



The Banshee Bar on Dorchester Avenue has become home base for the Boston chapter of the American Outlaws, a club that supports the US soccer team now making a run at the World Cup. Above, the scene in the Banshee on June 26 as the US took on Germany in a first round match.

Photo by Bill Forry

Dorchester pub is World Cup Central

BY JACOB AGUIAR
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER
Pandemonium reigned inside The Banshee Pub on Dorchester Avenue last month as the United States defeated Ghana, 2-1, in World Cup tournament play. Strangers hugged, women were hoisted onto shoulders, and splashes of beer sprayed the room.
A small contingent of Ghana supporters on site were offered heartfelt

The Banshee is the 'go-to' place for for US supporters

handshakes and conciliatory embraces as images of their vanquished countrymen flashed on the bar's ten flatscreens.
"We want to be a football pub for everybody. That is what we have

been from Day One," said Banshee manager and co-owner Ray Butler. When he and partner Michael Vaughan re-invented the old Vaughn's bar 17 years ago, they envisioned a classic Irish pub, with few

or even no TVs. But that quickly changed because of the lure of sports.
"I love football myself," said Butler. "When we got started here we saw a lot small kids playing football in the park. We realized there was a niche here of people who would want to watch football so we started showing all the games from the club to the international level."

'Football' returns to Fenway (Page 16)

(Continued on page 16)

'More Irish than Ireland,' Milton hails Celtic heritage

BY JACOB AGUIAR
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER
The town of Milton took time on June 22 to celebrate its strong Irish roots by presenting a Celtic Music festival headlined by internationally recognized Frankie Gavin and his band DeDannan. Gavin has been cited as "the world's fastest fiddler: by the Guinness

Book of World Records.
"I hear Milton is more Irish than Ireland itself," joked Gavin. He and his band flew in from Ireland the night before the event.
The sun shone out of a clear blue sky over Governor Hutchinson Field atop Milton Hill for the Sunday afternoon event. Scores of children ran about playing under the watchful eye of



Milton Police Chief Richard Wells, Linda Lee Sheridan, co-chair of "We Are Milton," and Milton Selectman Dennis Keohane. Jacob Aguiar photo

parents and grandparents who themselves enjoyed the sun and the sounds of the local musicians in the Celtic style: The Fenian Sons, Erin's Melody, Cat and the Moon, and Devri, featuring Pauline Wells.

"It was great! Hopefully it will become a regular thing," said Matt Carey, a drummer for The Fenian Sons. The festival was the result of a six-week collaborative
(Continued on page 15)

At last, a US ambassador for Ireland

St. Louis lawyer Kevin O'Malley

FROM WIRE SERVICES

A Missouri lawyer has been nominated to be the next US ambassador to Ireland. The selection of Kevin O'Malley comes after an unusually long wait by the White House of some 18 months to make the call on the diplomatic post.

A prominent trial lawyer in St. Louis and a second-generation Irish American (his grandfather came to the US from Mayo), O'Malley has 35 years of experience in litigation, "specializing in medical negligence cases, federal white collar criminal defense and product liability defense," noted the *Irish Times*.

A prominent community leader in St. Louis, he is a former officer in the United States Army Reserve and served as a federal prosecutor for 10 years the US Department of Justice and as assistant US attorney in St. Louis. He also teaches law at the Washington University School of Law. O'Malley studied for the priesthood for a time and is a prominent parishioner in the Catholic diocese in St. Louis.

The appointment has to be confirmed by the Democrat-controlled US Senate.

The longest delay in the appointment of a US ambassador to Ireland previously was 13 months, recorded in the mid-1930s during the presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Senior figures in the Irish-American community had criticized the delay in appointing a new envoy, with Democratic congressman Joe Crowley of New York City being the most recent prominent individual to voice concern.

During the visit of Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams to Washington in May, Crowley called for the Obama administration to be more engaged in the Northern Irish peace process by appointing a US ambassador as soon as possible to have a presence in Dublin.

The Irish Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Eamon Gilmore, welcomed the announcement, according to the *Times*. "I am delighted that President Obama has announced his decision to nominate Mr O'Malley as the next US Ambassador to Ireland," said Gilmore. "This reflects the commitment which he gave to the Taoiseach at their St. Patrick's Day meeting in Washington DC.

"It is important that there be a resident US ambassador here, to reflect the extraordinary strength and depth of the relationship that exists between our two countries."



