



Ireland's Taoiseach Enda Kenny greeted students from Dorchester's Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy on Feb. 17, during a breakfast hosted by the Irish American Partnership in Boston. The Irish leader was in Boston for a two-day trip, including remarks at the John F. Kennedy Library about how Ireland and Massachusetts can build upon its strong business and cultural ties. The students, under the direction of Mary Swanton, performed a violin piece in honor of Kenny's visit.
Photo by Harry Brett

Kenny re-assures Boston: Irish know about adversity, and we'll beat this crisis

By ED FORRY
BIR PUBLISHER

Ireland held a national election last March that changed the face of government. Amidst every indication that the boom years of the "Celtic Tiger" had long since passed, the worldwide economic meltdown struck Ireland with catastrophic consequences.

High unemployment, the failures of Irish bank and other industries, and the collapse in the housing values saw the voters turn out the Fianna Fail party, in power since 1987, in favor of a new government. Fine Gael's Enda Kenny was named Taoiseach (prime minister), and his party formed a governing coalition with the Labour Party.

Within days, Kenny visited Washington for a traditional St. Patrick's Day reception at the White House. "I know now that miracles do happen, Kenny told President Obama. "The fountain is green and I've arrived in the East Room here in the White House. One week in office: enough to build the world - that's what the creator had. If we keep this up, Ireland will be great again inside a very short time."

Now almost a full year in office, an Taoiseach visited Boston in mid-February, completing a whirlwind tour that included a

speech at the Harvard Kennedy School, a reception hosted by Irish Network/Boston, a private American Ireland Fund dinner with 30 Boston business leaders, a breakfast sponsored by the Irish American Partnership, and a business luncheon at the John F. Kennedy Library.

For all that, Kenny found time to sit down with the BIR and talk about his first year in office: "We inherited an unprecedented situation in Ireland; we had to face down an enormous challenge economically, rebuild the reputation of the country, and set out in a sense of trust with the people, and say look, 'This is the plan, this is what we are going to do, here's how we're going to get out of this situation. Nobody else is going to get us out of this except ourselves.'"

Speaking in hushed, determined tones, he carried on with his theme: "When you look at the characteristics of the Irish personality, we have dealt with adversity before in the past. In the 80's for instance, interest rates were 20 percent, inflation was 16 or 17 percent, and we had two thirds of the workforce working that we have now. So what we want to do is get back to where we were in the late 90's, where Ireland was cost competitive, had a very strong export manufacturing output,

(Continued on page 14)

BC fights judge's call for more Belfast tapes from its archives

By BILL FORRY
MANAGING EDITOR

Boston College has appealed a US District Court judge's order to turn over seven additional tapes from their Belfast Project archives to British authorities, opening up a new front in a complex, year-long battle to preserve the university's pledge to keep the controversial records of IRA and Loyalists interview subjects secured - to the extent of US law - until the deaths of individual participants. The latest appeal, which will likely be heard in June, marks what could be a climactic turn in the legal struggle.

The showdown began last May when BC's Burns Library - the repository of the Belfast Project tapes - was served with its first subpoena from the US Department of Justice, acting on behalf of a then-undisclosed branch of law enforcement in the United Kingdom. It has

since been revealed that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) wants the tapes as part of its ongoing criminal investigation into the 1972 disappearance and murder of Jean McConville, a Belfast mother of 10 who was slain, allegedly by the IRA. The existence of the BC archives - which was supposed to be kept confidential - was revealed in public statements by Delours Price, one of the IRA members interviewed by the BC-funded project team in 2001.

In December, US Judge William Young - after reviewing the contents of the Price tape - ordered BC to give the materials over to the PSNI, a ruling that BC opted not to challenge. (Ed Moloney and Anthony McIntyre, two men considered the principal engineers of the Belfast Project, are fighting the Price tape's release. Their appeal to stay Young's order on the Price tape is scheduled to

be heard in April.) BC officials, however, note that Price had already broken her own agreement with the university and the Belfast Project to keep the tapes' existence confidential.

Jack Dunn, a spokesman for BC, said the university could find "no basis upon which to appeal" the Price ruling, particularly because Price had spoken out publicly in media interviews about her involvement in the McConville case. In Price's public comments about the murder, she also said that Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein, ordered the McConville murder, a charge that Adams has denied.

"[Price's] statements made her interests in upholding the secrecy of the interviews less than compelling the Court," Dunn said.

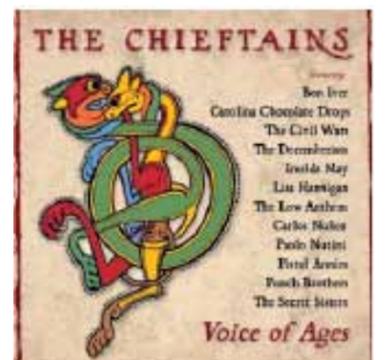
More recently, Judge Young was asked to rule on whether

(Continued on page 14)

INSIDE

- The world-renowned Chieftains have released a new CD as part of the celebration of their golden anniversary this year. Entitled "Voice of Ages" and produced by Paddy Moloney and T. Bone Burnett, it features the group teaming with, among others, stars from the worlds of indie-rock, country and Americana, and Irish and Scottish folk. See story, Page 19.

- There is plenty of holiday action, per usual, for the Saint's month. See a calendar of events and parades on Page 3. The



Arts and Entertainment section features stories on "Riverdance," "The Ivy Leaf," and Sean Smith's roundup of March musical fare. See Page 22.

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THE MAN BEHIND THE MYTHS

St. Patrick Remains an Elusive Historical Figure – But Glimpses of the Flesh-and-Blood Man Emerge Amid the Lore

Stories of Irish or Irish-American bloodlines likely trace the "Holy Trinity." St. Patrick drove the snakes from Ireland. St. Patrick employed the stone rock to expunge the Holy Trinity to the pages. Irish St. Patrick was only responsible for the conversion of Ireland to Christianity. The legends go on and on. How much, however, is true or even partly true? As a great writer once wrote, Irish St. Patrick would write: "Here lies the man."

In *St. Patrick of Ireland: A Biography* (see U.S. Books by this name), the noted religious scholar Philip Barrow writes, "Everyone has heard of St. Patrick, of course, but the man most people know is little more than an icon, who drove the snakes out of Ireland." Professor, a professor of Classics at Loyola College and an expert on Celtic civilization during the Roman era, notes, "This lack of knowledge about the real Patrick is truly regrettable, because he has such an amazing story to tell: a tale of slavery and hardship, pain and affliction, courage and conviction, struggle, but ultimately of perseverance, hope and faith."

March is especially a fitting time for St. Patrick's Day. In ancient and medieval Ireland, the month heralded as a time when harvests were in, folk and animal surpluses were, and the figure of St. Patrick has emerged as the month's very symbol of "Irishness." In the legends and facts alike surrounding the patron saint, there are many traces of Ireland's ancient Celtic culture.

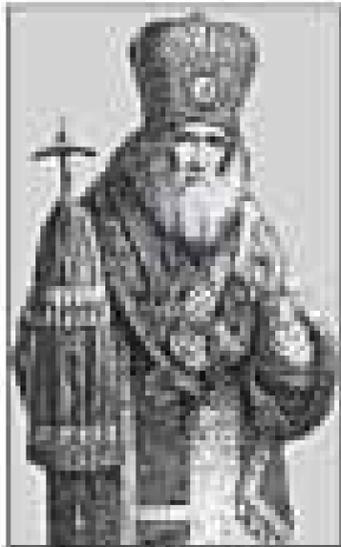
Along with religion, March was a month in which the coming of spring was especially prominent for the Irish of old. Winter may have begun to wane, but, now, the crops had to be planted with prayers and rituals designed to fend off natural disasters, the specter of starvation and crop harvests. St. Patrick, an author on Celtic history and customs, writes, "March with its lengthening days was a hard-working month for the Celts, and religious activities were spent festively. Cold, dry March winds were feared for their effect on crops, as everywhere tells us. The Celts started ploughing and sowing. The Irish brought forward the food and fertilizer, and much work for the Scots, Irish, and Welsh."

The tales also credit St. Patrick to Ireland, in 432 A.D., according to the Annals of Ulster. And while he may not be the first Christian to reach Ireland, he was the first to prove a successful missionary among the "pagans." He also had one last providential visit to the Celtic past. "Being a Celtic himself," writes Courtney Davis in *Saint Patrick – A Visual Celebration*, "he understood Celtic people. Before Patrick was ever carried off into Irish slavery, he was already an insider with the great festivals and the joyous Christian religious life as was with the Christian life."

In Irish, Patrick is not the only saint whose name graces the calendar for March. "St. Patrick's Day" is added to March 17th, and this, too, is fitting, as some four centuries after Patrick, actually born in Britain, arrived in Ireland, an Irish-born missionary named John was considered by religious villages in 1715 A.D. Ironically, the Irish word would be legend, considered a historical, when a prayer on the day of May, in the Park of Feth, was dedicated to the martyr and remained a holy



St. Patrick's Well, Struell, Co. Down, believed to have been dedicated to Christianity by the saint.



St. Patrick



An effigy of the saint at Carroneer Abbey in Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare.

This package of articles on St. Patrick was compiled and written by Peter F. Stevens of the Boston Irish Reporter staff.

site by pilgrims over the centuries, especially around March 1.

As for March's big day – the 17th – other "celebrations" occur to designate the St. Patrick's Day, green beer, parades, cross elastic dances. "Bless the Irish bottoms now, and all of them here and there, on a beautiful day, over by the granite tradition, always which Ireland's patron saint was honored. To see that the man himself would have understood strictly nothing about American-style celebrations in his name is a real historical fact. No one has become a religious symbol, but also a nationalistic one."

The following tale of love and history has been told in a variety of ways among scholars:

How Irish was St. Patrick?

Patrick was reportedly born in 389 A.D. in the Roman village of Bannavon Taberniae, in present-day Northern Ireland. The son of a Roman soldier and a Celtic woman, his first encounter with the Irish hardly proved pleasant. At the age of 16, he was kidnapped and sold into slavery in Ireland,

where he was forced to tend the sheep of Irish druiding slaves.

Four March 17th?

Unlike so much about St. Patrick's life, the answer to this one is simple: March 17 is "St. Patrick's Day" because it was reportedly the date of his death.

What was St. Patrick really like?

Much of what is known about Patrick comes from his writings, including "Confession" and his "Lectures on Christian Life." Many of the legends, misconceptions, half-truths, and other misconceptions have derived from "biographies" written in the two centuries following his death.

Thomas Kelly, author of *How the Irish Saved Christianity*, contends, "Myth (of Patrick) as part of this story looking back with a rather unflattering, and less exciting, than that of all... He was extraordinary in the way. The greatness of his heart and the thought that he had to the psychology of an alien race."

Patrick also possessed a decidedly human trait called a "copper trigger."

Celtic religion. "He [Patrick] had a temper that could flare dangerously when he perceived an injustice – not against himself but against another,

particularly against the defenseless. But he had the heart of a lion and a lion's heart that humble people often have. He saved this world and the variety of human beings – and he didn't take himself too seriously. He was, in spirit, an Irishman."

What about the snakes?

The old saw has it that St. Patrick banished the snakes – "the bane of pagans" – from Ireland forever. While it is true that Ireland has no snakes today, the ancient Greek Roman writer Strabo reported that no snakes lived in Ireland – one believed from before Patrick's birth.

What about the shamrock?

Another legend concerning St. Patrick is that of the shamrock, which he reportedly used to explain the concept of the Holy Trinity. Though the legend seems plausible, many historians feel that an accurate retelling of the tale exists. Still, even today, the shamrock is traditionally worn by Irish to honor the story of St. Patrick's employment of the three-lobed plant to illustrate the Holy Trinity in Bangor Loughlin for Loughlin.

Are Shamrocks or St. Patrick's Crosses more fitting to celebrate the saint?

The popularity of the shamrock in commemorative Patrick's Day celebrations is a long history. It has long preceded St. Patrick's Crosses to mark occasions of the legendary missionary. Brian Day writes, "Although the wearing of the shamrock has become the norm, the more thoughtful or vulgar compared with making and wearing St. Patrick's Crosses."

The degree of these crosses varied throughout Ireland, from county to county and from town to town. There were crosses made for people to wear, and others, "made of flowers, to be hung in a spot of honor in the house. In many houses, a St. Patrick's Cross was placed above the front door, and in each succeeding year, a new cross added to that of the last year."

Children fastened St. Patrick's Crosses out of paper, boys embellishing their caps with the cross, girls pinning it on their shoulders or over the heart. Throughout the north of Ireland, a St. Patrick's Cross was made on people's bookshelves, "with a prayer urging the recipient to keep faith in St. Patrick."

Are icons in the the saint or St. Patrick's Day an ancient or more modern pastime?

St. Patrick's Day offered a welcome break from the practices of Lent, as people were allowed to feast and drink. For many, the beverage of choice was Patsy Pickard's "St. Patrick's Pat."

In a tradition known as "the drawing of the straw," St. Patrick's Day was also considered their last glass of flag of Patsy Pickard, then with a shamrock on the table, placed at the draught with the straw being the straw, placed it from the straw of glass, and tossed it over the left shoulder for luck.

The Celts, St. Patrick, the shamrock – all of them and more could die to make March a month when religion and society break from the myth and mythology of Ireland's past to the present day. As for Patrick, the man, not the legend, perhaps the most important to his survival will be that and never-be-gone (though less what made Ireland's past and myth – historically speaking).

Kevin White, scion of Irish-American politics, dies at 82

Kevin Hagan White was a man of many personas – ebullient, moody, haughty, energetic, fretful, intellectual, daring, to name a few ascribed to him during his oftentimes tumultuous mayoral occupancy of Boston City Hall from 1968 through 1983.

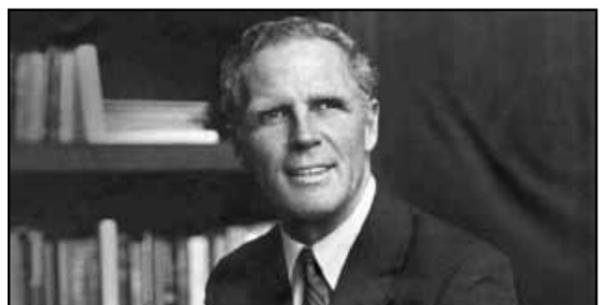
White, who died on Friday, Jan. 26, at age 82, took what his immediate predecessors, John B. Hynes and John F. Collins had begun – the rebirth of a Boston that some had come to call decrepit – and added his own imaginative flourishes as the city of the

Brahmins regained its long-held place among the nation's and the world's great cities.

But along with those flourishes came great stress and heartache, perhaps most notably the deeply felt unrest in the mid-1970s over the busing of students

across neighborhood lines under a federal judge's order aimed at ending the racial imbalance that the court had found entrenched in the city's school system.

KEVIN H. WHITE 1930-2012



A proclamation by the President

For centuries, America and Ireland have built a proud and enduring partnership cemented by mutual values and a common history. Generations of Irish have crossed the Atlantic in pursuit of prosperity, and today nearly 40 million of their proud descendants continue to make their indelible mark on the United States of America. Their stories, as varied as our Nation's people, humble us and inspire our children to reach for the opportunities dreamed about by our forebears.

Over hundreds of years, Irish men, women, and children left the homes of their ancestors, watching the coasts of Donegal and the cliffs of Dingle fade behind them. Boarding overcrowded ships and navigating dangerous seas, these resilient travelers looked to the horizon with hope in their hearts. Many left any valuables, land, or stability they had behind, but they came instead with the true treasures of their homeland – song and literature, humor and tradition, faith and family. And when they landed on our shores, they shared their gifts generously, adding immeasurable value to towns, cities, and communities throughout our Nation.

Today, we draw on the indomitable spirit of those Irish Americans whose strength helped build countless miles of canals and railroads; whose brogues echoed in mills, police stations, and fire halls across our country; and whose blood spilled to defend a Nation and a way of life they helped define. Defying famine, poverty, and discrimination, these sons and daughters of Erin demonstrated extraordinary strength and unshakable faith as they gave their all to help build an America worthy of the journey they and so many others have taken.

During Irish-American Heritage Month, we recall their legacy of hard work and perseverance, and we carry forward that singular dedication to forging a



Enda Kenny, Ireland's prime minister, presented a bowl of living shamrocks to President Obama when they met at the White House on St. Patrick's Day last March. AP photo.

more prosperous future for all Americans.

Now, therefore, I, Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2012 as Irish-American Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month by celebrating the contributions

of Irish Americans to our Nation.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-sixth.

– BARACK OBAMA

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, March 3

Co. Donegal Association's Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance – 7 p.m. at Florian Hall, Dorchester. Hot and cold buffet will be served. Music provided by Erin's Melody and there will be dancing from 7:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. There will be special appearances by the Harney Academy of Irish Step Dancers, as well as Donegal singer-songwriter Shunie Crampsey. For tickets and more information, contact JP Doherty, 617-605-9878, or Michael McCarron, 617-696-1702.

Irish Cultural Centre presents "On the Road: A Play Direct from Ireland" at 8 p.m. in Canton. Performed by Gerry Motherway, this play brings the experiences and memories of an Irish football fan to life. Tickets are \$10. Contact 781-821-8291 or cgriffin@irishculture.org. Also, Sunday at 2 p.m.

Thursday, March 8

Night of Irish Music, Laughter and Dance to Benefit Coyle Cassidy High School, 7 p.m. at McCarty Theater on the school campus. Featuring Alfie O'Shea's Irish Show Band and special appearances by Eddie Dillon and The Harney Academy of Irish Step Dancers. The Cafe will be serving Corn Beef and Cabbage beginning at 5 p.m. so come early for dinner before the show. Advance ticket purchases are encouraged, Adults \$10, seniors and children under 12 \$8. Contact Mrs. Cheeves in the President's Office at 508-823-6164, Ext 614.

The Saw Doctors at the Hanover Theatre, Worcester, 8 p.m. – The Saw Doctors return for an energy-filled concert featuring old favorites and new. Tickets are \$28-45 and may be purchased by calling 877-571-7469 or visiting thehanovertheatre.org.

Friday, March 9

Cape Cod St. Patrick's Parade Grand Marshall & Colleen Dinner, 6 p.m. Cape Cod's Irish Village will kick off Cape Cod's weekend of St. Patrick festivities. For more information call 508-362-7239.

The Saw Doctors at the House of Blues Boston, 7 p.m. Tickets are \$29.50 for standing room and \$45 for Reserved Seating and may be purchased from ticketmaster.com or at the House of Blues box office.

Celtic Women at the Citi Performing Arts Center Wang Theatre, Boston, 8 p.m. Celtic Women return to Boston for two shows, Fri., March 9 and Sat., March 10 @ 8 p.m. Tickets are \$48.75-\$78.75 and may be purchased through citicenter.org.

Irish Cultural Centre presents The Joshua Tree – Head to Canton to see the nation's premier U2 Tribute Band. The ICC pub opens at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased by calling 781-821-8291 or contacting cgriffin@irishculture.org. As last year's concert was completely sold out, advance ticket sales are strongly encouraged.

Saturday, March 10

The 7th annual Cape Cod St. Patrick's Parade – Stepping off at 11 a.m. on Route 28 (at School Street) in Dennis and proceed over the Bass River Bridge into Yarmouth, ending at Forest Road. This year's event,

themed "The Arts of Ireland," will feature marching bands from all over New England, as well as colorful floats, antique cars, and many other attractions.

Irish Cultural Centre Chef Seamus Healy will demonstrate the cooking of corned beef and cabbage, 12 p.m., in Canton. Seamus provides the perfect ingredients to season this most popular Irish dish. Following the demonstration, you will enjoy a corned beef and cabbage lunch! Tickets are \$35 for ICC members and \$40 for the general public. Contact 781-821-8291 or cgriffin@irishculture.org

A historical presentation on St. Patrick will be held at the Centre at 7 p.m. The evening includes a lecture hosted by Seamus Mulligan, a meal, and a viewing of the film *St. Patrick: The Irish Legend*. Tickets are \$25 for Irish Cultural Center members and \$30 for general admission. For additional information call 781-821-8291 or contact cgriffin@irishculture.org (This event was postponed from Feb 10.)

Sunday, March 11

County Roscommon Association of Boston St. Patrick's Banquet. – 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Elks Hall, Spring and Morrell streets, West Roxbury. Corned beef and cabbage catered meal, entertainment by Andy Healy Showband. \$35 per person. Tickets: Richie Gormley, president, 617-323-0860.

Wednesday, March 14

The Chieftains – In concert at Boston Symphony Hall. Annual St. Patrick's Day show. Tickets are \$47-\$75. Call 617-482-6661.

Friday, March 16

The annual Irish American Partnership St. Patrick's Breakfast – 8 a.m. at the Boston Harbor Hotel, Rows Wharf, Boston.

Irish Network Boston St. Patrick's Day Party - 6 to 9 p.m. at the Moakley Federal Courthouse. Tickets \$35 for members, memberships available AT tinyurl.com/83duowk

Head to the Irish Cultural Centre the night before St. Patrick's Day and enjoy an evening of traditional music and set dancing. Music will be provided by Carraroe, who specialize in lively jigs and reels and also by Dan Hallissey. Irish dancers will be performing throughout the night. The ICC pub opens at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the door only. 781-821-8291.

Saturday, March 17

The Saint's Day at the Irish Cultural Centre – Begins at 10 a.m. with breakfast and pints along with a viewing of *The All-Ireland Final Highlights from 1947-1959*. Corned beef and cabbage luncheon available at noon. Music provided by John Kearney and Friends from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. In the evening, Amy Basse and Friends will perform. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased by contacting 781-821-8291 or cgriffin@irishculture.org. Anyone who renews or joins the ICC by March 17th will be entered into a drawing to win a trip to Ireland.

Charitable Irish 275th Anniversary Dinner - 6 p.m. reception, 7 p.m. dinner, Oval Room, Fairmount



Martin Sheen plays a 1950s Tipperary priest in Thaddeus O'Sullivan's "Stella Days," an Irish-made film that opens the 13th Annual Irish Film Festival Boston this month. The Festival first night is set for Harvard Square's Brattle Theatre on Thurs., March 22. Other films will be screened at the Somerville Theater in Davis Square from Fri., March 23 to Sun., March 25. BIR Publisher Ed Forry writes about this year's impressive line-up in *Publisher's Notes*, Page 6.

Copley Plaza Hotel. Tickets \$175, contact klkassa@yahoo.com or call 508-655-8430

Cranston R.I. 14th Anniversary St. Patrick's Celebration – 2:30 p.m. thru 11 p.m., Rhodes on the Pawtuxet, Cranston. Featuring the New York Irish Show Band with Tommy Flynn, The Garde Band, Step Dancers, John Connors & the Irish Express, Adm \$10, children free, to benefit St. Michael's Ministries for the Poor

Sunday, March 18

Boston's St. Patrick's/Evacuation Day parade, 1 p.m. – Boston's traditional St. Patrick's/Evacuation Day parade steps off through the streets of South Boston, from Broadway at Dorchester Avenue.

