interments

Other options available at Mt. Benedict Cemetery in West Roxbury

The B.C.C.A. Family of Cemeteries

Main Office located at:

366 Cummins Highway, Roslindale, MA 02131

Pricing information and maps available online at: www.BostonCemetery.org

617-325-6830 info@bccca.comcast.net

BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett
Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

Members of the The Eire Society and the Charitable Irish Society came together for a “Seasonal Celebration of Celtic Christmas Cheer and Chanukah Light” on Sun., Dec. 17, at Eat with Jack O’Neill tavern on Centre Street in West Roxbury. The food was prepared by Chef Denise O’Neill, who trained in Cork at Irish celebrity chef Darina Allen’s Ballymaloe Cookery School, and the music was performed by the BIR’s music writer/reviewer, Sean Smith, and Colleen White. The groups billed the event as “refreshments to replenish the spirit.”

1.) Musicians Colleen White, Brookline; Sean Smith, Newton; 2.) Lorraine and Tom Walsh, Needham; Connie Cassidy Koutoujian, Waltham; 3.) Trisha Griffin-Carty, Dedham; 4.) Mary O’Neil, Newton; John McGuire, Roslindale; 5.) Jack and Ann Warner, Norwood; 6.) Margaret and Jeff Flagg, West Roxbury; 7.) Judge Bob and Dr. Kathleen Kelly, Milton; 8.) Tom Carty, Dedham; John McGuire, Roslindale; 9.) Connie Cassidy-Koutoujian, Waltham (standing); Edris Kelley, Marshfield (standing); Katie O’Sullivan, Hull; Sheila Gagnon, Marshfield; Cate McGrail, Belmont; Barbara Fitzgerald, Milton; 10.) John and Holly Mara, Concord; 11.) Judge Patrick King, So. Boston, Sandy Moody, So. Boston; Paul and Margo Doyle, Weymouth.