Kevin O'Malley

Much ado in Canton as Festival-makers strut stuff (Page 12)

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Commentary

It's a time to 'Fight Like TK'

By BILL FORRY
BIR EDITOR

Tommy Kelly is four years old. This week, the rest of his kindergarten classmates from Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy in Neponset are where they should be: enjoying their first full days of summer vacation at the sands of Tenean and Nantasket or planning for a week or two down the Cape with their families.

Tommy has just returned home after a grueling three-week stint in the hospital, where he'll probably spend a good stretch of his summer as well.

Earlier in June, Tommy fell violently ill. His parents — Katy and Eddie Kelly — rushed him to Children's Hospital. Within a day or so they were given the diagnosis: Their boy has cancer in his kidneys. Stage four. It may have spread beyond there. He needs surgery — and maybe chemo or other aggressive treatments — to save his life.

It is impossible to overstate the wave of shock and compassion that swept through Neponset — and then across the

wider Boston community — as the news was shared over the weekend. Eddie, who has become a national champion of union firefighters, grew up in the shadow of St. Ann's brick tower on Neponset Avenue. His mom, Katy, is a legend in her own right — most recently for her selfless dedication to Team MR8, the marathon squad that has raised over \$1.25 million for the Martin W. Richard Foundation. The Kellys are deeply respected, the consummate Boston Irish family whose life revolves around service to God, country, neighbors.

Last Tuesday, the tight-knit St. Ann's parish community gathered to rally around Kate and Eddie and young Tommy. An overflow crowd packed the pews of the church to pray the rosary on the eve of Tommy's first operation. The post-operation news, Eddie later shared to his friends on social media, was mixed. The kind of tumor Tommy had was treatable, the doctors think. But it was not something they could simply remove. They'll need to get more tests back — and

Tommy will very likely need radiation treatment to shrink the cancer.

It is all enough to lay low the mightiest men and women, let alone a little boy. But the Kellys, as many have noted in thousands and thousands of posts online, are made of the toughest stock imaginable. The most common sentiment — "If anyone can beat this, it's a Kelly" — might sound like a trite slogan. It's anything but in this case.

The Kellys' story has gone viral, particularly among the huge network of America's firefighting and law enforcement communities. Firehouses in New York City and Texas and all around the country have sent along heartfelt salutes to Tommy: Some have added him to their daily roster boards or voted to make him an honorary member of their department. A Facebook page dedicated to Tommy — "Fight Like TK" — is lit up around the clock with prayers, photos, and signs of support.

Edzo Kelly has been keeping everyone up to speed on his son's battle from day one via Face-



Tommy Kelly and his mom Katy got a surprise visit from Spiderman during his recent stay at Children's Hospital. Photo courtesy Kelly family

book. Last week, she shared some good news. Testing has confirmed what they'd hoped for: Tommy's tumor is a kind that can be removed in many cases. A few days later, he reported, Tommy was back in his own bed at home in Dorchester.

"We are coming into a period where Tommy's treatment has made him susceptible to viruses and infection, so the Docs have asked us to limit contact and have positively no

contact with anyone who may be sick. So don't take offense if we see you out and about but just wave hello," Eddie wrote. "Being a tough little guy, Tommy doesn't appreciate sympathy. He just wants to be treated like any other rambunctious soon to be 5 year old. Which is refreshing! Thank you for your prayers, they are working! Please keep them coming for all sick kids here and everywhere!"

"We will forever be

grateful for the support we have received from around the world and our own Parish!"

It'll be a tough summer for Tommy Kelly and his clan — including his big sister. But it's times like these that remind us why we live here. Our community stands tall and supports its own. Tommy Kelly and his family knew that already, better than most in fact. Right now, it's time to show them that we get it, too.

Playground in Southie to memorialize Michael Joyce

By JEANETTE ORIGEL
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Moving to a new city is difficult enough. Moving overseas can be even harder.

But for the immigrants who came to Boston during the 1960s through the 1980s, getting accustomed to the new place was made much easier thanks to the late Michael Joyce, who had himself moved to Boston from Connemara, Co. Galway, Ireland in 1949.

Joyce lived in Dorchester's St. Margaret's parish until he lost a four-year battle with cancer in 1989 at the age of 66. This year will mark the 25th anniversary of his passing and a playground in South Boston's Marine Park — re-named in Joyce's memory in 2011 — is being renovated this summer. Officials held a ceremonial ground-breaking at the new playground on July 17.