Thursday, March 22

13th Annual Irish Film Festival - opening night at Brattle Theatre, Fri-Sun March 23-25 at Somerville Theatre, showcasing an award-winning lineup of thirty Irish feature films, shorts and documentaries that celebrate the very best of Ireland and the Irish on screen - past, present and future. Tickets \$10 per performance, irishfilmfestival.com

Sunday, March 25

Celtic Crossroads come to Worcester for a show at the Hanover Theatre filled with their signature youthful energy and dazzling musicianship, 8 p.m. Tickets are \$29-\$39 and may be purchased by calling 877-571-7469 or visiting thehanovertheatre.org

Sunday, April 22

Irish Hearts for Haiti, a benefit fundraiser now in its third year, will take place at the Marriott Hotel in Quincy, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. There will be live performances from various musical artists.

BIR Profile

For Matthew Power, risk is often its own reward

BY GREG O'BRIEN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Matthew Power is a study in risk and redemption. The 49-year-old Boston insurance man — he is executive vice president of Lexington Insurance Company, the nation's premier excess and surplus carrier — has been well acquainted with the concept since his days as a youth on the streets of West Roxbury during Boston's bruising busing crisis.

Those who have followed Power's career say he knows a good risk when he sees one — whether it's insurance policy protection for invasive surgical devices, for earthquakes, or for the storm of the century. "We live in a world of risk," he says in an interview recently in his downtown office on the 18th floor of 100 Summer Street in Boston. "Recognizing the imbedded opportunity often inherent in risk is the basis for innovation and growth."

Speaking in his aerie office above Boston, Power talked briefly about his growing up days in West Roxbury during days of trouble for the city, his neighborhood, and himself. "When the crisis took hold, West Roxbury, like many neighborhoods, was severely impacted." As was Power himself. "In truth, the students were the sacrificial lambs of the busing crisis, as education was overshadowed by the turmoil and constant protesting that went on across the city."

Power, a man with close family ties to Limerick, declines to amplify on the impact on him of that tumultuous period, only to say that he bounced around four high schools, then dropped in and out of college before graduating in 1989 from The University of Massachusetts.

Despite the challenges, Power showed academic promise along the way. A voracious reader from adolescence and intellectually curious, he consumed Dostoyevsky, Hesse, and, particularly, Shakespeare, "who," he says, "spoke to me of every aspect of life, love, success, and failure."

Those Shakespearean lessons about life and love came into fruitful reality when in his early '20s he was introduced to a stunning beauty named Margaret Callinan, who had emigrated from Limerick, the birthplace of his paternal grandparents. Margaret — traveling to Boston with Power's Limerick cousin, joined the nursing staff at Brigham & Women's Hospital.

"I can remember the first moment I saw her," says Power. "It was lights out for me. She was beautiful, intelligent, and extremely well grounded. I knew right away that I wanted to spend the rest of my life with her. Looking back, I may have been somewhat of a tough sell for her! Margaret took some convincing."

He and Margaret were married 22 years ago. They have two daughters, Caitlin, 16, and Samantha, 14, and live in West Roxbury on the same block where Matthew grew up, a stunning transition from his life in the neighborhood almost 40 years ago.

One of five boys growing up in a neighborhood in St. Theresa's parish, where practically every father was either a cop or a politician, Power describes his childhood as a mix of thrill and anxiety given the society around him. The Power household, with a dominant father, was patriarchal, but Catherine (Crehan), with ties to Cork, held sway as mother and homemaker, even if she often felt as if she were herding cats. "She had to manage a good deal of chaos with five boys and their cadre of friends and cousins. Lots of scraped knees, black eyes, and calls from teachers," says her son.

In many ways, Matthew is the image of his father, a man personified by his



Matthew and Margaret Power have settled in West Roxbury with their two daughters, Caitlin, 16, and Samantha, 14. Photo by Bill Brett

work ethic and entrepreneurial spirit. "He was entrepreneurial and very much a risk taker. He had an incredible work ethic. Still, for my Dad, his family and his faith came first."

Once settled back in his old neighborhood, Power began the process of raising a family and building his career. "I am proud of the fact that I stayed in the neighborhood, to make a difference here, to make West Roxbury a better place," he says, having most recently led a fundraising effort among his colleagues in Boston's Financial District, which raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in support to build a new YMCA facility on Centre Street.

Despite increasing personal and professional success, Power carried with him a self-inflicted diffidence over his often-interrupted high school and college education. It bothered me tremendously," he says, noting he was surrounded in business by academic world beaters. "I felt as though I had let myself down during those years in terms of academic focus."

Academic redemption would come for him came at the in the halls of Harvard Business School where he was accepted into the prestigious postgraduate General Management Program in 2005. He would emerge from that experience with a new perspective on leadership, and a newfound confidence in his ability to perform at a very high level.

Born again academically, Power maximized his innate street sense and integrated it into his business sense, which by then had taken him from the Liberty Mutual and Kemper insurance companies, where he began his career, to the high rungs at insurance giant AIG,

which he joined in 1993 as National Accounts Regional Director. In 2000, he was promoted to Northeast Regional Vice President, and two years later, he was named executive vice president of AIG's Domestic Brokerage Group, with responsibilities for the East Coast and Canada, or about \$7 billion worth of business.

In 2006, Power was named president of Risk Specialists Companies, Inc, a Chartis US subsidiary. That same year, he also took on his position at Lexington Insurance, under the AIG umbrella. The Risk Specialists Companies provide direct, local access to Lexington Insurance's range of property, casualty and specialty insurance products and services.

Throughout the years, Power was the beneficiary of a world class insurance education as part of an organization led by AIG CEO Maurice (Hank) Hank Greenberg, a legendary executive. "Mr. Greenberg believed in placing young talented people into the deepest end of the corporate pool where they would quickly learn to sink or swim," he says in appreciation of having the option of drowning. "The company created a culture to thrive." Power clearly did well in his lessons. "I had learned some valuable survival skills growing up as a young man in Boston," he adds. "You can't underestimate the value of those tough lessons in life or in business."

In the insurance business, risk is measured, says Power. "To win requires a willingness to take risk and the confidence in your own decision-making ability." In short, the foresight to price risk correctly, an instinct for good communication, and the vision to lead. "And

you better lead in a way that respects people," adds Power. "You have to care about the people you're charged with leading if you want them to follow. Poor leaders attempt to manage through intimidation. There's a big difference between management and leadership. True leadership requires vision, character, and compassion for others."

Power and Margaret, still a nurse at Brigham and Women's, remain loyal to Ireland, visiting once a year to catch up with Limerick friends and relatives. "We want to make sure our children have an appreciation of their mother's background. It is an important part of their heritage." It is an enduring spirit with Matthew Power, as well. He is involved in Irish causes, chief among them the American Ireland Fund, a philanthropic network that supports worthy ventures of peace and reconciliation, and arts culture and education throughout Ireland.

"Ireland has undergone enormous change over the past 30 years, says Power. "Infrastructure improvements that have taken place over the last decade have improved accessibility and the ability to move people and products throughout the country. The financial crisis has clearly taken its toll on many of the island's social constructs. The Irish healthcare system, in particular, has suffered from immense stress and lack of available public funding."

During last month's visit to Boston, Irish prime minister Enda Kenny was the guest of honor at a private dinner at Boston's Four Seasons Hotel hosted by the Ireland Fund. About 30 of Boston's leading business executives attended, and Power was among them. "It is incumbent upon people who have done well," he says, "to remember where they came from and support those things that can make a difference in people's lives."

Power also serves on the boards of the New England Council and the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, and sits on the Dean's Advisory Board at the University of Massachusetts College of Management. He previously served on the boards of the Greater Boston YMCA and HopeFound.

Power clearly hasn't forgotten where he came from — his roots and the stops along the way to 2012. His office walls and shelves are adorned with images underscoring a busy, successful life, pictures of him with Hilary Clinton, Ted Kennedy, John Kerry, Tom Menino, and Scott Brown. He is an avid New England Patriots fan, and his office shows it with team memorabilia like a signed Tom Brady jersey to framed photos of Adam Vinatieri and Tedy Bruschi.

"To have had all these experiences in my career and in my life, given the challenges I faced as a young man, I am truly blessed," he says today. "What I've learned," he says, "is that you have to constantly challenge yourself and welcome opportunities to get outside of your comfort zone in order to grow and be successful."

Matthew Power's life today is testimony to the fact that one can survive risk with faith, savvy, and endurance to become a sure bet on those actuarial charts.

Greg O'Brien is president of Stony Brook Group, a publishing and political/communications strategy firm based on Cape Cod. The author/editor of several books, he writes for various regional and national publications, and is a regular contributor to the Boston Irish Reporter. Fittingly, he wrote this profile on a train from Dublin to Belfast on a recent trip to Ireland.

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Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By **BILL O'DONNELL**

Irish-Based Charity Is Scammed—The Chernobyl Children International charity founded and run out of Ireland by humanitarian **Adi Roche** is one of the most admired and successful efforts of its kind anywhere in the world. Since its founding in 1991 following the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in Ukraine, the nonprofit CCI has raised and spent over \$120 million to provide free medical, social, and rehabilitative services to thousands of young victims in Chernobyl. It is far and away the favorite charity of Ireland and of the Irish people, who have sustained CCI's two decades of giving even as their tiny nation dealt with its own economic crisis. CCI has been accredited by the United Nations and won scores of awards for its work over the past twenty years.



Bill O'Donnell

Proving the adage that “no good deed goes unpunished,” there are several bogus organizations that have, mostly via the internet, used the good works of

the Ireland-based CCI to scam (steal is not too harsh a description) unsuspecting people into donating money to several newly developed phony charities of a similar name, and who claim, falsely, to be helping the young of Chernobyl.

The most notorious scam calls itself “Chernobyl Children Charity” and has been identified as criminally fraudulent, stealing from the CCI Irish charity's website, and providing very little if any aid to Chernobyl or to anywhere else. The key is in the name. The largest of the fake charities calls itself Chernobyl Children Charity but the Adi Roche-led Irish-based charity with a 20-year solid history of delivering the goods is named the Chernobyl Children International.

The legitimate, widely honored CCI has the word “International” trademarked as an integral part of its name, not to be confused with the shameful scam operation run by a couple of parasitic Ukrainians. If in doubt here or in Ireland, know to whom you are giving, and remember: the internet giveth and it taketh.

Parades On Tap For St. Patrick's Celebrations—Some of the area parades come early, most happen on the St. Pat's weekend, and a couple come a week later. Here, courtesy of the Boston Irish Tourism Association, are some parades scheduled in New England and beyond:

Saturday morning, **March 10**—Yarmouth on the Cape; Sunday, **March 11**—Worcester at noon.; Sunday, **March 18**—Holyoke at noon; Boston, Abington, and Scituate, 1 p.m.; Sunday, **March 25**—Manchester, NH, at noon. In Ireland, Dublin's famed parade begins at noon on **March 17**, St. Patrick's Day.

Another Good Idea From John Cullinane—That inventive laboratory in **John Cullinane's** fertile brain has come up with yet another solid idea, this one aimed directly at the creation of jobs here and in Ireland, a goal sorely in need of a creative bounce. John, the Cambridge-based philanthropist and entrepreneur with a special regard for Ireland, has created an “Entrepreneurial Portal” that is designed to help young entrepreneurs succeed “anywhere in the world.”

The portal's comprehensive approach coincides with a recent separate but congenial initiative by the Irish government geared to draw overseas entrepreneurs to Ireland.

Cullinane believes strongly that only entrepreneurs can create the private sector jobs that are the key to America's future. And Ireland, with its 14 percent unemployment, would certainly benefit by that approach. Cullinane, who founded Cullinet, the first software products company valued at a billion dollars, and who has been active in creating inward investment in Ireland, has some innovative ideas in his Portal for prospective entrepreneurs that include: free online access to the experience of Cullinane and other successful entrepreneurs; problem-solving from proven leaders; links to the universe of successful entrepreneurs, organizations and other valuable contacts; and unique opportunities for emerging entrepreneurs to share experience and access advice.

Taoiseach Impresses Boston Community—Enda Kenny, a longtime Fine Gael bridesmaid and Taoiseach in waiting, has, along with his Labour Party cohorts, finally grasped the reins of the post-Fianna Fail Party salvage operation. Coming into government a year ago, Kenny had little need to play big. It was enough in those early days to simply not to be Fianna Fail.

However, more and more, Kenny has been making new friends in a difficult economic climate at home and in his straight-from-the-shoulder dealings with the European Union. This was reinforced in his mid-February visit to Boston and earlier to New York where the word on the street was that he impressed many of the Hub's heavyweights with his ease and command of the issues. One close observer who was in attendance at more than one of Kenny's appearances heard to say that Ireland was being run by some first-class people.

The taoiseach, leading Ireland next year into its EU presidency, also had some words of advice for the Union and the European Central Bank. He told his Boston

audience that Ireland would seek to move Europe beyond austerity and cutbacks with renewed emphasis on economic growth. Kenny said that the ECB would need to ease off stringent policies and take a “fuller role” in finding answers to the Eurozone debt crisis. He concluded with his key theme, “reasserting Ireland's place in the world.” All in all a very impressive message indeed from a confident leader in full stride.

Corrib Gas Pipeline Boon To Irish—The Irish equivalent of Boston's Big Dig in terms of controversy has finally settled down and additional funding to complete the pipeline has been agreed to. The completion of the pipeline begun eight years ago is set for late 2014. The project, centered in northwest Mayo, has been the subject of almost continuing debate and delays but it will, experts say, create over 1,500 jobs on site and indirectly. The additional funding by Shell E&P Ireland to finish the project is roughly \$1.1 billion. The big news that comes with the agreement on continued funding is the fact that Ireland will be significantly more independent and (this is called burying the lead) the pipeline will supply 60 percent of Ireland's present and future gas needs. Wow.

NOTABLE QUOTE

“An Ireland that ensures older people are not marginalized by ageist attitudes, and that respects the young and combines wisdom and energy, is a rich society.”

— **President Michael D. Higgins**

Embassy Closing Attracts New Critics—One of the icons of Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs, **Sean Donlon**, has added fuel to the fire with a critical broadside against the closing of Ireland's Vatican Embassy. A former ambassador to the U.S., Donlon, now retired, said the breakdown in relations between Ireland and the Holy See related to the clerical abuse scandal made the diplomatic mission more rather than less important.

Donlon said that Taoiseach Kenny's very public blast at the Vatican “had probably been a good thing, because it shook up people at the Holy See” But he added that it was now time to begin the process of “normalizing the relationship.” Although some years have passed since Donlon was in government, he continues to offer a well-respected voice that his former peers listen to.

Donlon rejected the government's contention that the embassy in Rome was too costly to operate. He recalled there was a precedent in place not to allow other countries to cover Irish diplomatic missions, but agreed that it might be possible to operate both Irish missions out of the same building.

Ireland's Councils Need Spending Restraints—Apparently immune or uncaring about harsh warnings from the Dublin government about county and town council spending, the local governing authorities continue over-spending as if the Celtic Tiger were still prancing about.

The lads (still weak on gender equality) on various council bodies that were under orders to reduce costs and borrowing at the outset of the financial crisis have resorted to overdrafts and bank loans to meet everyday expenses. Auditors are troubled by the finances of three authorities, Sligo, Mayo, and Donegal. And the vast majority, 18 of 24, are running a deficit or are overdrawn.

The situation country-wide is dire. Because of its own deficit, the Dublin government has cut the council funding by a third. One result: The Galway City Council has 32 staff members who are owed more than a year's paid annual leave; council salaries continue to increase regardless of ability to secure funding; and council contracts worth millions are being awarded without formal tendering. Maybe they might go the bankruptcy route of Harrisburg, PA, or Central Falls, RI. Who knows, but someone should tell them that the Tiger is sleeping.

Former Carmel Mayor Gives USA a Pep Talk—I thought the Super Bowl ad segments were mostly pedestrian. Nothing much to skip a beer for. Or at least they were until the former mayor of Carmel, CA, came on before his 100 million plus audience to say a few words about Chrysler, and a few more words about the state of the state. It was magic, especially if you can't quite digest that **Barack Obama** is responsible for **Jimmy Hoffa's** absence, the two most recent Patriots' Super Bowl debunkings, and **Elvis's** departure from the house.

I thought the U.S. taxpayers' bailout of the American auto industry (sans Ford) was a no-brainer. You don't kill America's signature industry and its jobs while pouring billions into greedy rogue banking and investment emporia like Goldman Sachs, AIG, et alia, and take companies that actually make things off life support. At least not in the real world. Even **Tim Geithner** knows that. Thanks, President Obama, while we're at it, for the job on **Osama Bin Laden**.

Another Long Knife Out For Gerry Adams—The Boston College/British police dust-up over Dail Deputy **Gerry Adams** added another hardscrabble player with a grudge to the lingering drama that seeks to demobilize the Sinn Fein party leader for distant sins. As described by **Eamonn McCann**, one of my favorite journalists/activists, in a Counterpunch newspaper article, **Nicholas Baxter**, a former Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) detective chief superintendent who is possessed of a fierce, unrelenting hatred of Adams, deserves a piece of the credit for the British demand for BC's oral histories regarding the abduction and death of **Jean McConville** in 1972. Keep in mind the British never picked up a phone or lifted a

finger to investigate her death for thirty years before the BC subpoena.

Baxter, now a “security consultant” for New Century with a Pentagon contract to train the new Afghan police force, believes that the RUC has been emasculated and the terrorists (yes, like brother Adams) are winning the post-war war. In a Belfast Newsletter article on March 10, 2010, Baxter urged the RUC's successor, the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), to launch a new investigation in the Sinn Fein leader's alleged role in the death of McConville, the mother of ten. He has continued to campaign in unionist/loyalists' publications and other outlets with Adams as his target.

With his long ties as chief liaison between the police and MI5 in the North, Baxter has wide contacts and is held in high repute by both police and military. Harboring the hate he has for Adams has been a personal campaign of destruction focused on having charges being brought against Adams.

The pursuit of Adams and others, Eamonn McCann believes, is seen by Baxter and his colleagues as unfinished business.

And with the BC/British police imbroglio due for some resolution this month, it seems rather probable that Baxter and his police allies — and maybe MI5 thrown in for good measure — will get their wish to get Gerry Adams into a Northern Ireland criminal courtroom some day.

Not To Be Overlooked—The vice president of China and the soon-to-be next leader of China, **Xi Jinping**, recently spent three full days in Ireland meeting with top government officials and Irish business leaders. The Chinese vice president arrived in Ireland directly from the US and his Irish visit was his only stop in a European country. This could be a super significant event in the relations of the two countries. Vastly increased trade relations, even a long term partnership, appear to be the order of the day. Currently China only accounts for a scant three percent of Irish exports, but the red carpet treatment of Xi Jinping could radically change that.

RANDOM CLIPPINGS

Heroes are in short supply these days, or more likely we just don't know about them. But my candidate for Hero Status is **John Glenn**, Marine, test pilot, astronaut, US senator, an Ohio boy who did it all and never bragged on it. ... Irish folk legend **Tommy Makem** has been nominated to the Irish American Heritage Center Hall of Fame in Chicago. What took them so long? ... **John Walker Lindh**, the American Taliban who took up arms against the US, could soon be paroled. He plans to seek Irish citizenship !!! ... From late June through July 8 the place to be is Galway for the Volvo Ocean Race which will turn the county upside down during its two-week stopover. ... Save your pennies: Peter's Pence just went up as Italy is looking for taxes from the Vatican of almost a billion dollars. ... I guess I am old-fashioned. Until now I had never heard of a bank charging a fee to close an account. ... Royal Bank of Scotland had a terrible 2011, with stock price and income down, but CEO **Steve Hester** still wanted his \$1.5 million “bonus.”

Globe columnist and basketball guru **Bob Ryan** is retiring after the Olympics; a solid, steady journalist. ... Isn't Dr. Bill O'Connell one of the best assets we have, and he continues working to honor the Irish in unmarked graves on Deer Island. Good man, Bill. ... **Joe Kennedy III** looks a bit young for Congress, but father **Joe** of Citizen Oil wouldn't have sent him out if he didn't think he was ready. ... If the Republic ponies up its share, the work can begin on A5, the road between Derry/Down to Dublin that is overdue and needed. ... I didn't see or hear either Gerry or **Martin McGuinness** saying it but kudos to Sinn Fein's **Pat Doherty** for telling the world that the IRA campaign was a “massive injustice” to victims.

US House Republicans called a congressional hearing on contraception and women's health and all the witnesses were male. Is anybody left in the GOP to be ashamed? ... MSNBC, especially in the early mornings, is a channel I watch but never with the sound on when prime-time bigot and nativist **Pat Buchanan** is uttering his bilge. The cable station said “bye, bye” to him. Pat, don't let the door knob catch you on the way out. ... When you see the name “Numbers USA,” check your landscapers. They have mobilized to defeat the **Scott Brown** proposal to allow 10,500 visas for the Irish same as we do for the Aussies. ... As I write this, Galway's regional airport may already have closed. It faces liquidation and has lost its government subsidy. ... **Nancy Brennan** of the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway lost her way when asked to produce pay records for herself and other top staffers, but my goodness, it's not a capital crime. Cut them some slack and move on. Nancy forgot the Greenway is partially public funded. She won't forget again. ... Famed runner **Eamonn Coghlan** doesn't race anymore. Today he's a Fine Gael senator and was at the NY Athletic Club fundraiser last month for his charity, the Children's Medical & Research Foundation at Crumlin Hospital in Ireland. On occasions I would see him in Boston, usually alongside the late and much missed sports columnist and author **George Kimball**. ... **Kevin White** was a gift to Boston. He was smart enough to build on **Mayor John Collins's** urban ideas and vision and he had a great eye for talent in assembling one of the sharpest cadre of top staffers ever to patrol city hall.

To one and all: have a healthy and happy St. Patrick's Day and hope for better days there and here.

Publisher's Notebook

Coming attraction: The Irish Film Festival

By ED FORRY

An Academy Award-winning short film made in Northern Ireland, a new feature film made in County Tip starring American favorite Martin Sheen and supporting actor Stephen Rea, and a documentary about Barack Obama's Irish cousins and his mother's roots in Moneygall, Co. Offaly, are among the lead attractions at this month's annual Irish Film Festival, Boston.

An array of thirty Irish feature films, shorts, and documentaries will be screened over four days (March 22-25) under the banner of the festival, which return for its 13th year at two venues: opening night, March 22, at the Brattle Theatre in Harvard Square, and for three days at the Somerville Theatre in Davis Square over the weekend of March 23-25.