Growing up in Ireland, Joyce enlisted in the Irish Army and took up the sport of boxing. As a soldier, he won titles like the Battalion Championship, the All-Army Lightweight Championship, and the coveted Lightweight Boxing Championship of Connaught.



City and state leaders broke ground at the Michael Joyce Memorial Playground in South Boston's Marine Park on July 19. Photo courtesy DCR

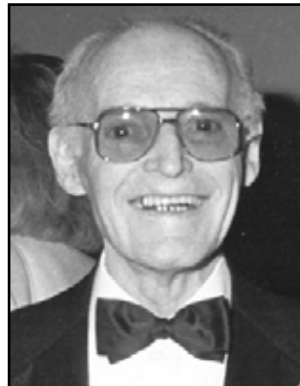
After moving to Boston, he got his first job at Purcell's Restaurant on School Street in downtown Boston. There, Joyce met a lot of people from the city and state, building what would become a great network of people who respected and trusted him.

He also worked at a courthouse at night and eventually in the 1960s went to work in the House speaker's office dealing with immigration issues and helping immigrants with every issue they faced. Working in the State House for two decades, he worked for

four Speakers including Robert Quinn, David Bartley, Thomas McGee, and George Keverian.

It was during this time, Joyce became the go-to guy for many elected officials to resolve immigration issues, according to his daughter, Mary Joyce Morris.

"He was able to accomplish extraordinary things helping people with immigration," Morris recalls. "Michael Joyce never asked a person's race, color, or creed, he would only ask 'How can I help.' My father never talked about what he did."



Michael Joyce

When a more than 2,000 people showed up to his funeral with wonderful stories about her father,

Mary was stunned to hear about what he did for the community. After his passing, his friends in Dorchester felt he should be remembered after all he had done.

"I didn't feel it was appropriate for me to initiate this, so for this group to reach out to me, it was extraordinary," said Joyce Morris. Over the past 11 years, the Friends of Michael Joyce searched for public parks that might work for a memorial to Michael. Finally they were given the opportunity to take their plans to Marine Park in South Boston, located on the corner of Farragut Road and William J. Day Boulevard, where a bandstand is located. The playground, which has not been updated for over 20 years, is not handicap accessible, something the Friends of Michael Joyce are planning on changing.

Over the years they fundraised through 5K Run/Walks along the beach that raised \$60,000, as well as raffling Justin Bieber tickets and participating in opening night for the Red Sox and Bruins, both bringing in \$9,000. They also had a runner, Jennifer Scully, participate in the Boston Marathon raising \$5,000.

In 2011, the Legislature passed a bill to rename part of the Marine Park to be named the Michael Joyce Memorial Playground.

"It is a place where on the weekends I used to go. It was a big deal for us to go to Castle Island, we didn't have a car growing up," said Joyce Morris of the playground's location.

"They were all hard working, committed to making a better life for their families. A lot of them depended on themselves and always kept their culture."

The Friends of Michael Joyce plan to have new equipment, all handicap accessible, a new toddler lot enclosed, foam underneath the swings and platings, while keeping some of its original structures.

"The goal just became to have this done for the kids and families this summer," said Joyce Morris. "The opportunity to do this is just a win-win. It's a wonderful way to remember an extraordinary, highly respected, hardworking modest man and have this in our city, not just for the neighborhood of South Boston, but the neighborhood beyond, we can't believe we're getting there."



The Boston College High School Concert/Chamber Choir, led by Choir Director Dr. Marina Rozenberg, returned recently from a concert tour in Ireland. While in Ireland the boys visited Trinity College and the famous Book of Kells Exhibition; the exhibit of medieval and Viking Dublin; the Powerscourt House and Gardens; and Croke Park Stadium. As one student described the trip "we sang everywhere from airport terminals, to museums, street corners and hotel lobbies. There was a lot of singing!" This year, the traveling choir comprised 28 students, BC High faculty member Gene Holmes, BC High parent Mr. David Vargo and the choir's pianist Mrs. Derelyn Kahler of Hanover. Also with the group were Michael Brennan, BC High vice principal/student Affairs, and seven other enthusiastic "choir parents." This photo, courtesy of BC High, was taken during the concert after the April 20 Easter Sunday liturgy at St. Kevin's Parish Church in Glendalough.

‘Lucky to be alive’ not always a cliché

By Ed Forry

This past April, MSNBC’s Lawrence O’Donnell was on vacation with his brother Michael in the British Virgin Islands when his taxi van was hit in a head-on crash. Both sustained serious injuries.