The opening night features Thaddeus O'Sullivan's "Stella Days," selected as this year's Directors Choice award recipient. The film features Sheen as a "misfit parish priest" in a small rural town in Tipperary in the mid-1950s. Also starring is Rea, best remembered for his Oscar-nominated role in "The Crying Game." Rea is expected to attend



Ed Forry

on opening night.

Following the Thursday events, the venue moves to Somerville, and there's great anticipation over the first Boston screening that night of the Academy Award-winning short film "The Shore." Viewers of last month's Oscars telecast will recall the emotional moments when writer/producer Terry George and his daughter, co-producer Oorlagh George, came to the stage to receive the Oscar for best love action short film.

Filmed on location in Killough, Northern Ireland, the movie was underwritten by funding from Northern Ireland Screen, a private agency funded by Invest Northern Ireland.

"Our little film was inspired by the people of Northern Ireland, Protestant and Catholic, who, after 30 years of war, sat down, negotiated a peace, and proved to the world that the Irish are great talkers. I want to dedicate this to them," Terry George said as he accepted the award. "This is about reconciliation in Northern Ireland. It is really close to my heart." George had been nominated previously for two Academy Awards for his screenplay work in "Hotel Rwanda" and "In the Name of the Father."

Among other films to be shown at the festival are: the black comedy "Behold the Lamb from Northern Ireland," with director John McIllduff and actress Aoife Duffin in attendance for their US Premiere; documentaries and Irish Film and Television Academy awardee "Bernedette: Notes on a Political Journey"; "Ballymum Lullaby," with director Frank Berry in attendance.

President Obama's Irish cousin, Henry Healy, is expected to attend the screening of his film, "The Road to Moneygall," detailing how Healy found out he was a distant cousin of the US president, and chronicling Obama's visit to Offaly last spring.

On Sunday, films include "Dreaming of the Quiet Man," a piece that acknowledges the 60th anniversary of "The Quiet Man," by exploring director John Ford's struggle to highlight his homage to Ireland, his parents' place of birth. Written and directed by Sé Merry Doyle, the film features contributions from commentators and film makers including Peter Bogdanovich, Martin Scorsese, Jim Sheridan, and, exclusively, Maureen O'Hara. Also on Sunday, an encore of "The Quiet Man," which is rarely seen on the big screen will be shown.

"There's nothing 'unlucky' about this, our 13th annual Festival," Dawn Morrissey, festival co-director, said in a news release. "Momentum is building around the strength of our line-up and it is an honor to be the first port-of-call when it comes to premiering Irish film in America. For a complete schedule of screenings, and to purchase tickets, go online to irishfilmfestival.com.

Ian Paisley, deathly ill at 85, did much harm; but healing has begun

By JOE LEARY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

One of Northern Ireland's most fearful sectarian agitators is coming to the end of his life at the age of 85. Ian Paisley, minister, politician, bigot, and one-time leader of anti-Catholic sentiment in its most virulent forms, lies in a Belfast hospital with an ailing heart and other undisclosed medical problems, and with his family gathered around him, waiting.



Joe Leary

Good riddance many would say, for Paisley, a presence everywhere he traveled with his broad shoulders and volcanic voice, never contributed to peace and understanding of any kind until he surprisingly appeared to mellow late in his life.

He was born in April 1926, four years after Northern Ireland was partitioned from the rest of Ireland, into a Baptist minister's family in Ballymena. This was a time when anti-Catholicism was very popular in the North (some say it still is amongst certain groups). The ruling Protestant aristocracy refused to give Catholics jobs and young Protestant families received first housing preference across all of the North. And with the approval of their legislature in Belfast, Protestant leaders systematically gerrymandered political constituencies to deny Catholic voting influence. In 1968, for example, Derry, with its 20,000 Catholics and 10,000 Protestants, was divided so that all the Catholics were lumped into one district, leaving the Protestants as the majority in the two other districts, which enabled them to vote for 12 city councillors in their two districts while the Catholics could only cast ballots for 8 councillors in theirs. It should come as no surprise that Protestants ruled Derry until recently.

This was the general atmosphere in the North as Paisley reached adulthood. The future was to be even more radical.

Not only was Paisley a formidable physical presence, but he also proved to be quite intelligent, crafting his speeches and various press comments to please or annoy as he wished. Some of his more outrageous comments were constructed to appeal to his followers and to draw attention to himself.

In 1946, at age 20, he became minister of the East Belfast Ravenhill Evangelical Mission. Evidence of his training for this duty is somewhat obscure, but there he was. Five years later, he founded the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster, saying at the time that he had become disenchanted with the main Presbyterian Church and accusing them of "creeping towards Romanism."

In 1958, Paisley denounced the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret for "committing spiritual fornication and adultery with the Anti-Christ," when they visited Pope John XXIII in Rome. In 1963, when Pope John died, Paisley offered these statements: "The Pope is now in Hell," and "The Romish man of sin is now in Hell."

Some 25 years later, in 1988, when Pope John Paul II was speaking to the European Parliament, to which the people of Northern Ireland had elected Paisley, he stood during the speech and yelled, "He is the Anti-Christ," earning him a suspension from that body.

IAN PAISLEY:
Bigot with bluster

Was the man stupid, just playing to his crowd, or was he, simply, a bigot?

I saw Paisley in the London airport one day during my travels. While I was walking to my gate, I saw the corridor ahead of me blocked by the police, and in short order there was Paisley, bustling along with an aide, the two of them protected by a pair of burly police officers, each carrying a machine gun. Was there a real threat, or did he just enjoy the attention? It all seemed quite unnecessary.

I also met the man twice on trips to Belfast. The first time was in 1994 while I was at the American consul general's home with a group of my organization's supporters. Paisley came bursting into the house, exclaiming in his booming voice, "I'm not speaking; you can ask questions; who's in charge here?" I stepped up somewhat timidly and said, "That's me, Reverend Paisley. These folks have come 3,000 miles to hear you. Would you consider speaking for five minutes and I'll ask the first question?"

He looked at me, a twinkle in his eye, and said, "You have done this before haven't you, Leary?" In his talk, he blamed all the violence and unrest on the IRA. In every answer to questions, he managed to make it seem that the IRA was the only bad side in the North. After the discussion period, I walked out with him, and noting the rain, I asked with a grin: "Do you blame the IRA for the rain, too?" Loudly, and with his own grin, he replied: "Absolutely!"

Humor from a monster?

The other time I met the minister was on a trip to Northern Ireland with former Massachusetts Governor William Weld. We were on our way into The Malone House for a dinner with Northern Irish officials, and as I walked in well behind all the officials accompanying the governor, who greeted me but Paisley himself. He was his same loud self, and I'm sure he didn't recognize me from our first meeting.

After the speeches and the meal, a British reporter came up to me thinking I was a friend of Paisley's and asked me if she could speak to him. I went over to him and made the request on her behalf. He was seated at the end of his table and grabbed my arm and said, "Sure, but you sit right next to me."

The reporter asked several inane questions with Paisley providing completely slanted answers. He eventually got bored, declaring the interview over while holding my arm again to keep me there as he dismissed the reporter. "How did I do?" he asked. I took a deep breath and replied with a slight grin, "Sir, you are a complete fraud." With that he slammed his hands on the table, and began to laugh (they were more like guffaws, I would say) as he slapped me on the back and continued to enjoy himself until someone interrupted.

So Ian Paisley had a sense of humor. How do these stories fit with the rest of his tyrannical image? He did a lot of harm during his life. He will be gone soon and the hurts have begun to heal.

Of the Church and contraception

By JAMES W. DOLAN
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

The Catholic Church's stance on contraceptive birth control is wrong and as a result is largely ignored by practicing Catholics.



James W. Dolan

There are two realistic methods to limit the size of families – now a matter of necessity not just for health concerns but also for family and economic stability: contraception and abortion. To suggest the two are the same is nonsense.

Contraception is a means to prevent conception. Abortion is the termination of a fetus. Since no one can say with absolute certainty when human life

begins, the Church is correct in condemning that practice. The fetus – be it a person or a potential person (a life-in-waiting) – is entitled to the benefit of the doubt.

Family planning is now a fact of life for reasons that are self-evident. By treating contraception and abortion alike, the church undermines its position on abortion. Is the act of preventing life the same as taking life? A huge majority of Catholics and, I daresay, most priests see the distinction. Most Catholics understand that having more children than you can nurture and support is wrong. That is why one rarely hears a sermon on responsible parenting as it relates to contraception. A married clergy would better understand this dilemma.

The bishops would lose the current argument if it was focused on the issue of contraception, so they have made it a freedom of religion issue. To maintain that sexual relations not "open" to procreation is somehow evil is misguided in two respects: (1) It makes family planning a game of Russian roulette, and (2) It suggests that sex for its own sake within a loving, spousal relationship is sinful.

I was born, bred, educated, and will die within the Catholic Church. For me, it best explains God's relationship to man. The doctrine of original sin helps me understand human nature's obvious flaws. The Church is not immune from these weaknesses, so evident in ourselves and our institutions.

The child sex abuse scandal is only the most recent example of human beings within the church at all levels failing to act responsibly. Even good and sincere persons are afflicted with human frailty. They can be wrong, and in the case of artificial contraception, I believe they are.

Faith is the affirmation of hope. It is the act of believing in things that cannot be proved – that are beyond our capacity to reason. On such matters, I submit to the authority and teachings of the Church. There are also issues, like contraception, that most view as capable of analysis. When a doctrine defies reason, and a majority of Catholics conscientiously believe it is misguided, the Church hierarchy should reassess its position.

Unfortunately, that is something the Church has been reluctant to do for fear its authority would be undermined. Fearing scandal, the hierarchy sometimes overlooks its own humanity. Perhaps there is a lesson to be drawn from Saint Peter's denial of Christ three times before the crucifixion. Despite this manifest weakness, Christ made him the first pope.

Insurance coverage for contraceptive services is a thin reed upon which to base a religious freedom challenge but, given the uproar in an election year, the White House has come up with a compromise.

This "victory" should not be viewed as a validation of the Church's teaching on artificial contraception. Sometimes it's how you frame the issue, and not its substance, that determines the outcome.

James W. Dolan is a retired Dorchester District Court judge who now practices law.



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POINT OF VIEW / PETER F. STEVENS

Brown's immigration stance on shaky ground

His GOP colleagues hold key to fate of E3 visa bill in Senate

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

It came as no surprise that on Taoiseach Enda Kenny's recent swing through Boston, he met with a politician named Kennedy. In this case it was the new Kennedy on the political block, Joseph P. Kennedy III, who is running for Congress. It used to be that all things Irish in these parts and in Washington, D.C., ran through Senator Ted Kennedy, but in a clear sign of just how much politics in Massachusetts and across the country have shifted in recent years, Kenny and Tanaiste (Irish Deputy Prime Minister) Eamon Gilmore were courting Senate Republican leaders Mitch McConnell, Charles Grassley, and Maine's Susan Collins, among others.



Sen. Brown

The issue for Kenny and Ireland was, and is, an E3 visa bill that would allow 10,500 Irish a year to come to America with two-year non-immigrant visas renewable every two years, a process that already exists between Ireland and Australia. Aware that in the gridlocked, contentious US Senate, the Republicans have employed the filibuster

in unprecedented and never-intended ways — yes, the Democrats used the same tactic to block George W. Bush, too, but never in the record numbers as McConnell's defeat-Obama-no-matter-the-cost crew — the Irish government has turned to Scott Brown, the man who won the deceased Ted Kennedy's seat, as the point man in the drive to push the E3 bill through the Senate.

Senator Brown, facing a strong challenge from Democrat Elizabeth Warren in a real, not a special, race, has championed the so-called "Irish bill" and guaranteed to the *Boston Herald* that because of his efforts, the bill was "ready to pop." There's nothing wrong with Brown using the issue as a means to court

Massachusetts Irish votes. Politics smart and simple. Brown, however, who has proven adept at never taking a stand until he knows the turf beneath him is solid, might have promised more than he can deliver here. In fact, he has been backing away from his comments to the *Herald*.

Many local Irish-American leaders, both Democrats and Republicans, are not buying equivocation from Brown's original stance, and various political observers speculate that failure to deliver on E3 could cost Brown votes. "It's one thing to verbally come out and support it, which is great, but there has to be follow through," said James Gallagher, head of the United Irish Counties of Massachusetts. "We've been led down the primrose path before."

Brown's chief obstacle is not the Senate Democrats. In fairness to his efforts, Brown has helped persuade 53 Democratic senators and a handful of Republicans to back the bill. As he knows full well, the legislation needs 60 to get past a filibuster, and that a filibuster would come from fellow Republicans who are virulently anti-immigrant. Republican Senator Charles Grassley, of Iowa, has hamstrung Brown's efforts by holding up a combined hi-tech workers and Irish E3 visa bill, but Brown has been trying to persuade Grassley to compromise in the sSenate, leaning upon Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and powerful Texas Senator John Cornyn to get Grassley on board. Brown is also competing with Democratic Senator Chuck Schumer, of New York, who also has an immigration bill with 53 Democrats supporting it. Perhaps ominously for Brown, *Politico* reports, "The powerful ranking Republican [Grassley] on the Senate Judiciary Committee is opposing Brown's efforts to quickly pass a bill that could certainly help him in a state about a quarter of whose population has Irish roots."

As the pressure mounts, Brown is working to broker a deal. He told the *Herald* and other outlets that he's "working on using every mechanism and every means to address their concerns like I do on every bill." He added, "I don't do stuff based on campaign issues; I've been doing my job since I got here."

Still, he backed off his claims to the *Herald*, a paper that is deeply supportive of all things Scott Brown, that he was close to passage of the E3 bill. John Kerry has often been castigated by the Boston media of all stripes because of his penchant at times for murky, equivocal phrasing, but in words that rival Kerry's ill-fated first-he-was-for-it, then-he-was-against-it gaffe in the 2004 presidential race, Brown offered this of the E3 measure: "I said the issue is about to pop; I never said the bill was about to pop. The fact that we're talking about it, and it's in the forefront, that's about to pop."

Stoking the heat on Brown, immigration-rights organizations and anti-immigrant groups alike are contending that he is seeking special treatment for the Irish in order to win Boston Irish votes. In the *Boston Globe*, Roy Beck, of Numbers USA, a group committed to keeping immigrants out, charged that Enda Kenny and his government are "upset because they don't have the special privileges that they once had" and want special treatment at the expense of other immigrant groups. They should not be given favor ahead of other groups such as "Latinos and Africans and Asians." Brown also has to deal with Irish-American organizations saying his E3 bill falls far short.

Jack Meehan, a past national president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians of America, wrote to *Irish Central* that Brown's bill does not go nearly far enough. "If a permanent resolution is not reached now," he asserted, "it will be déjà vu all over again twenty years from now. It is my honest belief that to settle for something like this is to do a great disservice to those wishing to emigrate from Ireland, but more importantly a far greater disservice to our undocumented Irish nationals currently residing here who have been completely left out in the cold."

"Tis a fine mess" into which Senator Scott Brown has plunged, and his chief problem is the very shift in American politics that has seen Enda Kenny reaching out to the *minority* party in the U.S. Senate. The intransigence of far-right Republican colleagues might present Brown a version of "ready to pop" he never anticipated to see during his battle for reelection.

Returning to Kerry — the Flahertys and the O'Donnells

By BILL O'DONNELL

My cousin Dan Flaherty died twenty years ago at age 53. As he left us, he was doing what he loved: tending his sheep atop the mountain overlooking the farm below that he shared with his wife Eileen and daughter Margaret. I love all the Flahertys, but I reserve a special place for Dan. He was a community leader, a regular



Dan Flaherty
A special man

in the Castlemaine players group, and a much-loved performer in his neighborhood musicales. And from our first meeting almost 30 years ago, he was my friend. The following account of that first meeting with our Irish family members was published 29 years ago and I dedicate it now to Dan Flaherty and the cousins in County Kerry and beyond.

REACHING back into the past and confronting your beginnings has grown com-

pulsively popular and very much the buffed personal journey to take in recent years. Much of the allure of the genealogical mania has rightly been attributed to Alex Haley and his book and TV series "Roots." But for Irish Americans who have found the excellent Irish Catholic Church records compelling, and the proximity of their native land a boon to ancestor-hunting, the roots of the old country have long held a potent fascination.

John F. Kennedy, as president, visited his forebears' homestead in June of 1963 and the photographs showing him with his Wexford cousins quickly became the focal point of his Irish pilgrimage — and front page, happy-time news around the world. Who can forget the beaming young world leader standing near the humble Dunganstown home of his grandfather surrounded by his equally delighted Irish relatives. That image contributed greatly, at least among the American Irish, to the upsurge of interest in Ireland and those who came before us.

Yet despite all that and a personal, quiet longing to someday visit the birthplace of my mother's parents, Tadgh Flaherty and Annie Griffin Flaherty, I had resisted the temptation on many earlier Irish trips to "intrude" on ordered lives and separate worlds. The attempt to connect with ancestors in Ireland was simply something I would get to later. I had no idea, of course, if any Irish relatives were still alive and living in Ireland, and if so, what their reaction might be if a "Yank cousin" and his trailing family actually presented themselves at their front door.

Just a kernel of family lore

I knew from early on that my maternal grandparents had come to this country from Ireland around the turn of the century. I could vividly recall the difficulty I had as a youngster trying to decipher my grandparents' brogues on our Sunday excursions to Dorchester from Somerville. But beyond that meager kernel of family history, I knew nothing further. But this year, 1983,

I told myself on our annual visit to Ireland with my wife Jean and daughter Erin, it would be different.

The trail began close to home in Dorchester, when my mother's brother Timmy handed me two long-forgotten Irish registry certificates. The papers confirmed that both grandparents were born and baptized in the district of Castlemaine, a small farming community over the Slieve Mish Mountains from Tralee in County Kerry.

The next portion of the link was St. Gobnait Parish in Castlemaine. The church pastor, Father Casey, who, when we knocked on his door, didn't seem at all surprised either at our visit or our request for information. After introductions and cold drinks for his three visitors, the priest produced from a nearby cabinet what looked to be a Dickensian ledger book, the official record of baptisms in the parish. Almost before the good Father could complete his apology about the parish's "poor record-keeping," he was tracing his finger along the neatly scripted entries of a century ago. It was all there: both my mother's parents' baptismal dates and godparents' names. All the godparents would show up later as sponsors of a succeeding generation of new births.

All told the entire process, exclusive of the hospitality, at the parish office had consumed less than ten minutes. Our next stop, as directed, was at the "Keel Church" some two miles away on the main road where Tadgh and Annie were christened; Tadgh in 1875, Annie in 1878. I couldn't keep my eyes off a large, ornate crystal baptismal font where a century earlier both, as infants, had been christened. I had difficulty reconciling the two elderly Irish I knew from Lafield Street in Dorchester and the two babies that began their lives on St. Gobnait's altar here in Kerry in the late-19th century.

But now, leaving the church, it was time (ready or not) to meet the cousins, who Father Casey told us were only minutes away. Our first stop was a small farm at the curve-end of a slim dirt road in the Shanachill section of Castlemaine. There a man pitching hay listened patiently to our story, nodded knowingly, and directed us to a farm building up the road where, he assured us we would find "your cousins, the Flahertys." And so we did.

We wouldn't meet Dan, who was in Tralee, until later that evening, but his brother George, a bachelor who owned and worked a nearby farm — another second cousin (our grandfathers were brothers) welcomed us with conversation, tea, and open arms. George introduced his mother, Margaret Flaherty, widow of George's father Dan Sr. George explained that he had long expected cousins from the states would someday come calling, and there we were. During the following talk-filled hours as we sat in the farmhouse kitchen we discussed decades-old leavings and homecomings, births and deaths, and the sudden-new family history of both the stateside and Kerry Flahertys.

'Extended family' time

Photographs of Irish relatives I had never met nor would ever meet, were taken down from the mantle and the term "extended family" took on a new dimension.



Dan's daughter Margaret; George Flaherty, Dan's brother; O'Donnell; Margaret Flaherty, mother of Dan and George, and in front, Erin O'Donnell, Bill O'Donnell's daughter, on the farm in Castlemaine, Co. Kerry in 1983.

I would learn from George and Dan the adventurous lives of the peripatetic Flahertys of Ireland. I discovered that four brothers, Matt, Tom, Dan, and Tadgh (Tim) had emigrated to America in search of that better life. One brother, Dan, father of the Dan I was sitting across from, homesick for the gentle, rolling farm country surrounding the River Maine, would return home after nine years in America. The other three brothers, including my grandfather Tadgh, would never return.

We also learned during the tea-driven revelations, that we had additional cousins in the states, sisters of Dan, George and Tom, now married and living in Buffalo. As we sat around the table that evening talking of the past and what our respective lives had been, there was muted surface excitement, but little to indicate the inner satisfaction and sense of fulfillment of the two sets of cousins, one American, the other Irish. We had covered the miles and the years to a moment of homecoming none of us would forget.

After returning to Boston — safely distanced from the stark emotions of that familial encounter — I thought about those long, comforting hours in Kerry and what I had left there and, more importantly, what I had left with. I remember even now that look on Dan's face when he first discovered who we were. I recall the softened but still discernible disappointment when the brothers spoke wistfully of their father, Dan, Sr. who had died six years earlier, always hoping to meet the American cousins that would surely come some day.

Months later I can still hear Dan's voice, the evening milking chores finished, on our last night in Kerry, saying in a near-whispered aside, "I will never forget this." And neither will I.

Happy St. Patrick's Day

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where you're going, and the
insight to know where you are."

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All in the Family

Hiring of noted doctor seen as Carney coup

By **BILL FORRY**
MANAGING EDITOR

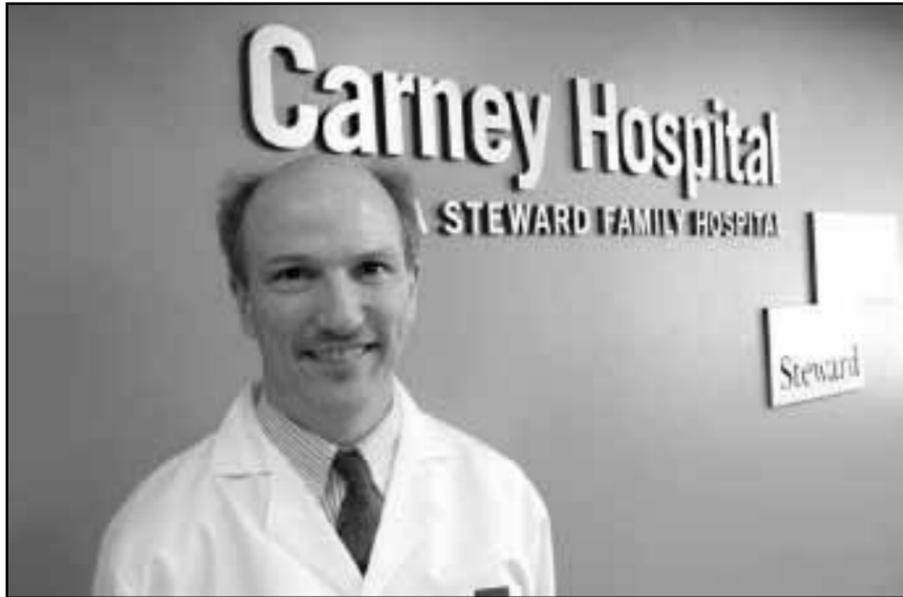
It's far too early to know if Dorchester's one-and-only hospital can survive and thrive under the for-profit model of its new owners, Steward Health Care Systems. But for those seeking a reliable indicator that Carney Hospital is moving in the right direction, a key appointment announced in January is a positive sign.