In his first telecast since the accident, he gave a poignant telling of his story since that day, saying he felt “lucky to be alive.” His words articulate his profound sense of gratitude to all who helped. Here are some of those words:

“I want to talk about crying, because I’m also going to talk about some things that have made me cry. And I might have to pause once or twice when I do that. So, I just want you to be forewarned, because what could

be more shocking than an anchorman crying? The first commandment of television is, anchormen don’t cry, which is why I will never be and will never feel like a real anchorman.

“You know, of all the advantages a boy can have growing up there’s nothing quite like a heroic big brother. And Michael O’Donnell’s three little brothers have always had that advantage every day of our lives.

“Michael saw the crash coming and yelled something, a billionth of a second before the noise started. I was looking down at a map on my iPhone. And so, it was the deafening noise that told me we were in a collision. The noise seemed to go on forever. I couldn’t see anything in the darkness except the light of the radio in the center of the dashboard in front of me. And as the front end of that taxi was being crushed that radio just kept moving closer and closer and closer to me. And I had what felt like a very long time to think about dying and what a stupid way to die this was, and to think about my daughter.

“And then the radio suddenly stopped moving. And the noise stopped. And I wasn’t dead. I could see. And I could hear. And I could move my hands and my arms worked. I wasn’t dead. I was lucky to be alive. That cliché, lucky to be alive, was suddenly so true to me, so profound. It was such a warm feeling.

“We should all feel it all the time but a lot of us don’t, until we get this close to the end. I had a couple of near-death experiences in my teens and 20s, a motorcycle, that kind of thing. But I was too young to learn the lesson. But at 7:45 p.m. on April 12, 2014, I finally got it. Lucky to be alive.”

The brothers were transported buy air ambulance to hospitals in Boston and New York, and both underwent several surgeries.

“Living among the medical community as I did for weeks was a huge revelation to me. I’d never been hospitalized before. I had never seen the extraordinary daily kindness and heroism of nurses up close. I had never depended on them.

“For weeks, I was completely dependent on them. I had only one real day and night of pain in the hospital after surgery, and it was a giant order of magnitude. The worst pain I have ever experienced. It is actually an ordeal that many post-surgical patients go through and I cannot get into the details now, because it is just too gross, trust me. I’m not kidding about that. And if you’ve been through it, you know what I’m talking about.

“A nurse named John Frank Ellis got me through that night. It was in its way as hard a night for John as it was for me. I’ve never been more dependent on anyone in my adulthood and never been more grateful.

“The next time when John came back on duty, I gave him a thank you note in a sealed envelope, with some cash in it. A lot of cash in it. A token of my indescribable gratitude. John took the envelope, the sealed envelope, he left the room, a few minutes later he came back in and he said my thanks was all that mattered to him, and he handed me back the money. And he told me that it was against his personal ethics and against hospital policy to accept gifts like that. “I had no idea. I had no idea I’d crossed a line. This was all new to me. So, you can tip people who clean your room in hotels but you can’t tip nurses, I didn’t know that. Great nurses don’t do it for the money. Yes, they care about and they rely on their paychecks, but they couldn’t do the work they do, the great nurses couldn’t do that, they couldn’t do it the way they do it, if the motivation didn’t come from the goodness of their hearts.

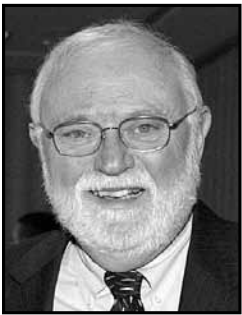
“The nurse who spent the most time with me in New York is Shannon Lawrence. Our shared name was less interesting to me than her first name, Shannon. As an Irish-American kid growing up in a place like Boston, I developed an ear for the ethnicity in every name. On our first day together I asked Shannon how she got an Irish first name.

“She said her father was wounded in World War II and was sent to a hospital in England for treatment. The nurses there literally did not want to touch the black soldiers in that hospital. Then an Irish nurse came along and took good care of Shannon’s father. The Irish nurse’s name was Shannon.

My nurse Shannon has spent her life sharing the same healing kindness and grace that her father’s nurse did.

“And on my last day in New York -- I told Shannon that if I had another daughter, I would name her Shannon.”

(The video of Lawrence O’Donnell’s comments can be seen here at tinyurl.com/lrowecz)



July in Belfast often means marching to taunt; where is Unionist leadership?