Dr. Glennon O'Grady, a New York native who has focused his career around a family-medicine practice, first in Lawrence and then in Boston, has been hired to head up Carney's Family Medicine department.

The hire was a surprise, in part, because Carney — in recent years — has not had a Family Medicine department. But the recruitment of O'Grady also spoke loudly about the persuasive powers of Carney's current president, Bill Walczak, the pioneering health center guru from Savin Hill who was brought in last year to send a loud-and-clear message about the intent of Carney's new owners.

"Glenn O'Grady is a true building block for Carney," says Walczak, who first met the physician when they both went on a mission to Kosovo in the early 1990s. "He's a proven leader with a great vision for primary care. And he's committed to building not only this department, but also a full-fledged residency program that will really help Carney re-connect with the community health center system in Dorchester."

O'Grady, a North Andover resident, was lured away from Lawrence General Hospital, where as a vice



Dr. Glennon O'Grady, chief of Family Medicine at Carney Hospital.
Photo by Bill Forry

president he was credited with building a 22-person team that supervised around-the-clock coverage of the hospital's adult inpatients. Prior to his stint at the hospital, O'Grady served as medical director at the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center and, earlier, as vice chairman for clinical affairs for the Department of Family Medicine at Boston Medical Center.

A Holy Cross and Tufts Medical School graduate, O'Grady launched his career in 1994, when only a handful of his peers would even consider specializing in family medicine. At the time, out of roughly 3,600 residents in the state, only 48 were on track to go into that field, leaving a "huge vacuum" in

the primary care field, O'Grady recalls.

Today, the gap has only improved modestly, with some 130 practitioners of family medicine statewide.

O'Grady said he and Walczak share a vision that "family medicine is the way to go" in a community hospital setting. The two have worked collaboratively before to set up a family medicine residency in Codman Square, at the health center that Walczak ran and helped to found in the 1970s.

"I was surprised that there wasn't a department here yet," O'Grady said. "Given the demographic changes in Dorchester, with so many young families here, we want to make sure we can provide that lifelong care from

pre-natal to end of life."

Critically, O'Grady believes that one element of establishing a sustainable Family Medicine department at Carney will be to open a maternity ward, something that Carney has never had in its history here in Dorchester. O'Grady, who has delivered some 1,000 babies in his career so far, says it "makes sense that we be able to do that here" given the rate-per-year of live births in Dorchester and Mattapan.

Walczak calls O'Grady's hire "a major score" for the Carney, one that has already led a new family medicine doctor to join the staff: Dr. Minh Nguyen, formerly a principal at St. Ambrose School in Fields Corner, who will bring a strong Vietnamese-American client base along with him.

According to Walczak, Dr. Nguyen said that a critical factor in his joining the Carney staff is O'Grady's reputation as a leader in family medicine. "I asked [Dr. Nguyen], 'How did you find us?' And he said, 'Dr. O'Grady is a legend!' We've actually had about ten doctors approach us already because they want to work with him. Glenn is really a magnet for those who see the potential of family medicine."

O'Grady has his work cut out for him. He has just two other family medicine doctors on staff at Carney right now, though more, like Dr. Nguyen, will be on the way by summertime.

"I think that there really is a need and an opportunity to be the hospital for the Dorchester community," O'Grady said. "I think Carney can be a great hospital again and under Bill's leadership it will be a great place for family medicine physicians to be trained."

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The Charitable Irish Society's presidential guests

By JOHN P. RATTIGAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Third in a three-part series commemorating the 27th anniversary of the Charitable Irish Society of Boston.

The Charitable Irish Society, founded in 1737, had a good head start over the United States of America, which was established some 39 years later. In the intervening years, five of the nation's chief executives have addressed the Society, three of them while serving in the presidency and two who had not yet moved into the White House.

Although non-political, the Society has always been a putative representative of a large ethnic voting bloc in Massachusetts, so it is hardly surprising that politicians of every level and persuasion have carefully cultivated a relationship with the Society in the hope of being favorably remembered in the next election.

Most often, this interest was manifested by an appearance at one of the Society's annual dinners celebrating both the feast day of Saint Patrick and the anniversary of the organization's founding. Following is an account of the Society's presidential encounters:

Andrew Jackson

Andrew Jackson did not hesitate to describe himself as of Irish origin. His parents were Presbyterians from County Antrim, Northern Ireland, and he was a member of the Hibernian Society of Philadelphia, which he joined in 1819.

It was unusual for a sitting president to tour the states of the Union in the early 1800s but Jackson, first elected to the office in 1828, did so during his second term. His travel included Boston where he spoke at Harvard College and visited the USS Constitution.

During Jackson's stay at the Tremont House in Boston, the Society's president and a delegation of members called upon him on June 22, 1833. In reply to the greetings of the Society, Jackson said:

"It is with great pleasure that I see so many of the countrymen of my father assembled on this occasion. I have always been proud of my ancestry and of being descended from that noble race, and rejoice that I am so nearly allied to a country which has so much to recommend it to the good wishes of the world."

William Howard Taft

The 175th anniversary of the Society 100 years ago was notable not only for the presence of President William Howard Taft but also for the famous "dust up" between the Archbishop of Boston, William Cardinal O'Connell, and then-Massachusetts governor, Eugene Foss.

At this time, 1912, there was still palpable tension between the local Protestant and Catholic communities, especially in the matter of church and state relationships. Both sides were responsible for provocative statements and inflammatory behavior that only increased this friction.

For instance, at the 1908 centennial ceremonies marking the founding of the archdiocese, Archbishop O'Connell observed, or rather boasted, "The Pilgrim has passed. The Catholic remains."

Only four months before the dinner, Governor Foss announced that he would not allow the state militia to march in a Boston parade honoring O'Connell upon his return from Rome where he had been elevated to the College of Cardinals.

Being imperious by nature, O'Connell was very comfortable with his new title and did not hesitate to exercise the perks that went along with his position. Just before the anniversary dinner on March 17, word was passed to the Society's dinner committee that protocol required the cardinal be seated next to the president on the dais and that he address the dinner guests immediately following Taft and before Governor Foss. This was based upon the theory that a "prince" of the Catholic Church outranked a mere public servant, albeit governor, in the hierarchy of protocol. The Committee made the change and when Foss learned of it, he was so incensed that he boycotted the dinner. Accordingly, there was no one to respond to the traditional toast "to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

The Charitable Irish Society has always been proud of its diverse religious membership and ecumenical tradition. Twenty-six Irish Presbyterians founded the Society. By the time of the 175th anniversary, owing to the upward mobility of the sons and grandsons of famine era immigrants, Irish Catholics dominated the Society.

It is disturbing to look back at a time when fellow Christians stood so far apart from one another fully ignoring the spirit of tolerance. The displays of petty bickering and the acrimony that characterized the 1912 dinner, as well as the whole milieu in Boston, would not begin to wane until after the First World War.

Calvin Coolidge

At the annual dinner in 1920, Governor Calvin Coolidge attended and responded to the toast "to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts." Coolidge was warmly received at the dinner, according to newspaper accounts. It apparently did not matter that seven months previously Coolidge backed the firing of all of the participants in the Boston police strike, most of whom were Irish. This record was favorably counterbalanced by his vocal support for Irish independence. Coolidge's decisive action in the police strike gained national attention and led to his election as vice president and his later succession to the Presidency.



Franklin D. Roosevelt

On the 200th anniversary of the Society in 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt spoke simultaneously via telephone to both the Society and the Hibernian Society of Savannah, Georgia, that was celebrating its 125th anniversary. At the time, Roosevelt was at his vacation retreat in Warm Springs, where he would die eight years later.

In an unusually warm and personal greeting, Roosevelt said: "It gives me great pleasure from this quiet spot in the Georgia hills to greet my friends of the Charitable Irish Society of Boston and the Hibernian Society of Savannah. You in Boston, celebrating your two hundredth anniversary, are the oldest of the family. You in Savannah, celebrating your one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary are the youngest. I have a particular tenderness for St. Patrick's Day for, as some of you know, it was on the seventeenth of March 1905 that a Roosevelt wedding took place in New York City with the accompaniment of bands playing their way up Fifth Avenue to the tune of 'The Wearin' of the Green.'" On that occasion New York had two great attractions—the St. Patrick's Day Parade, and President Theodore Roosevelt, who had come from Washington to give the bride away. I might add that it was wholly natural and logical that in the spotlight of these two simultaneous attractions the bride and the bridegroom were almost entirely overlooked and left in the background.

"Today, therefore, I am obtaining revenge for my obscurity on that occasion, for I am taking an actual personal part, even though it be by telephone, in one celebration of the day in the North and another celebration of the day in the South. There is a further happy coincidence in this greeting which I am sending tonight to Boston and to Savannah. My children are the direct descendants of pioneer settlers of both your cities, Savannah through their mother, and Boston through their father. I am proud to participate in these celebrations and to have this fellowship with organizations which in former years were addressed by predecessors of mine in the presidency of the United States."

Once again, high drama and intrigue re-visited the stage of a Charitable Irish Society dinner. Only one month earlier, Roosevelt had unveiled his "court packing" plan to appoint additional justices to the US Supreme Court. This was an attempt to shift the balance away from the more conservative justices who, Roosevelt felt, had undermined much of his progressive New Deal legislation. This was an extremely controversial proposal that ultimately failed to gain much public or Congressional support.

Roosevelt's telephone remarks were to be followed by a speech by FDR's personal representative, Harold Ickes, the Secretary of the Interior. Shortly before the dinner, the Society's president wrote to Ickes requesting that he not touch upon the "court packing" issue in his address. Ickes refused and threatened to withdraw if he was so restricted.

As it turned out, Ickes was unable to attend the dinner due to illness and Assistant US Attorney General and Roosevelt intimate Robert Jackson replaced him. The president later appointed Jackson to the Supreme Court and during his tenure there, he served as Chief US prosecutor at the Nuremberg war crime trials. The president's son, James Roosevelt, accompanied Jackson to the dinner.

Jackson, because he was a last minute replacement, did not have a prepared speech but did his best to outline the positive aspects of FDR's judicial reform plan. According to newspaper reports, many of the dinner guests were hostile to these ideas and responded with "subdued booing" during Jackson's remarks.

Also on the speaking program was Martin Conboy, former US Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and a fellow Democrat and friend of the Roosevelt administration. However, on this occasion, Conboy spent most of his speech castigating Roosevelt and tearing into the plan to reform the Supreme Court.

Ickes later intimated that Society officials had tried to "set him up" by adding Conboy to the program with the specific intention of embarrassing him.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy

After returning from naval service in World War II, John F. Kennedy, like most of his family, joined the Charitable Irish Society. His brother Joe had been a member along with his father, Joseph P. Kennedy. Both of his grandfathers, Patrick Kennedy and John "Honey Fitz" Fitzgerald, were prominent members as well.

Following his election to the US Senate, Kennedy responded to the toast to the United States at the Society's dinner in March 1953. Like many of the "cold warrior" politicians of this era, his remarks centered upon the free world and the encroaching threat of Communism.

There probably was no prouder moment for the Charitable Irish Society than the election to the presidency of one of its own members in 1960. During his first year as President, Kennedy instituted a formal recognition of Saint Patrick's Day by hosting a reception at the White House. In making this nod to his Irish heritage, JFK spawned a tradition that has continued for over fifty years.

The Society's chronicles with regard to these presidential interactions open a window into times long past and the historical events that shaped the cultural and political thinking of the day. We learn the reasons that brought people together and the causes that sometimes drew them apart. From the Colonial days into the 21st century, the Charitable Irish Society has been a microcosm of life reflected in the larger world.

John P. Rattigan is a past president and a current member of the Board of the Charitable Irish Society.

President images courtesy americanpresidents.org/gallery.

St. Patrick's Day fete will hail Society's 275th anniversary

The Charitable Irish Society of Boston will celebrate its 275th anniversary with a gala dinner on St. Patrick's Day at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel in Boston. The evening will commence with a reception at 6 p.m. that will be followed by dinner at 7. The event is optional black tie. Members and non-members of the society are welcome to attend.

Founded in 1737 by Irish immigrants who came primarily from Ulster, the society is the oldest Irish organization in the Americas. For almost three centuries, the society has remained firmly committed to its core missions to help Irish immigrants to Boston, to nurture unity and harmony among all Irish people, and to advance their social, moral and civic interests on both sides of the Atlantic.

As part of the celebration, the Society will confer Life Achievement Awards on four distinguished people of Irish ancestry who have contributed immensely to civic, cultural and public life in Boston: Sister Janet Eisner, SND, President of Emmanuel College; Dick Flavin, playwright and poet laureate of the Boston Red Sox; Henry Lee, founder and past president of the Friends of the Public Garden; and Kathleen M. O'Toole, former Boston Police Commissioner and currently Chief Inspector of the Garda Siochana Inspectorate in Ireland.

Tickets are \$175 per person. Reservations can be made by contacting the society either by telephone at 617-330-1737 or by email at charitableirishsociety@gmail.com. For further details, contact President Paul McNamara at 617-722-8100.

A NIGHT AT FENWAY

In advance of the anniversary gala, the Society planned to host an event on March 1 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Bleacher Bar to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the opening of America's most beloved ballpark. The event will honor Charles E. Logue and James E. McLaughlin, the Irishmen who built Fenway Park.

Ground was broken in September 1911 for the construction of the park, which opened seven months later. Logue (1858-1919), a member of the Charitable Irish Society and an immigrant from Derry, Northern Ireland, was the construction engineer and McLaughlin (1873-1966), a son of Irish immigrants who was born in Nova Scotia, was the project architect.

Tickets are \$35 per person and may be paid for at the door by cash or check but reservations are required and can be booked by calling 617-330-1737 or by e-mailing the Society at: charitableirishsociety@gmail.com. The Bleacher Bar is located under the centerfield bleacher stands near Gate C of Fenway Park at 82A Lansdowne Street. A parking garage is located directly across the street.

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Kenny re-assures Boston of the Irish grit in a crisis

(Continued from page 1) and where you were still attracting a lot of internal investment from abroad.

"We have all those characteristics, [we just have] to tie them together. The fundamental challenge is that we are spending 18 billion [euros] more than we're taking in. That means you have to downsize the cost of running the government, downsize the public sector, and provide your service more efficiently with less people.

"It also means that you have to concentrate on providing a stimulus for the economy so that it can expand, because while you are cutting back, you're never going to get out of the economic situation that we're in. Ireland is one of 27 countries in the European Union, and one of 17 in the euro zone where we have to deal with the fact that you need fiscal discipline, you need budgetary oversight, and the fact that if you sign on for conditions, you better be prepared to adhere to them. So all those things are in the



Kennedy cousins Stephen Smith and Joseph P. Kennedy, III flank Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny at a business luncheon held on Feb. 17 at the Kennedy Library in Dorchester. *Kennedy Library photo*

mix here.

"In the last ten months we have rebuilt the reputation of the country, and business now knows that we're not messing around in Ireland. There's clarity, there's decisiveness, there's definition, there's

a horizon. We're not moving off our 12 1/2 percent corporation tax rate; our technology, our talent pool and our track record are quite unique, in the sense that there's opportunity for any potential investor.

"We offer two other

things: one of them is political stability—the two parties in government have a big majority and we're working on implementing our own program with the people; the second is the opportunity for economic growth, and that means

the number of tech companies, banking companies, the new companies off the internet — they're all in Ireland and they're doing well in Ireland because they recognize the creativity and the imagination of our young people, who are

actually creating the new future. In ten years' time, much of that is going to come out of the ingenuity of the Irish workforces coming down the line.

"Ireland borrowed over 63 billion [euros] to recapitalize our banks at high interest rates," Kenny said, adding that his government negotiated a lower rate that "saved the Irish taxpayer over 10 billion (euros)." As a result of the economic meltdown, Ireland has been under the direct economic rule of out-of-the-country financial institutions, and Kenny said his government is working to find "flexibilities" that were not available in the early stage of the Euro zone struggles. He added that those institutions are now reviewing possible ways to adjust the repayment plan.

"We're going to pay our debts, but we want a facility to have a lower interest rate over a longer period," Kenny said. "We will pay it in full and keep our reputation and our status and our credibility intact."

BC appeals judge's call for more Belfast tapes

(Continued from page 1) the remaining cache of 24 IRA-related tapes should also be conveyed to the PSNI. Judge Young—at BC's request—first reviewed the tapes in his court chambers and, subsequently ruled that seven of the tapes contained some reference to the McConville case and should be sent to Northern Ireland detectives.

This time, BC has balked at the judge's order, noting that Young's own ruling—dated Jan. 20, 2012—indicated that there was little or no value to the tapes in his opinion.

"The judge admits that just one of the seven provides information that is responsive to the spe-

cific case requested by the British authorities," said BC spokesman Jack Dunn in an interview with the *Reporter*. "The six others made only a passing reference of Jean McConville. Given this apparent lack of probative value to the criminal investigation, it made sense to appeal the second court order."

Dunn said that Boston College will "argue that the District Court incorrectly applied its own review standard when it demanded the production of the interviews of these seven individuals."

"From the beginning, Boston College has asked Judge Young to weigh our interest in protecting academic research

with the government's interest in meeting its Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty obligation with the United Kingdom," a reference to the treaty that has — so far — trumped BC's appeal to maintain the confidentiality of the archives.

"Our intention was to be a repository of an oral history project that would provide a future resource for historians and scholars seeking a better understanding of The Troubles, while also helping to promote peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. At no time have we wanted to obfuscate a criminal investigation into a horrific abduction and murder of a mother

of 10," Dunn said.

Ed Moloney, the former Belfast journalist who directed Boston College's project, and Anthony McIntyre, a project researcher and former IRA member, said that they welcomed news of the BC appeal.

"I think they're glad that Boston College has belatedly joined them," their attorney Eamonn Dornan told the Associated Press, although both Moloney and McIntyre have been outspoken in criticizing the university's position on the Price's interviews.

Moloney, who wrote a book *Voices from the Grave* based in part on tapes recorded of two

deceased Belfast Project participants, David Irvine and Brendan Hughes, says that two key Boston College faculty members encouraged the book's publication and hoped to share in any profits. In a statement sent to the *Reporter*, Moloney says that Prof. Tom Hachey of the Irish Studies Department and Dr. Bob O'Neil, who ran BC's Burns Library, encouraged the book's 2010 publication.

The Council of the American Sociological Association (ASA) issued a statement in February supporting the BC appeal, saying that they are "profoundly disturbed" by Judge Young's latest decision on the seven tapes.

The Belfast Project guarantee to safeguard the identities of those interviewed, the ASA said represents "a core component of efforts by historians and social scientists to develop the research-based knowledge that is critical to an informed society and its well being."

The American Civil Liberties Union's Massachusetts affiliate (ACLU) has also lent their support to the appeals by BC, along with Moloney and McIntyre. In an amicus brief filed with the court, the ACLU warned that those exposed could be considered informants by paramilitary groups and targeted for assassination.

Ireland to hold referendum on European fiscal pact

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBLIN—Ireland's citizens will vote on the European Union's new fiscal treaty, Prime Minister Enda Kenny announced on Feb. 28, in a major test for plans to impose tougher budget discipline on the 17-nation Eurozone.

Kenny planned to sign the treaty on March 2 at a Brussels summit but noted that Ireland's constitution requires the public to ratify the treaty in a referendum. The outcome is uncertain — Ireland has voted down two previous European treaties, delaying their ultimate ratification.

Ireland's government will quickly draft the yes-or-no question to be put to the people "in the coming weeks," Kenny said. He specified no date for the vote.

"I am very confident that, when the importance and merits of this treaty are communicated to the Irish people, they will endorse it emphatically by voting 'yes' to continued economic stability and recovery," Kenny told lawmakers in Dail Eireann, the parliament.

The fiscal treaty agreed last month by 25 of the 27 EU countries proposes tough new deficit and debt limits for eurozone members in hopes of preventing future financial crises. The only holdouts, the United Kingdom and Czech Republic, are not euro members.

The treaty would normally require ratifying members to keep their deficits within 0.5 percent of gross domestic product. But it offers basic exceptions, such as a severe recession or an existing bailout agreement.

Ireland's 2010 bailout terms require the government to reduce its deficit to 3 percent of GDP by 2016, so Ireland wouldn't be expected to reach the 0.5 percent target until 2017 at the earliest. It ran a 2011 deficit of 10 percent, better than expected, while its bailout target for 2012 is 8.6 percent.

While the 0.5 percent rule is of no immediate concern to Ireland, the fiscal treaty also emphasizes that any members who fail to ratify the pact by March 2013 will be blocked from receiving funds from the eurozone's future euro



AP photo

x500 billion (\$670 billion) European Stability Mechanism.

This means that if the Irish vote to reject the treaty, Ireland could be barred from receiving more EU loans once its current bailout funds run dry by the end of 2013.

In 2010, Ireland was forced out of bond markets as its borrowing costs soared and negotiated a euro 67.5 billion (\$90 billion) bailout from the

EU and International Monetary Fund.

While the bailout is meant to keep it funded until late 2013, many economists expect Dublin will require a new round of EU-IMF loans next year.

"In this referendum, the Irish people can confirm our commitment to responsible budgeting and, in doing so, ensure that the reckless economic mismanagement that drove our country to

the brink of bankruptcy will not be repeated by any future government," Kenny said.

Opposition leaders welcomed the government's decision as a chance to undermine what they consider European efforts to seize control of Ireland's spending and taxation policies.

Gerry Adams, leader of the Irish nationalist Sinn Fein party, vowed to lead a strong anti-treaty

campaign to stop a pact he said would strengthen the Irish government's "terrible policy of austerity."

And Shane Ross, an independent lawmaker and investment guru also critical of Ireland's bailout terms, argued that rejection of the treaty was the only way to stop a process that would end in Ireland's surrender of economic decision-making. He noted Franco-German hopes of forcing Ireland to raise its 12.5 percent rate of corporate tax, a key magnet for investment by 600 U.S. companies in Ireland.

Ross called the treaty "a forerunner of further fiscal union down the road" that, if ratified, would set the stage for "greater sacrifices of our independence."

Ireland has been the only EU member bound by its 1937 constitution to subject each EU treaty to a nationwide vote.

The policy twice has caused major headaches for the EU as Irish voters temporarily blocked the union's two previous treaties with narrow "no" votes in 2001 and 2008.

BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett

Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

The Wharf Room at the Boston Harbor Hotel was the scene of a business breakfast in honor of Ireland's An Taoiseach Enda Kenny T.D. on Fri., Feb. 17. The event was hosted by the Boston-based Irish American Partnership, and drew several hundred business and Irish civic leaders to hear the government leader in his first visit to the city since being elected to head the Irish government last March.

1.) Marie Louise Greenidge, PJP II; Nick Puleo, BC High; Sr. Gail Donahue, SSJ, PJP II; Rev. William P. Joy, chairman of PJP II; 2.) Rep. Marty Walsh, Dorchester; Joe Leary, IAP; Jim Brett, Dorchester; Bill Walczak, Carney Hospital; 3.) Caroline Faherty, Mary Howard, Norwood; 4.) Taoiseach Enda Kenny and Richie Gormley; 5.) Bill Morrissey, president Central Bank; Dr. Larry Shields, Brigham & Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School; 6.) Bill Reilly, Attleboro; Arthur Buckley, Lynn; 7.) Sen. Jack Hart, So. Boston, Dorchester; Rep. Linda Darcena Forry, Dorchester; Joe Kennedy; Rep. Marty Walsh; 8.) Steve Greely, Exec. Director Ireland Fund; Matt Power, Lexington Insurance Co.; 9.) Patrice and Fred Harris, Arlington; 10.) Paul Guzzi, Chamber of Commerce; Jim Brett, New England Council; 11.) Mary Conroy Henderson, Westwood; James Finn, Dublin/Glastonbury, CT; Monique Miller, Arlington, VA; 12.) Kevin Plunket, VP HRIZONS, Needham; Stephen Costello, Needham; Tom Kirk, TYPESAFE; 13.) Stephan Masterson and Jonathan Hanly of Ulster Bank, Dublin; Cian McCourt, New York; 14.) Rita Kyne, Galway; Liz O'Connor.



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- A variety of courses ranging from *Early Christian Ireland* to *Irish Music to the Irish-American Experience*
- *Collection of Irish Government Documents* — the only comprehensive U.S. collection of Irish government reports, parliamentary papers, debates and special studies — housed in Stonehill's MacPháidín Library.

For more on Irish Studies at Stonehill, contact Director of Irish Studies Professor Richard B. Finnegan at 508-565-1135.





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Lá Fhéile Pádraig Sona Daoibh: Happy Saint Patrick's Day from everyone at the Irish International Immigrant Center to all *Boston Irish Reporter* readers.

Celebrate Saint Patrick's Day by making a donation to support our work of assisting immigrants from Ireland, and from over 120 different countries. Donations of \$10 or more made before March 17 will be entered into a draw for two VIP All Access Passes for the Irish Film Festival (scheduled for March 22-25 in Boston). You can send a check for the attention of Mark Kerr, 100 Franklin Street, Boston, LL-1, Boston, MA 02110 or make a secure, online, donation at iiicenter.org/donate. Thank you for your support.

Free legal clinics for immigration and US citizenship issues:

Immigration attorneys and specialists are ready to assist you. Please call in advance to confirm clinic is still being held (617-542-7654). And please remember that all clinics

are first-come, first-served and it is possible we will reach capacity. The upcoming schedule:

South Boston La-boure Center, Feb 28, 6 p.m., 275 West Broadway.

Downtown Boston, March 5 and 19, 4 p.m., at the IIIC offices, 100 Franklin St., (enter 60 Arch St.)

Allston-Brighton, March 12, 6:30 p.m., Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington St.

Dorchester, March 28, 6:30 p.m., St. Mark's Parish Hall, 1725 Dorchester Ave.

Free Citizenship Application Assistance Workshop: March 3:

The IIIC, working in collaboration with the Fish Family Foundation, the MIRA Coalition, and six other organizations, will hold a free workshop on Sat., March 3, at the Notre Dame Education Center in South Boston. If you are interested in registering for the event, please call John Rattigan at 617-542-7654.

Free US Citizenship Preparation Classes: March 8 - April 12:

Are you interested in becoming a U.S. citizen? Please join us at the Irish International Immigrant Center for free citizenship classes to prepare for the citizenship exam starting in January. IIIC staff can help you through the whole process. Choose between two class times: Thursday afternoons 1 p.m.-3 p.m. or Thursday evenings 6 p.m.- 8 p.m. Call Chris Tegmo at 617-542-7654, Ext. 41, to register or for more information.

IIIC Wellness and Education Services: The IIIC offers the following courses in partnership with Cathedral Cares Ministries and CARE (Cumann Airigh, Runchara Na hEireann): Home Health Aide Training; CPR Workshops; Employment Preparation Workshops; Computer Skills Training; Accessing Higher Education Workshops; Stress Management Courses; Suicide Prevention Workshops; Reiki Classes and Other Holistic Skills.

Please check our website (iiicenter.org) for current class schedule updates and new course offerings.

IIIC Employment & Education Open Day, Boston, March 8, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.: The IIIC will host an open day for Home Health Aide employers and schools from all over the state who are looking for new staff or students interested in the health-care field (CNA, LPN, Nursing, etc.). There will



IIIC program manager Jude Clarke meets the Wider Horizon's group from Ireland whose arrival in Boston is scheduled for later this month.

be seminars during the event and information available about financial aid options. You do not have to have completed our classes in order to attend. This event is free and open to all. If you are interested in a vendor table, please contact Ann Marie Cugno at 617-542-7654, Ext. 32. **Still interested in Quitting Smoking? Improving Stress Management?** If you were unable to attend our recent Smoking Cessation groups but are still keen to quit smoking, we are able to offer you another opportunity! We are planning a series of Stress Management workshops this Spring, which will include Hypnotherapy. Hypnosis has been known to be very effective in helping people limit or cut out unhealthy behaviors, especially smoking. All workshops in this series are free. Contact Danielle at 857-233-6613 or down@iiicenter.org for more information.

IIIC Exchange Program Updates

J-1 Irish Work & Travel Program:

The IIIC continues to help a large number of students and graduates from Ireland find paid internships in Boston, and the United States through our J-1 IWT program. Megan Carroll, director of intern placements for the IIIC's J-1 IWT service, recently returned from a very successful trip to Chicago and continues to assist graduates in securing quality internships in their field of study.

Wider Horizons Programs: The program brings young men and women from Ireland to Boston for six week internships in community-based organizations. The experience provides a great opportunity for personal and professional growth for these young adults. They provide a tremendous contribution to the local Boston community and will contribute over

1,000 hours of service to local organizations this year. They return to Ireland with new skills and confidence which allows many to become future community leaders, youth workers, care providers and other careers.

We are currently gearing up to host our group of the year. Twenty young adults will arrive on March 24. This is the sixth consecutive year that IIIC have partnered with the Clanrye Group, which is based in Newry, County Down. The IIIC's Jude Clarke recently traveled to Ireland to meet the group, and assist them in their preparations to visit Boston.

We need local families to host one or two of these young adults for their six-week stays. IIIC staff support all host families throughout the stays and compensation is provided. For more information, contact Ann-Marie Byrne at 617-542-7654, Ext. 16.

IMMIGRATION Q & A

Don't even think of marriage fraud

Q. I have heard that some people who are undocumented receive legal permanent residence based on a marriage to a U.S. citizen that isn't really genuine, and that there is a good chance that the immigration authorities will not catch on. Is this true?

A. Anyone considering a green card application based on a fraudulent marriage needs to think again. This is a serious federal offense, and it is vigorously prosecuted by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the US Department of Justice.

ICE regularly announces, as part of its "Operation Honeymoon's Over," the arrest and federal prosecution of people for committing marriage fraud and related offenses. Generally this involves schemes whereby the conspirators collect a substantial fee to arrange sham marriages between U.S. citizens and undocumented immigrants. But it also would cover a situation where a U.S. citizen agrees to marry an undocumented person and apply for the green card, just as a "favor." These offenses carry stiff penalties: up to five years imprisonment for each charge, plus a fine of up to \$250,000. In addition, the undocumented immigrants involved face deportation.

When an immigrant applies to adjust status to that of permanent resident based on marriage to a U.S. citizen, the couple is interviewed by an experienced U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) officer before a decision is made. At these interviews, the officer asks questions designed to elicit information about whether the marriage is genuine. The couple also must present extensive documentation of the marriage relationship - birth certificates of any children born to the marriage, joint financial information such as tax returns, photos, and the like. An applicant does not stand a good chance of surviving this level of scrutiny if the marriage is a sham.

Applicants with a genuine marriage, on the other hand, have nothing to fear from USCIS in the interview, which will be quite brief and conducted in a respectful, professional manner. In fact, we at IIIC meet with couples prior to the interview to discuss the process and ensure that their documentation is adequate. They go to their interviews fully prepared and accompanied by a member of our legal staff. For a free, confidential consultation about marriage-based adjustment of status or any other aspect of immigration law, visit one of our legal clinics as announced in the *Boston Irish Reporter's* IIIC notes column each month.

Disclaimer: These articles are published to inform generally, not to advise in specific cases. Areas of law are rapidly changing. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the U.S. Department of State regularly amend regulations and alter processing and filing procedures. For legal advice seek the assistance of an IIIC immigration specialist or an immigration lawyer.

Matters Of Substance

Hidden challenge - Opportunity for Hope

BY DANIELLE OWEN
IIIC STAFF

In the eight years I have been honored to work with the Boston Irish immigrant community, an issue has consistently surfaced for people dealing with alcohol and/or drug abuse problems - social phobia.

Let me be clear: this will not be an exploration of how shyness "makes" people drink or use drugs! Social phobia is often hidden and frequently confused with "being shy." The truth is it's a very common disorder but with support, its key symptoms can be successfully managed. If untreated, people with social phobia are at high risk for alcohol or other drug dependence, loneliness and isolation because they may come to rely on drinking or drugs to relax in social situations. It may begin in adolescence with both males and females being equally at risk of developing this problem.

Social phobia is a persistent and irrational fear of situations like being seen at parties and other social events. People tend to have an intense, persistent, and chronic fear of being watched and judged

by others, and of doing things that will embarrass them and because of this fear they tend to avoid situations where they may be "seen." They may feel an overwhelming anxiety and self-consciousness in everyday situations, not just at events. They can worry for days or weeks before a dreaded situation, a worry that can become so severe it interferes with work, school, and other activities, making it hard to make and keep friends. Although many people with social phobia realize that their fears are excessive or unreasonable, they are unable to overcome them on their own.

Physical symptoms that often occur with social phobia include blushing, difficulty talking, nausea, profuse sweating, elevated blood pressure, rapid heart rate and/or trembling. This is different from shyness. Shy people are able to participate in social functions; however, people with social phobia are constrained by their condition to the point that it affects their ability to function in work and relationships. Common fears can include: Attending parties/ going to the pub

or other social occasions; eating, drinking, and writing in public; meeting new people; speaking in public; using public restrooms

There are a number of ways people can get help; you cannot just "snap" yourself out of this condition. The goal of treatment is to help you function effectively in all situations and success usually depends on the severity of the phobia.

Frequently I meet people in recovery from alcohol or drugs who discover that these symptoms can continue for months after they abstain. Without effective support, individuals are then at higher risk of relapse; soon followed with a pain, shame and hurt.

Anti-anxiety and anti-depressant medications are sometimes used to help relieve the symptoms associated with phobias but are not always necessary. Counseling and group support can be very effective in helping you understand and change the thoughts that are causing your condition, as well as learn to recognize and replace panic-causing thoughts.

There are some great



Danielle Owen

support groups and specialists available in Massachusetts who can help, and we here at the IIIC are available to chat with you about the best referral options available, even if you do not have health insurance.

Recovery and change is always possible. Let us help you! Call Danielle at 617-542-7654, Ext. 14, for more information, and to chat about your options. Send an e-mail to down@iiicenter.org. You can also check out this great resource for more information mentalhealthquizzes.com/sadtreatments.html.

Danielle Owen is the IIIC's Director of Wellness and Education Services.



Sean Keane, left, Paddy Moloney, Kevin Conneff and Matt Molloy are celebrating their 50th anniversary as the Chieftains. Photo by Barry McCall

Chieftains hail 50th with Symphony Hall concert

The remarkable Chieftains, now marking their 50th year of bringing traditional Irish music to venues around the world with an extensive tour of Europe and North America, will be performing for the 24th time in Boston when they gather at Symphony Hall on Wed., March 14, for an 8 p.m. show entitled, "Voice of Ages" with Paddy Moloney & The Chieftains and Special Guests [one of whom is former member Seán Keane].

The ensemble was formed in 1962 by Paddy Moloney, who brought together folk musicians such as fiddler Martin Fay, flautist Michael Tubridy, tin whistle virtuoso Seán Potts and bodhrán player David Fallon. Potts and Tubridy left in 1978 and were replaced by Kevin Conneff and Matt Molloy, who remain in the band today. The Chieftains are recognized for bringing traditional Irish music to the world's attention, and were officially named Ireland's Musical Ambassadors, as they have become the standard bearers of the Irish folk music tradition. They have been nominated for a total of 18 Grammy Awards, and are six-time winners. The group has also won an Emmy and a Genie award.

To celebrate their golden anniversary, the Chieftains last week released a new CD, "Voice of Ages,"

(Hear/Concord). Produced by Paddy Moloney and T. Bone Burnett, it features the group teaming with, among others, stars from the worlds of indie-rock (Bon Iver, The Decemberists, The Low Anthem), country and Americana (The Civil Wars, Pistol Anies, Carolina Chocolate Drops, Punch Brothers), Irish and Scottish folk (Imelda May, Lisa Hannigan, Paolo Nutini).

After the Symphony Hall show, the group will head to New York and a St. Patrick's Day date at Carnegie Hall.

Celebrity Series of Boston, which first welcomed The Chieftains to the city in 1981, is presenting this month's performance, entitled, "Voice of Ages" with Paddy Moloney & The Chieftains and Special Guests [one of whom is former member Seán Keane]. The sponsor is Tufts Health Plan, with 89.7 WGBH as media partner.

Tickets are \$75, \$65, \$57 and \$47, and are available online at celebrityseries.org, by calling CelebrityCharge at 617-482-6661 Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., or at the Symphony Hall box office, 301 Massachusetts Ave.

Larry Cunningham shows are cancelled
The Larry Cunningham performances scheduled for March 16-18 at Concanon's in Norwood, the Irish Social Club in West

Roxbury, and Florian Hall in Dorchester, respectively, have been put off due to the artist's health.

Pat McDonough, the show's promoter and producer, in wishing Larry Cunningham a quick recovery, says he "will be putting on a show, with a new date and a different artist."

Jordan performs in Celtic Sojourn shows

Dorchester's own Kieran Jordan will perform in the seventh annual A St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn concert. The show which will be staged at the Zeiterion Theater in New Bedford on Saturday, March 17 and at Harvard University's Sanders Theatre in Cambridge on Saturday, March 24. Hosted by WGBH radio host Brian O'Donovan, the show will introduce audiences to a wide range of new and familiar Celtic singers, musicians, and dancers.

Kieran is an Irish dance performer, choreographer and instructor who lives in Lower Mills. She has more than 25 years of dance experience and is the long-time Dance Director for A Christmas Celtic Sojourn. Joined on stage by Jackie O'Riley and Kristen Kelly, she will bring variety and percussive spice to the gatherings.

Tickets and information for both shows are available at wgbh.org/celtic

Division 8 AOH to cite 3 at St. Patrick's Day fete

The Rev. James T. O'Reilly OSA Division 8 Ancient Order of Hibernians will be honoring former Massachusetts State Sen. Sue Tucker as the winner of its Hon. John E. Fenton Citizenship Award at its St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance on March 10. Sen. Tucker served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1982 to 1992 and the Senate from 1999 to 2010. A native of Michigan, she now resides in Andover.

Edward F. Curran has been selected as the recipient of the Richard Cardinal Cushing Award. A native of Lawrence, Mr. Curran worked for the city of Lawrence for many years and also served as the Veteran's Agent for the city of Methuen. He has been very active in

serving veterans of all wars, but in particular those who served during the Vietnam War. This award is presented annually to an Irish Catholic who resides in the Greater Lawrence area, and is named after the great Irish Catholic prelate who served the archdiocese of Boston for nearly 50 years.

Lawrence resident Timothy J. Doherty, a member of Division 8 for more than 20 years, has been named Division 8's 2012 Irishman of the Year. This award, established in 1964, is the highest honor that the Division can bestow on a member. A native of Everett, he has lived in Lawrence for over 25 years.

The banquet and dance will be held at the Lawrence Firefighters As-

sociation Relief's In, One Market Street, South Lawrence. It will feature a traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner with dancing to the Jolly Tinkers from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. For more information and purchase of tickets, contact Robert Gauthier at 978-686-2786.

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David Kelly, familiar face in Irish film, TV, dead at 82

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBLIN – Irish character actor David Kelly, who played Grandpa Joe in "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and motorcycled naked in "Waking Ned Devine," has died. He was 82. His family and friends said Kelly died on Feb. 19 in Dublin after an acting career on stage, film, TV and radio that spanned a half-century. The cause was not given.

Kelly was best known in Ireland for his 1980 depiction of doomed tenement dweller Rashers Tierney in the historical miniseries "Strumpet City" and for his large body of work as a Dublin stage actor in the 1950s and 1960s. British and Irish TV viewers also could recognize his face and bony frame from short, usually comedic turns on myriad soaps and sitcoms, most memorably as a work-dodging Irish builder opposite John Cleese in a 1975 episode of "Fawlty Towers." He also played a dim-witted, one-armed dishwasher in the late 1970s British sitcom "Robin's Nest."



David Kelly had hilarious role in the movie 'Waking Ned Devine'. AP photo

Usually consigned to bit parts in film, Kelly's two most prominent roles came late in life. In 1998's "Waking Ned Devine," he portrayed an Irish villager who must impersonate the late Devine to collect a huge lottery win – and finds himself hurtling down a muddy road, naked apart from his motorcycle helmet, socks and shoes, to keep the ruse intact. Kelly often joked that his career took off in his 70s once casting agents finally knew about his sexy body.

In 2005 he played Charlie Bucket's grandfatherly escort in Tim Burton's adaptation of the fantasy world of Willy Wonka. That year he also received a lifetime achievement award from the Irish Film & Television Academy. His final role was in 2007's fantasy film "Stardust," in which he played the guard between the English village of Wall and the magical kingdom of Stormhold.

He leaves his wife, the actress Laurie Morton, and their two children.

Make that 'Mayor' Gormley

West Roxbury funeral director Richie Gormley, right, is receiving congratulations from his friends after being selected as "Mayor of West Roxbury. The designation, an honorary title, was bestowed last month after an online vote conducted by Patch.com, an internet site .

In the informal, unscientific polling, Gormley received 33 percent of the tally. The website had asked respondents to say "Who is the unofficial Mayor of West Roxbury." Some nine persons were in the running, with longtime West Roxbury activist Mary Mulvey Jacobsen second with 32 percent.

Gormley, who also is president of the Co. Roscommon association and a long-time supporter of the Irish Social Club,



Richie Gormley on Centre Street Photo West Roxbury Patch

says he plans a celebratory event at the club late this month. "I'm looking forward to inviting everybody to my inauguration on March 30," he told the Patch outlet.

New director for ICC

The Irish Cultural Centre has a new director, Mary McTigue, and she has set as her goal expanding the organization's reach in the regional Irish community.

McTigue has headed non-profit groups for the past 20 years, the last 10 of which she spent as executive director of the Boston Adult Education Center. During her tenure, the program grew to have some 30,000 students a year attend classes there. She concentrated on expanding program offerings, increasing marketing efforts, and diversifying the school's approach to adult education.

Says McTigue, who grew up in Holyoke, attended Boston College, and now lives in Lexington, "The ICC has a unique

mix of programming, facilities and members who all come together and also great sports events, so we're lucky to have all of that here."

Her time at the ICC has just begun, but the new director wants to expand the cultural center's offerings and reach out to new audiences via things like additional partnerships

with other Irish organizations in the greater Boston area and throughout New England. She also hopes to increase use of the center for functions and take advantage of the approximately 50 acres of property on ICC's Canton campus.

– MEENA RAMAKRISHNAN


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Bill Whelan, the Grammy Award winning composer of *Riverdance*, visited the Columbia Campus of Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy on November 30, 2010, where he was entertained with songs by members of the Academy's music program. *Photos by Ed Forry*

The sound of 'music in the air,' and the sight of 'feet on the floor'

A *Riverdance* salute to Boston

BY BILL WHELAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

It seems like yesterday that Moya Doherty and I sat down in the chill winter of 1993 in a small café on Dublin's Baggot Street to discuss the germ of an idea that was to become *Riverdance*. Little did we dream that by 2012, this small germ would have sprouted into a two-hour show that would be seen by 22 million people around the world. Now it is making its return visit to Boston, where *Riverdance* has previously performed on seven very happy occasions.

However, for the first time, this visit will be tinged with some nostalgia. We are here to say farewell to Boston and to the USA, as our company sets out on its travels elsewhere.

This will be our first time out of the United States in sixteen years. Significant milestone events like this prompt some reflection, both general and personal.

Since the show first set foot on American soil in 1996, we have played in every kind of venue, from massive arenas to more intimate concert halls. In some locations, like here in this city where there is a large Irish-American community, the performances resemble

a homecoming. For the dancers and musicians, Boston's audiences always feel a bit more like their Dublin counterparts – rowdier, more familiar, and eager to celebrate their Irish roots. In other venues with less Celtic connections, this exuberance is also present, but combines with a curiosity about Irish culture and a keen willingness to join in the party.

There is something at the core of traditional music and dance, no matter where its roots lie, that has a capacity to unite people. In those 16 years touring the United States, *Riverdance* has witnessed some extraordinary events – from the horror of 9/11 to seeing Americans go to war. Back in the home country, we have lived through the arrival and the departure of the Celtic paper Tiger and we have watched our people struggle to deal with the fallout.

Despite all these trials, what the *Riverdance* company witnesses every night is the human capacity to come together and engage emotionally and spiritually when there is music in the air and feet on the floor. And what is most encouraging is that wherever we tour, be it in New York, London, Moscow, Beijing, Tokyo, Hamburg, or Millstreet in County Cork, this same window into the

beating human heart is open everywhere. One begins to realize after touring the world that, whatever may be the geographical and political divides, at the level of our music and dance, poetry and painting, drama and literature, there is little that separates us and much that affirms our common humanity.