By Joe Leary
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The month of July marks the most difficult time of the year for Belfast, Northern Ireland’s capital city. It is in the seventh month that the Protestant community, led by the notorious Orange Order, annually renews the famous “marching season,” sending loud and boisterous bands and Orange Order members marching into Catholic communities where they pass in front of Catholic churches.



Joe Leary

The leaders of the Orange group claim the right of tradition to justify the marches, which almost always create violence and mayhem on both sides of the divide in the North. Policemen, too, are hurt, and the cost of security around the marches is enormous. The marchers scream insults at Catholics who are standing in front of their homes as the bands play and sing songs of bigotry. Last year, when a band stopped, some of its members urinated on the steps of St. Patrick’s Church in Belfast.

Nearly 16 years after the 1998 Good Friday agreement was signed and endorsed by the electorates in the North and the South of Ireland, these marches continue to flaunt Protestant superiority over Catholics in the North. But it often goes beyond simple flaunting. A video from London has just been released showing a young couple having sex on the altar of Good Shepherd Catholic Church on the Ormeau Road in Belfast. The priest who gave permission for use of the church naively thought the filmmakers were going to use the altar for a music video. The parishioners are deeply offended, of course.

Not all Protestants approve of the taunting. The overwhelming majority do not want to return to the days of violence but there is a significant minority that thinks that street parades, street protests, and riots are not only their right but also that they are required to protect their way of life.

But Belfast is undergoing dramatic change, some of it good and some of it very bad. The main cause of the change is the surge in the Catholic population and

the resulting fear in the Protestant community that their control of life in the city has gone. According to a BBC news report in early April of this year, the Catholic population in Belfast is young and has risen to 49 percent of the total. The Protestant population, older and passing away, has dropped to 42 percent. The remaining nine percent comprises immigrant populations or those with no fixed religion.

One of the first results of the new majorities on the Belfast City Council has been the election of Catholic mayors. Another was the controversial vote by the Council limiting the occasions when the British flag is to be flown over City Hall, a move that generated violent year-long riots all over Northern Ireland.

There are two other major impacts due to these changes. First, the Protestant men of violence have turned their anger and violence on the small immigrant population and second, the revelation of the apparent incompetence and almost supportive bumbling of the Unionist Protestant Leader, Peter Robinson, now the First Minister of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Frequent violent attacks have been made on immigrant homes and families and they are continuing on a daily basis. Protestant men living in disadvantaged poor areas are known for their illiteracy rates, so it may be difficult for them to understand how such assaults can injure all of Belfast, even their own areas. Signs have been hung on immigrant houses proclaiming “Locals Only.” Some of the houses have been trashed with baseball bats and large hammers in what seems a manifestation of the perpetrators’ growing paranoia. First Minister Robinson has stated he sees nothing wrong with these signs.

In another instance, an Ian Paisley follower who is a Presbyterian minister recently attacked Muslims in the most bitter language. Robinson agreed with the minister until others in leadership forced him to apologize. Such a back-and-forth seems to be an indication of a dysfunctional leadership at the top of the Unionist/Protestant political party.

As we approach July, this is a good time for those of us here in Boston to send our best good wishes to all the people of Northern Ireland. There are many kind and hard-working people in Belfast on all sides who, hopefully, will one day be able to put all this disruption behind them.

When compromise is seen as hypocrisy, governance by democracy is impossible

By James W. Dolan
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

There was a time in Washington when politics was the means to an end. The end was governing. The messy process of politics was applied to gain office and then to develop and secure passage of legislation that reflected a public policy consensus.



James W. Dolan

Politics was the dark side of good governance. Its tools were influence, cajoling, trade-offs, favors, intimidation, patronage and pork that often produced good results when applied to a noble purpose. It was the means to achieve the enactment of the Constitution and laws that have made this a prosperous and compassionate nation.

The process of achieving a sensible compromise is not always pretty. It often involves give-and-take that if exposed to the light of day would reflect badly on participants, who could do things in private that, if revealed, would harm them politically.

With the level of scrutiny the media now apply, such “deals” are more likely to be exposed, and do harm to one or more of those involved.

Ironically, more partisanship and resulting gridlock may be an unintended consequence of the level of attention the media bring to the process. Rather than concerning themselves with “doing the right thing,” politicians are more apt to play to their constituents for fear of revealing their involvement in the confusion and disorder that so often is an integral part of governance.