If I may, I would like to include some personal reflections about Boston. Four years ago, my youngest son, Brian, enrolled as a student at Berklee School of Music on Mass. Ave. Last year, my family and I sat proudly at the Commencement ceremony for his graduation. Shortly after Brian began his studies, I was invited to join the Board of Trustees at Berklee. Inevitably, all of this meant that I have spent considerable amounts of time here. I now have friends and colleagues in Boston, and I have come to know the city better, enjoyed its many cultural and social amenities, worked and relaxed here, and feel very much at home every time I return.

Slán, the Irish word for “goodbye,” is a familiar word to many Bostonians. Either they, or their forbears, will have used that word over the centuries, and sometimes in heartbreaking circumstances. It comes from the Irish word *lán* which means “full” – “full and plenty” – of life, of health and of happiness. And while it is doubly difficult at this time to say “*Slán*” to Boston, it is exactly what all of us in *Riverdance* wish our friends here in Massachusetts: a warm farewell.

Bill Whelan is the composer of Riverdance, which will be presented at the Boston Opera House on the weekend of April 13-15, with shows on Friday night and the Saturday and Sunday afternoons and evenings.

At a time of changing seasons, The Ivy Leaf seems to be on the cusp of its own transition

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Hoary clichés and bad jokes just seem inevitable where the Boston-based traditional Irish band The Ivy Leaf is concerned: You could say, for instance, that The Ivy Leaf is blossoming, has deep roots in the Irish tradition, is branching out, and some day will be raking it in.

But horticultural-themed wisecracks should not obscure the fact that this quartet of young musicians—all in their early or almost-mid 20s—really is getting ready to bloom.

As its members—Dan Accardi, Armand Aromin, Caroline O'Shea, and Lindsay Straw—have individually done due diligence in learning the music, they have collectively worked to develop a sound suited to their skills as well as their interests. Their resume includes Boston-area gigs at Club Passim, City Feed and Supply, the Lansdowne Pub, and an upcoming performance at The Beehive



The Ivy Leaf: (L-R) Dan Accardi, Armand Aromin, Caroline O'Shea and Lindsay Straw

Photo by Larry Green

(they've also done gigs in various subsets of the group). The experience last year of recording a CD, which they expect to release this spring, proved to be a formative one for the band and strengthened their personal and musical bond with one another.

So, at a time of changing seasons, The Ivy Leaf seems on the cusp of a transition themselves. They are plainly delighted at their progress thus far, happy with the relationship they have forged, and optimistic about what opportunities may lie ahead. You might say, in fact, that their hopes and expectations are in full flower.

“It's really interesting to listen to the album now,” says Accardi, a Warren, RI, native who is in his final semester at Boston College. “I think of it as a recording of us finding our voice as The Ivy Leaf. We had been playing together for a while, obviously, and we knew a bunch of tunes and songs, but

(Continued on page 30)

Irish music calendar for March – it's busy, as always

The Greater Boston area resounds with Irish and other Celtic music all year round, of course, but March seems to be a particularly active period – perhaps because of a certain holiday that falls on the 17th. Here's a look at some of the events taking place in the next few weeks:

- The Deadstring Ensemble of John McGann, Flynn Cohen, Danny Noveck, and Matt Heaton will appear as part of "Celtic Fusion 2012" on March 5 at Berklee College of Music's Café 939, 939 Boylston St. in Boston. The free concert, which begins at 8 p.m., features Berklee faculty and students in an evening of traditional and original music from across the Celtic diaspora. Also performing will be the trio of Holland Raper, Ellen Appleton and Drew Story, and Jenna Moynihan, Hamish Napier, Courtney Hartman and Lukas Pool. See fusionmagazine.org.

- Irish supergroup Derwish will play at The Burden on March 7 as part of the popular Somerville pub's "Backroom" series. The sextet, led by singer Cathy Jordan, has garnered widespread praise for their musicianship and artistry, as well as the quality of their recordings. More information at burden.com.

- Another top Irish band, Altan, take to the stage at the Somerville Theater on March 10 at 8



Irish singer Susan McKeown will be among the performers at this year's "St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn."

p.m., on the heels of their new CD [see this month's reviews]. Altan has been at the forefront of the most recent Irish music revival, bringing a fresh perspective to the Donegal music tradition that is at the core of their sound. See worldmusic.org for details.

- Celebrating their 50th anniversary year, The Chieftains hit town on March 14 with an 8 p.m. concert at Symphony Hall. Original founding member Paddy Moloney, with Matt Molloy and Kevin Conneff, will be joined by

a slew of special guests during the performance. See celebrityseries.org.

- Boston's own Matt and Shannon Heaton will share the bill with local harpist Maeve Gilchrist at Club Passim on March 15. The Heaton's bring both virtuosity and sensitivity to their renditions of traditional Irish music as well as their own material, while Gilchrist has fashioned a unique approach to Celtic harp that draws upon contemporary influences. Go to passim.org for tickets and information.

- There are three opportunities to catch Larry Cunningham, an exalted figure in Irish showband annals, when he appears in the Boston area during St. Patrick's Day weekend. Cunningham – who has appeared with the likes of Loretta Lynn, Hank Williams Jr., and Johnny Cash, and whose show band was the first to play Carnegie Hall – will be at these venues: March 16 at Concannon's Village in Norwood; an afternoon dance on St. Patrick's Day at the Irish Social Club in West Roxbury; and a post-St. Patrick's Parade dance on March 18 in Dorchester's Florian Hall. See shamrocknation.com for ticket information and other details.

- The seventh annual "St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn," with host Brian O'Donovan, will be at New Bedford's Zeiterion Theatre on St. Patrick's Day, before heading to Sanders Theatre in Cambridge a week later (March 24). Performers for this year's edition are: Irish singer Susan McKeown – known for her particularly passionate brand of singing – who will be with Michael Brunnock, a New York City singer-songwriter featured on the soundtrack of the Sean Penn movie "This Must Be the Place; Jefferson Hamer and Eamon O'Leary, who play detailed arrangements of traditional and original songs in Irish and American styles;

fiddler Jeremy Kittel, whose style encompasses Celtic, American and jazz elements; multi-genre trio The Bee Eaters, with the compelling sounds of fiddle, cello and hammer dulcimer; the Kieran Jordan Dancers; and a "pure drop" ensemble of bouzouki/flute player Mark Roberts, piper Joey Abarta and fiddler Tina Lech. Go to wgbh.org/celtic for more information.

- The Boston College

Gaelic Roots Music, Song, Dance, Workshop and Lecture will host an Irish dance and ceili on March 29 at 6:30 p.m. in the Gasson Hall Irish Room. Kieran Jordan will call and direct the dancing, with music provided by Seamus Connolly and friends. The public is invited, and there is no charge for admission. The Gaelic Roots website is bc.edu/gaelicroots.

– SEAN SMITH



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

– SEAN SMITH

The BCMFest monthly Celtic Music Monday series will present "The BCMFest Session" at Club Passim on March 12. The event, which is free of charge, is an opportunity to relax and enjoy an informal evening of music hosted by some of Boston's best session musicians. Anyone is welcome to

bring an instrument and join in, or to share a song, a poem, a story – or even to showcase his or her step-dancing skills. The session starts at 7 p.m. Club Passim is located at 47 Palmer Street in Harvard Square; see passim.org for more information.

Next month's Celtic Music Monday, on April 9, will feature a performance by Kyle Carey, a singer-songwriter who is steeped in Gaelic language and music traditions. Additional details will be available in next month's column.

For information on BCMFest, and to join the BCMFest e-mail list, see bcmfest.com.



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BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

Liam Harney: Dancing Man He's in Reagle's revue, 'A Little Bit of Ireland'

**BY R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR**
Reagle Music Theatre's popular revue "A Little Bit of Ireland" returns on March 17 and 18 for its 14th season. The show is a colorful celebration of Irish music, dancing, and light-hearted comedy based on what Reagle's Producing Artistic Director and Founder, Bob Eagle, modestly calls "a little idea I had."

This year's production features an enthusiastic cast of almost 70 singers and dancers, including Irish tenor Rusty Russell, world-renowned Irish fiddle player Seamus Connolly, Broadway's Sarah Pfisterer, Harold "Jerry" Walker, Larry Reynolds and Comhaltas, plus Judith Ross and the Massachusetts Harp Ensemble, among others.

Always an audience favorite in the show is Men's World Champion Irish Step Dancer Liam Harney, returning for the sixth year. As in the past, Liam will bring with him a diverse group of dancers from his Harney Academy of Irish Dance in Walpole. Since leaving the world of competitive dancing, he has taken his considerable talents to some of the most prestigious stages around the world, from starring in "Riverdance" to performing internationally in his own creations, "CelticFusion" and "Waves."

Whether on stage on in the studio, he's known for his dedication to cultivating Irish dancing and crossing it over into other styles.

Born in Boston and a certified instructor and adjudicator, Liam was named one of the top 100 Irish Americans by Irish America magazine. We

recently spoke about his work and the upcoming Reagle revue. Here's a condensed look at our conversation.

BIR: Dancing has really been your life. Where did it all begin?

LH: Well it just clicked with me. My parents put their three oldest into dance after a trip to Ireland. I didn't really know what to expect, I was just four and a half. I loved the music. ... It was pretty clear it was my favorite thing to do. As the years went on, it became more competitive and I went on to win the World Championship a few times, become a Presidential scholar and later went on to perform for a couple of our presidents as well as the presidents of Ireland. I've had a pretty good dance career.

BIR: Was teaching and sharing the dance traditions something that was a natural progression?

LH: I always knew that I wanted to teach. But I also knew I had a performance bug that needed to be taken care of. I decided I would open my studio and have that to come back to after I had my performing years under my belt. I opened the studio here in Boston 20 years ago this fall.

BIR: Do you find your students stay with you long-term?

LH: Yes, that's basically one of the honors I consider in Irish dancing. You build relationships with these kids—you're their teacher and their mentor for a good 10 to 12 years of their lives. I now offer a class called Boomerang. If you throw a boomerang it does come back. And so these kids come back to me—they're

professionals now—and they do what they do best for keeping in shape.

BIR: What do you have in store for this year's "Little Bit of Ireland?"

LH: There will be a combination of maybe 16 or 17 dancers. Some of them are in college, others in high school. And then we like to jump the gap all the way down to our youngest dancers, [who are] 7 and 8 years old. Probably they'll do the old-fashioned country set. The older girls will be doing more of what's come to be known as the show scene Irish dance numbers.

BIR: "CelticFusion" was quite innovative. How did you come up with the concept?

LH: "CelticFusion" was a huge success for us here in the United States because it was what people were looking for. ... They were curious—What is Irish dancing? And how did this phenomenon come to be? So I decided it would be an informational show along with being an entertaining show. I take audiences on a journey. I am the narrator of the show, but not through spoken words. It's through dance. I showed what happened to the music and the dance steps when they crossed the ocean and came to the United States. We'd do the Irish dance number and the audience would get what they thought they were getting. And from there, I'd come out in a special light and do a bit of a solo and turn it into the country clog. So the audience started to see the Irish dance chip away and become another dance form.

BIR: You also starred



World Champion Irish Step Dancer Liam Harney leads students from his Harney Academy of Irish Dance in a number from "A Little Bit of Ireland" at Reagle Music Theatre.
Photo by Herb Philpott

in the London production of "Riverdance."

LH: (Laughing) We're talking ancient history here. If I could be as bold as to say, it being a new genre of Irish dance—show dancing—there were very few people that the producers had to choose from because the competition scene was so strict on arms straight down and head straight forward.

BIR: "Riverdance" was just explosive for dancing, wasn't it?

LH: People had no idea that Irish dance had as much technique and talent behind it—years of training. They thought of it as St. Patrick's Day. People putting their hands on their hips and doing a mock Scottish dance. So

it was really the moment in time when the world saw a line of world champion Irish dancers—the two lead dancers being Jean Butler and Michael Flatley—with a budget to actually put on a spectacle show. And not to forget that it was a Eurovision song contest—which meant all of Europe was tuned into it (on television) at that very moment.

BIR: To end where we began, tell me a bit about the traditions of Irish dancing.

LH: I don't know if you've ever heard the definition of Irish dance, being that dance was banned in Ireland by the English. And the Irish said, "Well, what is dance? We'd like a definition of that." And

the English said, "It's the coordination of arm, head and foot movement." So Ireland came up with their own mock dance, restricting their arm and head movement, straight forward, but showing the free nature and the fighting spirit of the Irish people through the fast foot movement. Now that's just a theory... but it does draw a picture.

R. J. Donovan is publisher of *OnStageBoston.com*.

Reagle Music Theatre's "A Little Bit of Ireland," March 17-18, Robinson Theatre, 617 Lexington St., Waltham. Tickets: 781-891-5600 or reagleplayers.com.

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CD ROUNDUP

By SEAN SMITH

Long anticipated new recordings from two of Ireland's best-known acts of the past few decades are in stock, and neither is likely to disappoint fans.

Altan, "The Poison Glen (Gleann Nimhe)"—Right from the opening track, a pair of lusciously arranged and played slip jigs ("A Fig for a Kiss/The Turf Cutter"), Altan shows itself to be as vital and relevant a force in Irish traditional music as ever, nearly three decades on. Part of Altan's long-standing appeal has always been its distinctive Donegal sound, a largely fiddle-and-pipes tradition that is peppered with Scottish influences. Given the growing cosmopolitanism of traditional music, in



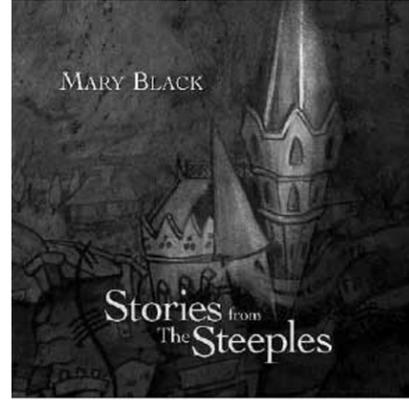
Ireland and elsewhere, it's more than a little refreshing to hear a band that continues to exhibit a definitive regional style with equal parts creativity and respect.

Musically, Altan sounds as game as ever, sparked by the twin-fiddle dynamics of Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh

and Ciaran Tourish plus accordionist Dermot Byrne to fire up the melodies, and rhythm ably supplied by guitarists Daithi Sproule and Mark Kelly, and Ciaran Curran's counter-melody/harmony bouzouki style. Also contributing on some tracks are Belfast-born flutist Harry Bradley and bodhran player Jim Higgins, adding even more exquisite texture.

A couple of powerful sets, "The Ardara Girls/Backdoor Highlands/Fáscaidh mo Léine/Reel in A/Ciaran Tourish's" and especially "The New Rigged Ship/Eddie Curran's/The Monaghan Twig/Kitty the Hare," stand as testament to Altan's enduring prowess in arranging and — most importantly — playing the tunes with verve as well as skill. The former set demonstrates the Donegal-Scottish link, starting with three tunes from the Glenties part of Donegal and segueing into "Reel in A," led by Byrne with some generous boom-chuck backing by Kelly and Sproule, and then "Ciaran Tourish," composed by the late, beloved Jerry Holland. "The New Rigged Ship" set begins with a slower, unusually accented reel, Curran's melodic accompaniment underpinning the two fiddles and accordion, before Bradley helps launch the intricate second tune — from the repertoire of Curran's uncle — and put the set into a more conventional groove.

The songs, in Gaelic as well as English, are every bit as glorious. Ní Mhaonaigh lends a delicate but firm touch to "The Blackest Crow" — with fine harmony by Sproule — and "The Lily of the West," with a nifty bluesy guitar riff throughout. "Seolta Geala" is a sea shanty (translated from Gaelic by Ní Mhaonaigh's father) intended as a call to "head for the freedom of the ocean," and here the rest of the band lends gorgeous harmonies on the



refrain behind Ní Mhaonaigh. She also sings "The Pretty Girl Milking Her Cow" in its original Gaelic, to great effect (and we learn from the album sleeve notes that Thomas Moore's famous English translation was recorded by none other

than Judy Garland).

The album's namesake location, Gleann Nimhe, is supposed to be where the Celtic sun god Lugh killed his grandfather Balar, who possessed an evil, poisonous eye. When Lugh pierced Balar's eye, the legend goes, the poison stained the hills red, deep into the granite, for eternity. Altan may not go around slaying malevolent deities, but they, too, seem to be as much a part of the Donegal landscape.

[Altan will be in concert on March 10 at the Somerville Theatre.]

Mary Black, "Stories from the Steeples" — Now here's flattery for you: An audiophile magazine in the UK thinks so highly of Mary Black's voice that they use it as the basis for comparing the sound quality of different high fidelity systems. It's certainly quite reasonable to hold up Black as a standard, what with her almost three decades-long career that has seen her go from a singer with trad/folk bands like De Danann and General Humbert to a chanteuse on the order of an Enya or Sinead O'Connor.

"Stories from The Steeples," Black's first studio album in six years, is not, as one might infer from the title, a collection of faith or religious-oriented songs; The Steeples refers to the Dublin studio where the recording took place. Yet there is a certain atmosphere of reverence here, not least that of Black for songs with a strong narrative quality. The spiritual tone seems present in other ways, too, such as in Black's voice, which now tends more toward the middle or lower range — in significant contrast to, say, the soaring heights of "A Song for Ireland" — and a rather intimate soulfulness.

The 12 contemporary songs (one is a bonus throw-away, "Fifi the Flea," a romance-in-the-carnival bit of whimsy penned by the Hollies' Graham Nash, Tony Hicks and Allan Clarke) tend to fall in the contemplative folk/country/pop spectrum where Black has largely operated for the past couple of decades. Among the highlights are Ricky Lynch's "Marguerite and the Gambler" — love-from-the-wrong-side-of-the-tracks tragedy a la "Anachie Gordon" — and Paul Kelly's "The Night Was Dark and Deep," a vivid recollection of one of those childhood glimpses into an inexplicable, unnerving moment of adult life. Chris While and Julie Matthews' "Steady Breathing" is an almost unbearably heartbreaking farewell to life, but not love, while Neil Murray's "One True Place" — definitely suggestive of the aforementioned spiritual tone — soothes to the accompaniment of Pat Crowley's accordion.

Three of the songs, it should be mentioned, are compositions by Black's son, Danny O'Reilly, the most impressive being "The Night Is On Our Side," with appearances by the author and his brother Conor and sister Róisín.

Black also has three duets on the album: "Mountains to the Sea," an ode to the traveling life with rockabilly/blues-belter Imelda May; with Janis Ian on Boston-based Ry Cavanaugh's simplistic but infectious "Lighthouse Light"; and, best of all, with the estimable Finbar Furey on his unabashedly romantic "Walking with My Love," Finbar's banjo and well-worn voice bringing a gruff charm to the proceedings.

It gets occasionally schmaltzy and fluffy here and there — "Wizard of Oz" is one glaring example — but "Stories from the Steeples" is a welcome return for a performer who deserves to have her story told.

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Dan Gurney enriches status of the accordion

By SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

There are the recording projects that try a musician's soul: long, exhausting hours in the studio spent doing take after take of the same track; fretting about various post-production details; squabbling with accompanists about this or that artistic aspect.

And then there is Dan Gurney's new album.

Gurney, a Harvard University grad and former Boston resident now living in New York City, rolled out "Traditional Irish Music on the Button Accordion" earlier this year, a 15-track, all-instrumental CD featuring Gurney playing accordion solo and with accompaniment by pianist Brian McGrath. The album was recorded in a little more than three hours last August at Real World Studios in Longford, Ireland. Its tracks are arranged exactly in the order in which they were made: "The first note you hear on the album," says Gurney, "is the first note I recorded with Brian." Gurney had booked two additional days at the studio, but the work was essentially done by the end of the first day—the equivalent, perhaps, of driving from Boston to LA on a weeklong car rental and getting there in half the time.

Speedy and efficient use

of studio time, however, is not the main criteria for evaluating a CD. Happily for Gurney, "Traditional Irish Music on the Button Accordion" fulfills the mission statement in its plainspoken, declarative title, spotlighting the marvelous intricacies and dynamics of both music and instrument. In reel sets, such as "The Brook/Ambrose Moloney" and "Farewell to Ireland/The Beauty Spot/The Flowers of Red Mill," and jig medleys—"Greensleeves/Banks of Newfoundland" and "Driving the Cows Home/The Bowlegged Tailor" among them—Gurney shows himself to be less interested in break-neck tempos than in bringing out the qualities of tunes, while investing all with a considerable drive. And in presenting a repertoire tending toward less-familiar, off-the-beaten-track material that includes other types of instrumentals, such as set dances and hornpipes—and aided by research notes from Don Meade on each tune—Gurney helps, in his own way, to further enrich the place of the accordion in the Irish tradition.

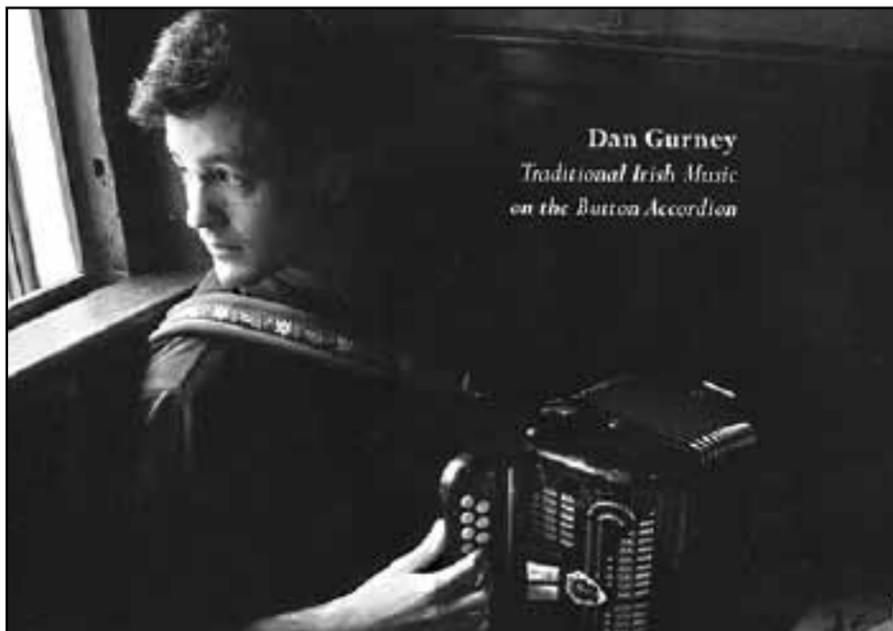
The album also is a tribute—even an expression of gratitude—from Gurney to some of the most influential figures in his musical development, notably Monsignor Charlie Coen and Joe Derrane: A set of barn dances, for

instance, harks back to a regularly occurring session organized by Monsignor Coen during Gurney's early immersion into Irish music; the "Fly By Night/Eclipse" hornpipe set, meanwhile, evokes Derrane's legendary deft touch.