Strict adherence to ideology is to compromise what virginity is to marriage. You can’t have both. The purists back home have little sympathy for, or understanding of, what governing in a democracy entails. For them, compromise is hypocrisy – a sell-out of inviolable core values. That attitude is more consistent with autocratic rule. Democracy requires the balancing of interests, and reaching compromise is precisely that; it’s not only how we govern, but how we live.

Now that has all changed. Politics has become the end game. Doing whatever it takes to stay in office is paramount. Survival is the goal. In an age of hyper-transparency, the way to do that is to malign and discredit the opposition. Not just the policies and programs being advanced by opponents, but their character, intelligence, credibility, and honesty.

Form now overwhelms substance, the means obstructs the end, and governance is stymied. To even talk to the opposition is now suspect to some. Candidates are elected and sent to Washington not to cooperate but to

impede. Cooperation is viewed as a sign of weakness by the ideologues.

Congress is becoming a theater of the absurd – a dysfunctional reality show – where the players’ biggest fear is that they will be cancelled and have to return to a life of obscurity. Egos have crippled the institution upon which we all depend.

There was time when we could look to Congress for profiles in courage. There were some who would risk the unpopular vote – a career-ending act – to serve the common good. There were others, less courageous but still effective, who would make a deal. Either way, the institution functioned.

The purists subscribe to the New Hampshire motto: “Live Free or Die.” There is no middle ground. In softer terms: “It’s my way or the highway.” What they overlook is that freedom can be defined differently. What I consider freedom for myself and others may include health care, immigration reform, and gun control; others feel differently. Freedom is relative but death is absolute.

I propose a motto for Congress: “Live Free and Let’s Talk About It” or “Don’t Tread on the Common Good.” The options should never be so stark and self-centered that reasonable people cannot come to a sensible compromise. “Give Us Liberty and the Wisdom to Understand and Achieve It” might be a good start, but it would require an awful big license plate.

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

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OF GREED AND GREENS

Two recent deals have Irish eyes here and there scowling and smiling

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

The deal is completely legal. Medical-device titan Medtronic will soon complete a \$42.9 billion deal to gobble up Massachusetts-based outfit Covidien. The swollen pact benefits Ireland’s economy, pays off big for two companies’ executives and stockholders, and will purportedly allow Medtronic to pump some \$10 billion into research and development in the US. The deal, however, contains one aspect that raises questions about the continuing offshore tactics of American companies finding ways to set up shop overseas to wriggle out of paying taxes here in the States.

Before the local Chamber of Commerce comes at me with torches and pitchforks, please bear in mind that no one is saying there is anything illegal about the massive deal. Still, as Richard Ainsworth, the director of Boston University’s graduate tax program, told the *Boston Globe* on June 17, Medtronic is taking full – legal – advantage of an “inversion,” a buyout in which the normal process is “flipped.” It just so happens that while Covidien’s US headquarters is in Mansfield, Massachusetts, where virtually all of the company’s corporate staff works, the outfit possesses an “Irish address.” For tax purposes, Covidien is based in Dublin. Of the company’s approximately 38,000 employees, some 1,500 work in the Dublin “headquarters.” Medtronic is headquartered in Minneapolis, but thanks to “inversion,” Medtronic will be “reincorporated” in Ireland and subject only to the requirements of the Irish tax code for foreign companies – a gargantuan and sweet savings for the company.

Said Ainsworth of the deal: “If I did this thing straight-forward, then Covidien would live in Minneapolis, but we don’t want that. So we do it the other way around, so we have the small fish [Covidien] eating the big fish [Medtronic]. It doesn’t make a whole lot of sense.”

Inversion buyouts have caught the attention of sever-

al senators in Washington. The Levin (Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan) Bill – the Stop Corporate Inversions Act of 2014 – currently has only twenty co-sponsors, showing the stranglehold that corporations have upon bought-and-sold legislators. The bill’s proponents claim that removing the inversion loophole would bring in some additional \$20 billion in tax revenue.

The deal’s impact upon Massachusetts is ironclad: large layoffs in Mansfield because of “overlap” with similar departments in Minneapolis. That is the price of any merger, and in full disclosure, one of my family members will likely be among the corporate cuts in Mansfield.

Thanks to inversion, Medtronic has found its proverbial, legal, low-tax pot-o’-gold in Dublin. One hopes that Senators Levin, Elizabeth Warren, and others will continue to push for closer scrutiny of such “buy-outs.” Fair and free commerce should be the standard both here and in Ireland – not corporate freebies for Medtronic and other recipients of inversion welfare.

For their part, Medtronic executives dismiss any contentions that Covidien’s Irish address played anything but a minor role in the deal. The company asserts that its “Irish reincorporation” will only bring a “slight benefit.” Sounds like Medtronic’s Minneapolis crowd already has a profound understanding of *blarney*.

...

Turning from greed to green, so to speak, welcome news for Irish and Irish-American golf lovers arrived with the Royal & Ancient’s (R&A’s) recent announcement that for the first time in more than six decades, the British Open will be held outside of England and Scotland. The fitting venue will be none other than one of Northern Ireland’s most venerable links – Royal Portrush.

The last time that the British Open championship was staged outside England and Scotland was in 1951 – at the same Northern Irish seaside tract. Although

the wait will be until 2019 or 2020, the move reflects just how far Northern Ireland and Irish golf overall has advanced in the past decade or so.

With such Northern Irish stars as Rory McIlroy, Graeme McDowell, and “graybeard” Darren Clarke having joined the Republic’s Pádraig Harrington as major champions and reportedly pushing R&A officials to give the Emerald Isle its golfing due. R&A’s head honcho Peter Dawson told the media, “We couldn’t be more excited about bringing the Open back here to one of the world’s truly great links courses. There is a rich heritage here. It will give the game here and the whole region huge exposure.”

Only one British Open has been held in Ireland, and it happened at Royal Portrush in 1951. All of the island’s hopes rested with “Whistling” Fred Daly, who had become the first Irish player to win a major, the 1947 British Open, at Hoylake, and the only “green” major champion until Harrington many years later. Daly had learned and honed his stellar game at Portrush.

The homegrown champ fell short. The victor at Portrush was Max Faulkner, one of the more colorful golf characters of the era. According to one account, the notoriously cocky Faulkner, before heading onto the Northern Irish links for the 1951 Open’s final round, signed several autographs in the following fashion: “Max Faulkner, Open Champion.”

He had ample reason for confidence, having bested harsh winds to card 71, 70, and 71 headed into the last day. In that final round, he had to ward off a strong challenge from Argentina’s Antonio Cerda, but Cerda’s six-shot blow-up on Portrush’s devilish par-3 14th helped clinch a two-stroke victory for Faulkner.

One suspects that in 2019 or 2020, a glut of “Irish Medtronics” executives and entourages will flock to Portrush, given the “long-standing” Irish roots of the company.

Eire Society cites O’Donovan’s ‘authenticity, artistry’

The Eire Society of Boston presented its annual Gold Medal Award to the well-known radio host and musician Brian O’Donovan at a reception and dinner on Thurs., June 12, at the Neighborhood Club of Quincy. He and his wife Lindsay live in Cambridge. They have four children: Aoife, 31, Ciaran, 29, Aidan, 27, and Fionnuala 21.

Following are the text of the citation honoring a man who has spent the past four decades promoting Irish traditional music and other Celtic music in the New England region and excerpts from his remarks:

“Boston and America have benefited enormously from the spirit of adventure that has propelled scores of young men and women tour shores. They have enriched our culture, enlivened our talent base, and touched our communal soul with the full-throated vigor of the newly arrived.

“Our Eire Society honoree, Brian O’Donovan, has traveled that uncertain route, trod that path of striving and attainment. We have been the beneficiaries.

“From Clonakilty in West Cork he came fortuitously to Boston three decades ago to organize, entertain, and enlighten: a joyously welcome amalgam of authenticity and artistry.

“O’Donovan has leapt from success to success in two notable and demanding careers. For a dozen years Brian held vital leadership positions for Kraft Sports ranging from chief operating officer, Stadium GM, vice president of the Patriots, to COO of New England’s Major League Soccer franchise, the Revolution.

“Heeding his heart, Brian extended his universe as the longtime host of WGBH’s popular weekly Celtic Sojourn, and on stage, he has operated in full flight as entrepreneur, performer, producer, talent scout, and musical tour guide, enthralling a generation of music lovers. His Christmas shows, now in their second decade, are a sparkling, multifaceted addition to the New England holiday season that reflect splendidly on its creator.”

...

Brian O’Donovan: Thank you so much for having me here tonight. It is truly and I mean this, honestly, an honor for me to stand here in this beautiful place, and to look and see so many familiar faces, I am genuinely humbled.