A good recording, much like good luck, is supposed to be the residue of hard work. In this case, success also came from Gurney's adherence to his goal of producing a straightforward, as-it-comes presentation of Irish music. Gurney hoped to recapture the feel of a foundational period in his life: 2009, the year he lived in Galway on a post-graduate fellowship, and devoted himself to crafting his musicianship and exploring the tradition with a renewed focus.

"I wanted to recapture the atmosphere of Galway," says Gurney. "Although I certainly played plenty of gigs and sessions when I was there, I also spent a lot of time just playing on my own, learning tunes, working on my style. It was all very spontaneous and laid-back, and that was the sound I was looking for."

This approach might seem a significant change of pace for Gurney, given his ample experience working in ensembles, whether as a member of fiddler/vocalist Lissa Schneckenburger's band,



Dan Gurney: "My favorite solo albums are simple in structure -- just two musicians in a studio." Photo by Danny Diamond

in performance and recording stints with Matt and Shannon Heaton, and as part of The Hay Brigade, the folk/jazz-fusion quartet he formed with Forrest O'Connor, Duncan Wickel, and Nicky Schwartz. But where solo albums are concerned, less is more for Gurney.

"It can be distracting if you have too many accompanying musicians, or if there are a lot of arrangements," he explains. "My favorite solo albums are simple in structure—just two musicians in a studio. And, again, that was the mindset I kept from the year in Galway."

So Gurney reached out to McGrath, a County Fermanagh native whom he met while in Galway, and signed him up as accompanist for the record-

ing. "What I like about Brian is that he plays banjo as well as piano," says Gurney of McGrath, who recorded the album "Ireland's Harvest" with Derrane and De Danann fiddler Frankie Gavin. "He knows the tunes from the perspective of a melody player, so he plays piano in a very complementary style. He gives you just the right kind of rhythm."

Chalk it up to the right mix of personalities and talents, or a fortuitous alignment of the planets, but when Gurney and McGrath sat down in the studio and began playing into the microphones, "we just got on a roll," says Gurney. "I had written down some sets I wanted to play, we picked them out, and everything just kind of flowed."

Gurney also credits recording engineer Paul Gurney (no relation) for the satisfying results: "Paul is a genius with sound. He was mixing the tracks even as we were listening to them, and he got everything just right. Usually, I don't like listening to my recordings, but I'm still enjoying this one."

The CD over and done with, Gurney is happily settling into his new digs near the Little Italy section of New York City, having recently moved from his childhood home upstate in Dutchess County. Suffice it to say, he is no hurry to leap into a new project.

"I'd like to play some gigs, maybe get a band going," he says, "but I'm happy to let things settle for a while."

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Traveling People

Addergoole Parish remembers a 'very sad human story'

14 from its pews boarded the Titanic, only 3 survived; Memorial Week is April 8-15

By JUDY ENRIGHT

SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Catherine Bourke, Nora Fleming, Delia Mahon, Annie McGowan, John Bourke, Annie Kate Kelly, Pat Canavan, Delia McDermott, Mary Mangan, Kate McGowan, James Flynn, Bridget Donohue, Mary Bourke, and Mary Canavan.

The names don't mean much to most of us but they bring tears to the eyes of many in the North Mayo parish of Addergoole. The Addergoole Fourteen, as the group is known, struck out from the hills and valleys around Nephin Mountain 100 years ago next month – some in jaunting carts, others on foot – and crossed the Windy Gap into Castlebar where they took the first of several trains to Queenstown (now Cobh.) There they settled into steerage (third class) on the RMS Titanic to laugh, chat, dance, and sing as they prepared for the long ride to America and their bright new lives.

When the luxury liner struck an iceberg off Newfoundland on April 15, 1912, eleven of the fourteen were among those who died as Addergoole Parish suffered a proportionately higher loss of life than anywhere else in Europe.

Each year, members of the Addergoole Titanic Society and the parish



Lahardane, was empty last spring but had a planning permission sign posted by the wall next to the road. Work has been ongoing all year to create a Titanic Memorial Park here that is designed to simulate the bow of a ship pointing west. The park will have five story plaques and statues.

remember the lost and the survivors with an April 15 commemoration that begins in Murphy's Pub in Lahardane at 1 a.m. At about 1:45 a.m., the participants – some of whom are descendants of the Addergoole Fourteen – go from the pub to St. Patrick's Church. They quietly walk down a dark street that is illuminated only by their 14 lanterns that they place on the ground beneath the Timoney Bell at the church to simulate a ship's bow.

Songs and stories follow and at 2:20 a.m., the exact time the Titanic disappeared after floundering for two hours and ten minutes, the Timoney bell is rung slowly eleven

times for those lost and three times – joyously -- for those who survived. Lahardane is said to be the only place in Europe where the Titanic is remembered every year. Dr. Paul Nolan, energetic chairman of the Titanic Society, said, "Ours is a very sad human story still remembered here."

A WEEK OF REMEMBRANCE

Dr. Nolan and the society have been hard at work for many, many months raising money, applying for grants, sending speakers all over – even to Boston – to explain the Titanic's connection to Addergoole parish. Plans are now finalized and a Mayo Titanic Cultural Week

will be held in Lahardane from April 8 to 15.

The observation starts on Easter Sunday with a re-enactment of the journey from Lahardane to Castlebar. The balance of the week includes many assorted activities to entertain and inform all ages, including a treasure hunt, vintage and heritage display, exhibitions, a live American wake, an evening of Irish song and poetry, and a spectacular Titanic Ball (advance tickets only) at the Pontoon Bridge Hotel.

The annual memorial Mass on April 15 will be followed by the dedication of two Titanic stained glass windows at St. Patrick's Church, designed by American artist Michael Coleman, who now lives in Lahardane and owns Whitethorn Studio. There is one stained glass window on either side of an existing marble plaque, erected in 2002, that lists the names and birth dates of most of the Addergoole Fourteen from baptismal registers and other sources. The theme of one window is emigration and is dedicated to all those who have left Addergoole Parish. A Titanic window on the other side shows Lifeboat 16 being lowered.

Thirteen of the travelers were baptized in Lahardane, according to Dr. Nolan. The exception was Annie McGowan, who was born in Scranton, PA, and baptized in Dunmore, PA. Her godmother was Catherine McGowan, an aunt who lived in Chicago and had tried for a year and a half to persuade residents to return to Chicago with her. She even bought tickets, he said, for some who couldn't afford the fare. Catherine perished on the Titanic but Annie was rescued, eventually moved to Chicago, married and raised three daughters.

Another Annie – Annie Kate Kelly – also survived and is memorialized in one of the stained glass windows looking up at her cousin, Pat Canavan, who is holding rosary beads and waving as her lifeboat -- Boat 16 -- is lowered into the water. She joined the Dominican nuns as Sister Patrick Joseph Kelly OP, and taught in Chicago.

The third survivor was Delia McDermott, who bought a new outfit and hat in Crossmolina before leaving because her mother said she should arrive in New York looking like a lady by wearing a hat and gloves. She was in a lifeboat when she realized that she left her hat behind so she ran back to get it and found a place in another lifeboat. Delia was going to stay with her cousin in St. Louis but once she recuperated from her rescue, she married and stayed on the East Coast.

MEMORIAL PARK DEDICATION

On the last afternoon of Titanic week in Lahardane, the Memorial Park will be dedicated and a time capsule buried. The Memorial Park, designed like the bow of a ship



A road sign as you enter Lahardane, North Mayo, designated Ireland's Titanic Village for the 14 members of the community who were on board the ill-fated liner in 1912.

pointing west, will have five story plaques and two life-sized statues and will be on land donated by the Killlala diocese next to the Lahardane rectory.

If you are in North Mayo at the beginning of April, be sure to take part in the Titanic Memorial Week events. And, if you're in a post office in Ireland, keep an eye out for the Titanic stamp with Michael Coleman's painting that portrays the Addergoole Fourteen waiting on the Queenstown quay for the tender.

For more information about the week in Lahardane, visit mayo-titanic.com.

Other ship exhibits:

If you're visiting Cobh, Co. Cork, head for the Cobh Heritage Centre to see the fascinating multimedia exhibit there on the Titanic, the Lusitania, convict ships, and more. Between 1848 and 1950, more than 6 million adults and children left Ireland with some 2.5 million of them departing from Cobh, making it the single most important port of emigration. There are also Titanic exhibits in other places, including Belfast, where the ship was built, at the Harland and Wolff shipyard. Titanic Belfast is expected to open to the public in early April (the-titanic.com/Titanic-Today/Attractions/Titanic-Belfast.aspx). And, there are plans for a Titanic Belfast Festival from March 31-April 22 (see belfastcity.gov.uk/titanic/ for details.)

WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

If you want to see Mayo but aren't in the market for a transatlantic trip just now, be sure to make time to visit Ron Rosenstock's magnificent one-man show at the Worcester Art Museum. His exhibit – Hymn to the Earth – runs through March 18 and features many stunning shots of County Mayo, where he owns a house outside Westport, as well as other places he has visited and toured. The museum is open Wednesday to Friday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$14 for adults, \$12 for seniors and college students and free for those under 17. The museum, at 55 Salisbury St., is also free the first Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to noon. Call 508-799-4406 for more



A marble plaque, inside St. Patrick's Church in Lahardane, was erected in 2002 over the spot where the baptismal font was located and where 13 of the Addergoole 14 were baptized. Judy Enright photos

information.

Rosenstock said he was initially drawn to Mayo in 1971 when he landed at Shannon to photograph. "I just drove, not knowing where I would wind up. It was in the winter and very few B&Bs were open. I drove as far as Westport and found a wonderful B&B. I intended to stay a few days and drive on, but it was so magical, I never left!"

On subsequent trips, he stayed a week in Westport and a week in another part of Ireland. "I thought I really should see if there were other areas that had the variety of subject matter that all photographers just love. I kept returning to Westport. As the years rolled by I made many friends that I still have to this day. It is truly my home away from home."

For information about traveling on a photo tour with Rosenstock visit: phototc.com or email: jacque@strabotours.com. He says there are many advantages to traveling with him. His group "will not be considered tourists by the Irish but as my friends and we will visit many of my friends on the trip. I also know many out-of-the-way spectacular places to photograph, and I try to get there for the right light. After teaching photography for 40 years, I can help people with any problems they have." To see more of his work, visit: ronrosenstock.com

And, enjoy your trip to Ireland – or to Worcester – whenever you go, and Happy St. Patrick's Day.

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MARCH 3	On the Road A one man hilarious comedy direct from Co. Cork, Ireland. First time performance in the US. Begins at 8:30pm, tickets are \$10.
MARCH 9	Joshua Tree Live in Concert , U2's premiere tribute band. Begins at 8pm, tickets are \$15.
MARCH 10	St. Patrick's Cooking Demo & Lunch Learn to cook corned beef and cabbage the traditional meal of Ireland and enjoy it for lunch. Begins at noon, \$35 Members/\$40 General Admission. Pre-registration required.
MARCH 10	Irish Historical Presentation , take a look back at the patron Saint of Ireland: St. Patrick. Evening begins at 5:30pm with appetizers followed by a lecture, meal and the film <i>St. Patrick: The Irish Legend</i> . Tickets are \$35 members and \$40 general admission. Purchase your tickets online or by calling the centre.
MARCH 16	ICC Traditional Session & Dance : Come to the ICC and enjoy a night of traditional Irish music and set dancing. Music provided by Carraroe who specialize in lively jigs & reels and music and dancing by Dan Hallissey. Irish dancers performing throughout the evening. Begins at 7pm until 11pm. \$10 per person. Pub will be open. Tickets are sold at the door only.
MARCH 17	Be Green Be Seen Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the ICC! The day begins with breakfast and pints at 10am with lively Irish music, Irish dancers, fantastic food and Guinness. The craic will be mighty! Tickets are \$10 beginning at noon, separate cost for food.

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At a time of changing seasons, The Ivy Leaf seems to be on the cusp of its own transition

(Continued from page 22) being in that studio really helped us to focus on how we wanted to sound."

Adds Straw, the band's bouzouki and guitar player: "Doing the CD represented an opportunity we just couldn't pass up. The conventional wisdom is that you don't do a recording until you've reached the stage as a band where you've figured everything out. But a friend told us, 'Don't wait until you're ready. You get better from the process.' And recording the CD really helped us to get better."

A sampling of tracks from the CD bears out the observations of Accardi and Straw. Accardi's fiddle and concertina, Aromin's fiddle and whistle, and O'Shea's flute and whistle carry the melodies with assurance, Straw's bouzouki providing an accompaniment that is at once rhythmic and melodic. Sets such as "Humours

of Glynn/Jackie Small's/Rolling Wave" and "Kennedy's/Return to Camden Town/The Ragged Hank of Yarn" are vibrant and sure-footed, and tailored to fully reveal each tune's character and personality. The band also shows itself willing, and quite able, to change things up a bit: in the "Lumpy Custard" medley, for example, where they shift between mazurka, hop jig and reel; or, in another set where they put the polka "Four Shoves" on the back end of two hornpipes. Nor does The Ivy Leaf shirk the song tradition, as evidenced by Straw's quiet, winsome version of "The Month of January," with twin fiddles and whistle creating a suitably spare, sobering backdrop for this lament of false love.

The CD also is the band's heartfelt thank-you to numerous musicians with whom they've played at sessions throughout Bos-

ton, as well as Providence, and the influences they've picked up through these and other associations. Jimmy Devine, Seamus Connolly, Andrea Mori, and Shannon Heaton are among those who have served as mentors in the members' musical education.

Another important source of inspiration, Straw says, came from Detroit concertina player Asher Perkins. "Asher has been part of a family band, and when he visited with us he described how they would spend time arranging sets and songs. We had been more 'session-style' before, but listening to Asher inspired us to think more about how we approached our material."

"We didn't want the music to feel too robotic or mechanical, so we experimented in terms of, say, changing rhythms or tempos in a set, or dropping instruments in



Photo by Larry Green

and out," says Aromin, who adds that despite the band's greater emphasis on planning arrangements, "some of our best stuff comes under the 'three-hours-before-a-gig' category."

"That may be true," puts in Accardi, "but even if what we end up doing hasn't been planned in advance, we're getting good enough—on our own and with each other—that we can work things out."

Every band has its back stories, of course, typically various combinations of fortuitous events and mitigating circumstances, and there are elements of all these in The Ivy Leaf. O'Shea, a senior at Providence College, followed the most conventional path to Irish music: growing up in the Irish-American hotbed of Milton with a father who ran an Irish gift shop where she listened to popular Irish ballad bands and dabbled with the tin whistle, then taking lessons at the Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann music school with Heaton and Mori—who convinced her to switch from the classical flute she'd been playing to the Irish brand—

and making several trips to the All-Ireland Fleadh Cheol.

Aromin, a Rhode Island native like Accardi (they attended the same high school, but didn't know each other then), can trace his beginnings in the music to the tai-chi lessons he took in his early teens: His instructor also taught violin and lent Aromin an instrument so he could practice on his own. When the moderator of his high school's photography club—a student of Jimmy Devine—spied Aromin carrying around the violin, he suggested Aromin try his hand at Irish music. Another Ivy Leaf seed was planted.

If Aromin can point to tai-chi as his unlikely portal to Irish music, Accardi can cite an invitation to play video games at the house of a school friend, whose fiddle-playing father happened that day to be hosting a party and session. The music being played wasn't strictly Irish, Accardi says, but he was intrigued enough by what he heard that his friend's father lent him a fiddle—which came in handy shortly thereafter when Accardi's mother saw an announcement for fiddle lessons, leading him to Devine.

Straw, the group's geographical outlier, grew up in Wyoming with a great affection for 1960s folk guitar à la Joan Baez, Simon and Garfunkel and, eventually, Bert Jansch.

Although she made attempts at playing jazz, her music teachers invariably steered her to folk—and then, attending Berklee College of Music, she came under the tutelage of John McGann, who opened her up to Celtic music. Listening to various Celtic bands like Malinky, Planxty and the Bothy Band, Straw decided to expand her talents to the bouzouki.

The concise Ivy Leaf origin goes something like this: Aromin met O'Shea—then a high school senior—at a Mid-Atlantic Fleadh in New York. Then Straw met Aromin at Berklee, and the two became roommates, a boon to Straw's immersion in Irish music. O'Shea, and eventually Accardi, entered the fold through various sessions with Aromin and Straw in Boston as well as Providence.

However strong their desire to desire to play together as a band, logistics and other factors presented an obstacle:

O'Shea was in Providence most of the time, and on the occasions she was back in Massachusetts, Accardi or Aromin often might be visiting Rhode Island; additionally, Aromin, O'Shea and Accardi all have spent significant periods studying in Ireland. But their schedules matched up enough to make it workable, especially over the past year.

All the while, the Ivy Leaf members have all cultivated their own musical interests. Accardi, for example, studied East Clare fiddle with Connolly at BC, and concertina with Niall Vallely, while developing a fondness for Sliabh Luchra and West Clare styles. Aromin, who, in addition to Devine, counts Rhode Island-based piper Patrick Hutchinson as well as traditional musicians Bobby Casey, Lucy Farr and Tommy Reck among his major influences, is studying violin-making and repair at Boston's North Bennet Street School. O'Shea considers her six-month sojourn in Galway last year a major step in her understanding and appreciation of the tradition. And Straw has been making her way through the landmark "Voice of the People" series of recordings of traditional singers from Ireland and the UK, transcribing and researching songs.

"Playing with these guys, I learn to appreciate the older, 'roots' musicians," says O'Shea. "I tend to remember the feeling of a tune, and where I heard it, more than the names or other details. Dan is a great fount of information that way."

Says Accardi, "It's just fascinating to me how, on such a little island, even in a single county, there can be so many aspects of the music. I can learn a tune, play it a certain way, and then I'll hear somebody do essentially the same tune, but with enough variations that it sounds significantly different. I like to examine how the musicians made the musical decisions they did because of what they heard around them, or the style they learned. That's what I like about Irish music: You discover what's hidden under history."

Information about The Ivy Leaf, including the band's CD, is available at their website, ivyleaf-music.com

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Irish Heritage Month

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Sona Feile Padraig ort.

The Men and Woman of the Reverend James T. O'Reilly Division 8 Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Irish Foundation of Lawrence have joined forces to present a series of cultural programs for Irish Heritage Month in the City of Lawrence and other venues throughout the Merrimack Valley. These events are the largest celebration of its kind north or Boston. All are welcome. You don't have to be Irish or a Hibernian to come and enjoy these events. They include special exhibits, lectures and presentations, concerts and other musical events, food, children's programs and for the sports minded a Four Mile Road Race. And last but not least the Lawrence St Patrick's Day Parade.

Thursday, March 1, 2012

IRISH FLAG RAISING Across from City Hall – Common Street at 11:00 a.m. All are Welcome

Sunday, March 4, 2012

OPENING RECEPTION FOR THE EXHIBIT "The Irish, The Augustinians: The Story of Our Catholic Heritage" with a LECTURE by the Rev. Father James McFadden Wenzel OSA of Merrimack College who will speak on "The Irish, The Augustinians: The Story of Our Catholic Heritage" at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson Street, Lawrence, MA 01840 1:00 p.m. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH and the Irish Foundation (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

Sunday, March 4, 2012

19th ANNUAL CLADDAGH PUB ROAD RACE – 11 am (rain or shine) Part of the Wild Rover Race Series - For more information runthecladdagh.com

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

LAWRENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY, South Lawrence Branch, 135 Parker Street, Lawrence, MA 01843: **Showcase of Irish Books, CD's and DVD's – All Month** (Monday, Wednesday, Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) Sponsored by Division 8 AOH and LAOH and the Irish Foundation - Handicap Accessible

Saturday, March 10, 2012

THE 141st ANNUAL SAINT PATRICK'S DAY BANQUET AND DANCE at the Lawrence Firefighters Association Relief's In, One Market Street, South Lawrence, MA 01843. Traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner with dancing to the Jolly Tinkers from 6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Awarding of the Richard Cardinal Cushing Award, Honorable John E. Fenton Citizenship Award and Irishman and Irishwoman of the Year Awards. - For more information please contact Robert Gauthier at 978 686-2786. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH

Sunday March 11, 2012

WHITE FUND LECTURE featuring the Rev. Sean McManus who will speak on his book, "My American Struggle for Justice in Northern Ireland" at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson Street, Lawrence, MA 01840 1:00 p.m. (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

Sunday, March 11, 2012

FAMILY DAY AT THE CLADDAGH 3pm – 6 pm Irish Music, Pipers, Dancers Claddagh Pub and Restaurant, 399 Canal Street, Lawrence, MA 01840 For further information please call 978 688-8337.

Friday, March 16, 2012

AN EVENING OF IRISH MUSIC - 3 pm until? at the Claddagh Pub and Restaurant, 399 Canal Street, Lawrence, MA 01840 For further information please call 978 688-8337.

Friday, March 16, 2012

43rd ANNUAL SAINT PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON at the Lawrence Firefighters Association Relief's In, One Market Street, South Lawrence, MA 01843 Traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner with entertainment by the Silver Spears Irish Show Band at NOON. - For more information please contact Jack Lahey at 603 898 7766. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH

Friday, March 16, 2012

RECEPTION AT LORICA ARTWORKS, 96 Main Street, Andover, MA Opening of Irish Art Exhibit 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Handicap Accessible

Friday, March 16, 2012

ANNUAL IRISH ART EXHIBIT (March 16 – April 21) at Lorica Artworks, 96 Main Street, Andover, MA 01810 for information please call 978 470-1829. Sponsored by the Irish Foundation – Handicap Accessible

Saturday, March 17, 2012

HAPPY SAINT PATRICKS DAY – Irish Music all day at the Claddagh Pub and Restaurant, 300 Canal Street, Lawrence, MA 01840 For further information call 978 688-8337.

Sunday, March 18, 2012

LECTURE by Dr Kathleen Shine Cain of Merrimack College who will speak on "Leaving the Troubles Behind: Images and Narratives of Northern Ireland" at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson Street, Lawrence, MA 01840 at 1:00 p.m. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH (FREE) - Handicap Accessible

Saturday, March 24, 2012

IRISH FILM FESTIVAL at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson Street, Lawrence, MA 01840 10:00 a.m. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH For further information please call 978 794-1655. (FREE) - Handicap Accessible

March 25, 2012

CELTIC MELODIES – A concert performed by Terri and George Kelley with Larry Melia Jr. at the Lawrence Public Library, Sargent Auditorium, 51 Lawrence Street, Lawrence, MA 01840 at 2:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Friends of the Lawrence Public Library. (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

IRISH HERITAGE MONTH IS SPONSORED BY THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS DIVISION 8, LAOH DIVISION 8, and THE IRISH FOUNDATION of LAWRENCE

Irish Heritage Month is supported in part by a grant from the Lawrence Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. For information on AOH Membership please write to: Division 8 AOH Organizer, PO Box 1407, Lawrence, MA 01842.



'BLACK '47' – THE DARKEST OF YEARS

For Ireland, it marked the full onslaught of the Famine

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

Second of four parts

"Black '47" – just two words at first glance. In all of Ireland's history, however, few phrases resonate with such horror.

As peasant families in all corners of Ireland struggled to survive in the winter of 1846-47, desperate men, women, and children turned to the government's hastily and ill-conceived public works projects for survival. Charles Edward Trevelyan, head of the British treasury, or Exchequer, oversaw all Famine measures after the fall of Prime Minister Robert Peel's Conservative administration to the Whigs, led by Lord John Russell. A proponent of letting free markets operate no matter the consequences, Trevelyan shut down Indian corn depots throughout Ireland and banned a ship headed for Ireland with a cargo of corn for the starving populace, asserting that the Irish could not remain "habitually dependent" on the British government and had to learn how to make "Irish property support [redress] Irish poverty."

Trevelyan further contended that a full-blown Famine aid effort could "paralyze all private enterprise." In short, he wanted Parliament to do nothing and let Ireland figure out a "free-market" solution, a stance that was to have catastrophic consequences for the Irish.

Stone roads to nowhere

The onset of 1847 found some 500,000 Irish laboring to build stone roads that led to nowhere throughout rural regions. The men smashed boulders with heavy hammers and were paid piece-work for every basket they could fill. Women and children lugged the baskets to meandering road beds where the stones were dumped. With one of the harshest winters in Irish memory unleashing one storm after another, bitter gales, snow, and sleet battered the road crews. Men, women, and children, weakened from hunger, clad in rags, and barefoot in many cases, collapsed with fever amid the piles of stone and froze to death where they fell.

The paltry pay allotted by the Crown proved barely enough to feed workmen and their families, especially as food prices soared. Coarse corn meal cost three times its pre-Famine price, but desperate Irishmen had

nowhere to turn except the back-breaking road work.

As the Irish people's misery and fear swelled with each day of the new year and the British government appeared incapable of or unwilling to address the catastrophe, Britain's Quaker community strove to help the starving millions. William Forster, a leader of the Central Relief Committee of the Society of Friends, which had branches in Dublin and London, had been directed to investigate the Famine and set up relief efforts, and he was stunned by the scope of the disaster. In an appeal to Britain's collective conscience, he wrote of countless children who looked "like skeletons, their features sharpened with hunger and their limbs wasted, so that little was left but bones, their hands and arms, in particular, being much emaciated, and the happy expression of infancy gone from their faces, leaving behind the anxious look of premature old age."

Frightful spectres

Nicholas Cummins, a magistrate in Cork, toured Skibbereen and sent the Duke of Wellington and *The Times of London* a letter describing the starving, disease-wracked people of the snow-cloaked countryside. Wrote Cummins: "I entered some of the hovels, and the scenes which presented themselves were such as no tongue or pen can convey the slightest idea of. In the first, six famished and ghastly skeletons, to all appearances dead, were huddled in a corner on some filthy straw, their sole covering what seemed a ragged horsecloth, their wretched legs hanging about, naked above the knees. I approached with horror, and found by a low moaning they were alive – they were in fever, four children, a woman and what had once been a man. ... in a few minutes I was surrounded by at least 200 such phantoms, such frightful spectres as no words can describe, [suffering] either from famine or from fever."

Corpse-filled cottages, shallow graves, and massive, unmarked trenches in which countless bodies were dumped and covered up with quicklime and earth stretched across the island. Along with starvation, dysentery, typhus, and fevers of all sorts decimated the population, as well as doctors, priests, nuns, and Quaker relief workers striving to help. Entire families lay down along the road and died of "Road Fever." Trevelyan's misguided program of useless public-works projects and the cutoff of Indian corn was a disaster.

Merchant vessels laden with privately purchased cargos of Indian corn and other food did begin to dock in Ireland's ports and offload shipments to warehouses,

but because most Irish could not afford to buy food, the warehouses remained full, and people continued to starve.

Disastrous response

By the end of June 1847, the British government ceased all public-works sites as Prime Minister Russell decided that simply "keep[ing] the people alive" superseded everything else. The new policy intended for the Irish to be fed for free through the Soup Kitchen Act, spearheaded by local aid organizations and paid in large part by taxes on Irish landlords and merchants. Once again, the British government's response proved disastrous.

The Famine was bankrupting landlords whose tenant farmers could not pay their rent. Few people could pay merchants, and shops closed everywhere, the businessmen and their families joining the starving peasants on the streets. At the soup kitchens, demand far outstripped supply; in Killarney, only one soup kitchen existed and it had to contend with more than 10,000 people. The soups themselves – rancid meat, coarse corn, and often-rotting vegetables in boiled water – caused bowel and stomach woes for the lines of men, women, and children clutching small pots or bowls in hopes of getting soup before the pots were empty. Eventually, kitchens began to issue a four-ounce slice of bread and "stirabout," porridge consisting of corn meal, rice, and water. Some three million Irish fought to survive on such skimpy rations throughout the summer of 1847, malnutrition and disease still claiming thousands of victims with each week.

A 'coffin ship' on starvation

In a perverse turn, the fall 1847 potato harvest was not blighted, but yielded only a quarter of the pre-Famine crop. Cash-hungry landlords, large and small, decided to turn their acres over to cattle and sheep and to plant, but in order to do so, they had to move off the tenant farmers clinging to their meager plots. The answer was eviction on a massive scale. The Irish Diaspora was about to swell to unprecedented levels as desperate Irish faced a choice of "coffin ships" carrying them from their country or starving to death. In "Black 47," hundreds of thousands had perished and many thousands of the living were boarding ships barely seaworthy that were bound for Boston.



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Arthur Griffith: revolutionary voice in heady times

By **STEPHEN M. PINGEL**
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Following is the first in a series of retrospective articles on individuals who made substantial contributions to civic life in Ireland during the 20th century. Although a number of them had extended influence in Ireland over several decades, the series will highlight the life of a single personality from each ten-year period.

Arthur Griffith 1900-1910

Anyone attempting to analyze governance on the island of Ireland during the first decade of the 20th century is faced with the historical reality that for the Irish people there wasn't any; Ireland, north and south, was part of the United Kingdom and under British rule. But there is governance and then there are politics and culture, and Ireland produced men and women who heavily influenced the way the Irish dealt with life under the English as both countries moved along what came to be a bloody road to independence.

Arthur Griffith, journalist and politician, was such a figure.

In any examination of significant personalities in 20th century Irish history, fundamental questions offer themselves: Where to begin and with whom? And to what extent were individuals substantively involved in a civic arena where everything began and ended in London?

A consensus on "where to begin" had long centered on the years between the Rising in 1916 and the onset of the civil war in 1922. But historians have also noted the significance of events in the 19th century years of the Great Hunger and before, and to follow the rocky road to independence means digging deep for the beginnings of the ancient English-Irish divide, a gap involving more than sovereignty and ethnic persecution. But that is another story for another time.

The Young Nationalist

Although Arthur Griffith's role in Irish civic life spanned many years, there were distinct stages during which he wielded significant influence among his confederates, and with the population at large. He was born in Dublin on March 31, 1871 (1872, according to some sources) to Arthur Griffith and his wife, Mary Phelan, and received his early education at the Christian Brothers School in Dublin where he was, like many other students, first exposed to nationalist ideas and movements. The cause of independence quickly became his focus even as he carried on with the family



Arthur Griffith
Minister of change

Easter Uprising in Dublin in April 1916. It was in working inside these organizations that Griffith offered up some interesting concepts as he and his colleagues moved forward for the cause of liberty. Perhaps the most well-known of these was an idea he promoted with the publication in 1904 of *The Resurrection of Hungary: a Parallel for Ireland*.

Here, Griffith proposed the idea of an Anglo-Irish monarchy, similar to the governmental set-up that gave contemporary Hungary and Austria equal standing in the empire of the overarching Habsburgs. For Griffith, that would mean reverting to the late 18th-century when Ireland and Great Britain had their own governments under a shared king, an accommodation that was ended by the Act of Union in 1801.

Even though the notion received short shrift, its very existence gave Griffith visibility as an agent for change in the drive for a new, independent political structure in Ireland. In the book, Griffith had this to say: "The Hungarians resorted to a manly policy of passive resistance and non-recognition of Austria's right to rule – the Irish resorted to parliamentarianism, implying recognition of an English right to rule this country. And one nation today is rich, powerful, and able to defy her conqueror, while the other is poor, weak and more tightly held in the conqueror's grasp."

Enter Sinn Fein

What Griffith is best known for, however, is the founding of the Sinn Fein party in November 1905 when he formally presented his "Sinn Fein Policies" to the public. It was here that Griffith declared the Act of Union to be illegitimate, thus illegal, and also brought up again his idea of a dual monarchy. Although he was hardly a monarchist in his political ideology, he saw a

tradition of journalism and the printing business.

It was through his journalism that Griffith contributed greatly to the nationalist cause, beginning with his enrollment in the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB), a precursor to the Irish Republican Army (IRA) that came into being in 1919. The IRB was the organization behind the

dual-monarchy as a means to gain power for Ireland, the rationale being that such governance would be more realistically inviting to the British crown than strict independence for the island. Setting aside the monarchical notion as a non-starter for the times, Griffith's work in helping to form Sinn Fein and its ideology, in outlining many of its goals, and in setting out the organized means by which to pursue independence were his greatest contributions to the cause.

Griffith the Pioneer

One of the ongoing aspects of modern Irish history is the appearance of political leaders who become ingrained in Irish governance over many decades, and who often secure positions of power numerous times, to wit: Eamon de Valera, Michael Collins, and, today, Gerry Adams. Arguably, it was Arthur Griffith who pioneered this trend as he maintained a prominent place in Irish politics until his death. He served as a parliamentary minister, deputy to the legendary nationalist de Valera, and was, with Collins, at the head of the delegation that met with the British in London and helped to create the Anglo-Irish treaty of 1921. After De Valera resigned as president of the Dail in protest of the treaty, which gave concessions to dominion status rather than full independence, it was Griffith who succeeded to the post, serving from January to August in 1922. It was Griffith who came up with the idea of "absenteeism" in Irish politics – candidates would campaign and get elected to British parliament but then not take their seats. It was a tactic that later became a staple of political life in the six counties of the North in their continued association with London.

Griffith's legacy can be inferred from the decades-long strength of the Sinn Fein party and in the ultimate success of the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921, which brought to an end the intramural violence of the War of Independence and paved the way for the Irish Free State, and, finally, the Irish Republic. And political differences and ideological stances stemming from the compromises that Griffith and Collins brought back from London in 1921 are very much in evidence today in Ireland, north and south.

Griffith died on Aug. 12, 1922, of heart failure, at the age of 50; ten days later, Collins was assassinated, even as their cause endured, and, finally, prevailed.

Stephen M. Pingel is a student at University of Massachusetts Lowell, specializing in socio-economic history of modern conflict areas, as well as 20th century Irish history. He has previously worked for the University of Massachusetts' Center for Irish Partnerships and Middle East Center. He can be reached via e-mail at stephen_pingel@student.uml.edu.

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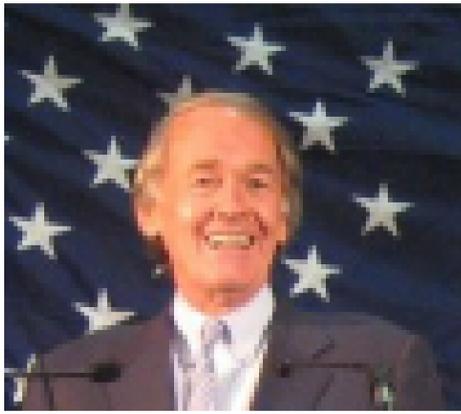
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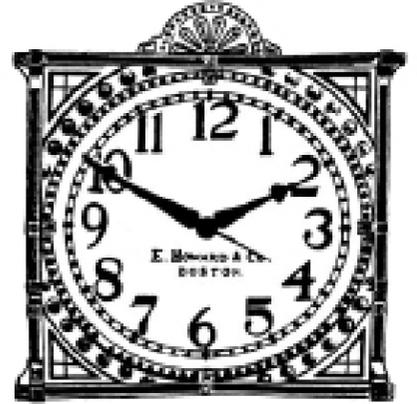
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The Irish Language by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

Last month we began to look at regular “Class II” or “Type 2” verbs. These have two syllables. For “model” verbs we used **céangail**/KAHN-guhl/ “tie” and **osgail**/OS-guhl/ “open”. We will continue to use these two verbs – the first because it begins with a **consonant**, the second begins with a **vowel**.

The first thing to do with “Class II” verbs, in every tense, is to “telescope” the final syllable. Since “syllable centers” are **vowels**, this is easily accomplished by simply removing the last **vowel(s)**. The final **consonant** is moved over to become part of the “root” word, thus maintaining the meaning.

However, there are still two syllables, the first one and the “telescoped” second one to which the **verbal endings** or **person+tense suffixes** are attached.

For example, the “root” of **céangail** drops the **-ai-** and becomes **céangl-**; **céan** is the first syllable and **-gl + person+tense** ending is the second. **Céanglaíonn tú**, “You tie.” Remember that “silent” **-a-**.

Oscail drops the **-ai-** to become **oscl-**. **Os-** is the first syllable and **-cl + person+tense** ending is the second. **Osclaíonn tú**, “You close”.

There are three “Person” endings in the **Habitual Present** for two-syllable verbs -- “I”, **-(a)ím** /eem/, “we” **-(a)imid** /ee-muhj/. Endings for “you, he, she, you-all, they” are **-(a)íonn** /een/. The vowel in parentheses is “silent”, simply there to fulfill the Irish “vowel rule” for balance, “Broad to broad and slender to slender.”

Again, the first two endings, for “I” and “we” are the same for both one syllable and two syllable verbs in the **Present Habitual** tense – **(a)ím** and **-(a)imid**. The ending for all other persons is different, **-(e)ann** /uhn/ for one syllable and **-(a)íonn** /een/ for two syllable verbs.

Compare these two verbs in the **Habitual Present** tense. **Cuir** is of one syllable and ends in a “slender” vowel (**e, i**). The second, **céangail**, is a two syllable vowel which when “telescoped” by removal of the second vowels (**-ai-**) to form a “root” will end in a “broad” (**a, o, u**) vowel which necessitates the insertion of a “silent” vowel for balance.

“Type I” or “Class 1”

Cuir	“plant/put/wear”
Cuireann tú Cuirim	“You plant” “I plant”
Cuireann sé Cuireann sí	“He plants” “She plants”
Cuirimid Cuireann sibh Cuireann siad	“We plant” “You-all plant” “They plant”

“Type II” or “Class 2”

Céangail	“tie”
Céanglainm Céanglaíonn tú Céanglaíonn sé Céanglaíonn sí	“I tie” “You tie” “He ties” “She ties”
Céanglainmid Céanglaíonn sibh Céanglaíonn siad	“We tie” “You-all tie” “They tie”

Once again, these rules apply only to “regular” verbs. Irish has a limited number of “irregular” verbs – the most common – and of these few most are what linguists term “defective” in that they are “irregular” in one or more tenses but not in every tense. An example is **déan** /jen/ “do” or “make” which has a perfectly “regular” **Habitual Present** tense but an “irregular” **Definite Past** tense.

Contrast (and review) these verb forms:

Habitual Present

Déanaim	“I make”
Déanann tú	“You make”
Déanann sé	“He makes”
Déanann sí	“She makes”
Déanaimid	“We make”
Déanann sibh	“You-all make”
Déanann siad	“They make”

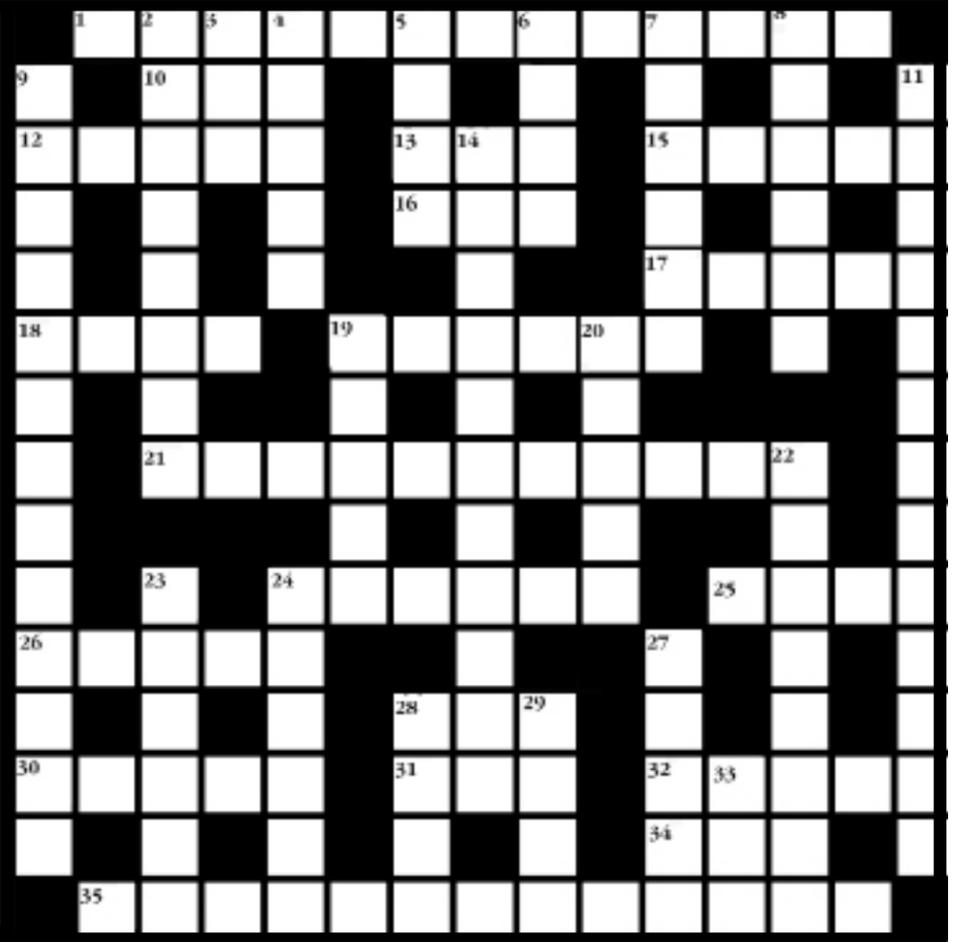
Definite Past

Rinne mé, tú, sé, sí, sibh, siad
“I, you, he, she, you-all, they made”

But **Rinneamar** “We made”

CELTIC CROSS WORDS

The Irish crosswords are a service of an Ireland-based website which provides Irish Family Coats of Arms by email. You are invited to visit www.bigwood.com/heraldry



IRELAND IN CROSSWORDS ©-bigwood.com

ACROSS

- Melon clan’s joy. (anag.) Scottish leader of the Irish Citizen Army during the Easter Rising of 1916. (5,8)
- “Surely mortal – is a broomstick!” Swift (3)
- Ed, she is confused, but pays attention. (5)
- On edge right before 999. (3)
- Wear this in the kitchen or pan will tip over. (5)
- Poetic before being included in Clogher edition. (3)
- Having had an inclination in a Rathkeale antechamber. (5)
- By all means sway about. (3)
- Nice P.R. about the heir to the throne. (6)
- He gets skill to turn to the Kerry rocky islands 9 miles off Valentia with an old monastic settlement. (3,8)
- These boxes would be for Plato’s mentor if so prefixed. (6)
- Golfer’s shout in secluded Westmeath village near Castlepollard, with numerous ancient crosses. (4)
- Second class stream yields a first rate sea fish! (5)
- “Satire is a sort of glass, wherein beholders do generally discover everybody’s face but their –.” Swift. (3)
- Get a tender back in Thurles running. (5)
- Large ox-antelope appears when gun is broken. (3)
- Is pan enough to take to the country? (5)
- Old hated irregular in Ireland got his out in the sun. (3)
- Seal led saints over to the offshore Wexford bird sanctuary where Bagenal Harvey was captured. (6,7)

DOWN

- Purple quartz found in mast they dismantled. (8)
- “We are all born –. Some remain so.” Beckett. (3)
- “Eschew evil and do good: seek peace and – – it.” Psalm 34 verse 13 (5)
- See you apparently in the matter of the way to treat bacon. (4)
- “Yet malice never was his aim; He lashed the vice but spared the – –.” Swift (his own epitaph) (4)
- Guru seen in Kincora clearly. (6)
- Run lag out of large Armagh linen town near Lough Neagh where George Russell, (AE), was born. (6)
- We’ve lent Beth’s version to Connemara’s high dozen. (3,6,4)

- Lad ride in tune about the Republican aspiration for 32 altogether. (6,7)
- Wives torn in bits in Fermanagh agricultural centre where Necarne castle is. (11)
- Question: did the ropes get tangled back in Killure so perfectly? (5)
- “Better build schoolrooms for the boy than – – and gibbets for the man.” Eliza Cook. (5)
- Lots dance out east about Ireland’s nearest neighbour. (8)
- I.e. lark about in Derry angling centre in the Bann valley. (6)
- Customer puts in fifty one to an American penny. (6)
- Pat’s a mess when it comes to foreign food. (5)
- Fierce man-eating giant, therefore Roman retreats from Mayo green environment. (4)
- Apparently, colonels give a clue to what General McAuliffe said in reply to the Germans who demanded his surrender in 1944. (4)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 38

Irish Sayings

- “Youth does not mind where it sets its foot.”
- “Both your friend and your enemy think you will never die.”
- “The well fed does not understand the lean.”
- “He who comes with a story to you brings two away from you”
- “Quiet people are well able to look after themselves.”
- “A friend’s eye is a good mirror.”
- “It is the good horse that draws its own cart.”
- “A lock is better than suspicion.”
- “Two thirds of the work is the semblance.”
- “He who gets a name for early rising can stay in bed until midday.”
- “People live in each other’s shelter.”
- “The world would not make a racehorse of a donkey.”
- “You are not a fully fledged sailor unless you have sailed under full sail,” “and you have not built a wall unless you have rounded a corner.”
- “There is no strength without unity.”

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PUZZLE SOLUTION FROM PAGE 35



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