“And that humility comes from a variety of sources but chief amongst them is that I feel this honor tonight is really for Irish culture itself, and for me, yes, I accept it, but only as a simple messenger, maybe a curator, if you will, but just one such curator/messenger/advocate for a culture that is powerful, and enduring, and transcending of commercialism or faddishness.

“A culture that has survived the very real human challenges of famine, dislocation, brutal discrimination, forced emigration, prejudice in the new land – right here in America, right here in Boston – and the uphill struggle to assimilate.

“And yet, here we are tonight in our beautiful surroundings in Quincy not far from where Abigail Adams looked on with her family as Charlestown erupted in the flames of revolution on June 17, 1775. Did she or her husband John envision at that point in history, that almost 250 years later, the Irish would have played such pivotal roles in creating what I believe strongly is one of the greatest cities in the world, certainly one



Eire Society Gold Medal awardee Brian O’Donovan and Consul General Brendan Ó Caollaí. Additional photos on page 19.
Ed Forry photo

of the best places to live.

“But it’s at times like these, we need to remember who we are and how we came to be, so Irish and proudly American.

“In his book “Irish Boston,” Michael Quinlan recounts the story of two Irish immigrants, each named Patrick Sullivan, who left their homes in the year 1847 and took passage to Boston. One of them flourished here; the other perished.

“The Sullivan who survived had boarded the Unicorn in London in July 1847, and sailed into Boston that August. His only skill was dancing, so he set up a dance academy (to teach the girls and boys of his adopted city). He married Swiss immigrant Adrienne List, a classically trained pianist, and they settled on Bennett Street in the South End, where the New England Medical Center is today.

“The other Patrick Sullivan spent his final days on this earth quarantined at Deer Island in Boston Harbor. He died on Nov. 11, 1847, at age 33. He was the 260th Irish immigrant to have died at the quarantine hospital after its opening on May 29 of that year. He was one of nine Sullivans who died on the island between June and December 1847.

“In September 1856 Sullivan the dancer and his Swiss wife had a son whom they named Louis. He went on to become the nation’s foremost architect and is regarded as the Father of American Architecture.

“But the Patrick Sullivan who languished on Deer Island is also part of our history. He was one of several

hundred men, women, and children who suffered a sad, painful, lonely death at a quarantine station in a harbor 3,000 miles away from home.

“Fate has always had a hand in Irish history and it’s worth pondering what this Patrick Sullivan and the other Sullivans might have become had they actually made it to the Promised Land, which shimmered just five miles in the distance on the shores of America.

“Marcus Garvey, the Jamaican political leader of the early 20th century, said: “A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin, and culture is like a tree without roots.”

The Eire Society – all of you as curators of this proud legacy we have as Irish – have kept this knowledge alive in the area for over 70 years. As you heard me say, I am just the messenger, maybe a curator. In so many ways, you are also the messengers, the keepers of the flame.

“But in 2014, the Irish culture we celebrate is not backward. It is not inward-looking. Nor is it academic, to be dusted off now and then and analyzed. Our literature – drama, poetry, fiction – is known the world over and a new crop of writers like Colm Tóibín, Emma Donoghue, Colm McGann, and Ann Enright continue to make impact in such an Irish way. Our visual arts, film and video, our actors, like Michael Fassbender, and Colin Farrell, Irish singers with names like Samantah Mumba, and Laura Izibor, indicate just where we are in the home country, pulsing at the edge of Europe.

“No, our Ireland, our Irishness is open and invitational and celebratory. It is in all of its forms, a narrative on who we are and where we have come from and a celebration of our being there, of our being here in America. Its language is about sharing. A traditional session in a kitchen or a pub, a festival in a field, a history lecture, a book reading, a short story re-discovered, a chorus of a song, a smile, a welcome, a poem from your childhood, a remembered proverb from your mother, a cup of tea with a friend in the old china.”

...

“There is a poem I have become very fond of from a poet who deserves to be read far more widely than he is: Michael Coady, a retired teacher from Carrick on Suir. He captures so much of my sentiments on the subject of music, its position as a balance in a broken world:

*Though there are torturers in the world,
There are also musicians.
Though, at this moment,
Men are screaming in prisons,
There are jazzmen raising storms
Of sensuous celebration,
And orchestras releasing
Glories of the Spirit.
Though the image of God
Is everywhere defiled,
A man in West Clare
Is playing the concertina,
The Sistine Choir is levitating
Under the dome of St. Peter’s,
And a drunk man on the road
Is singing, for no reason.*

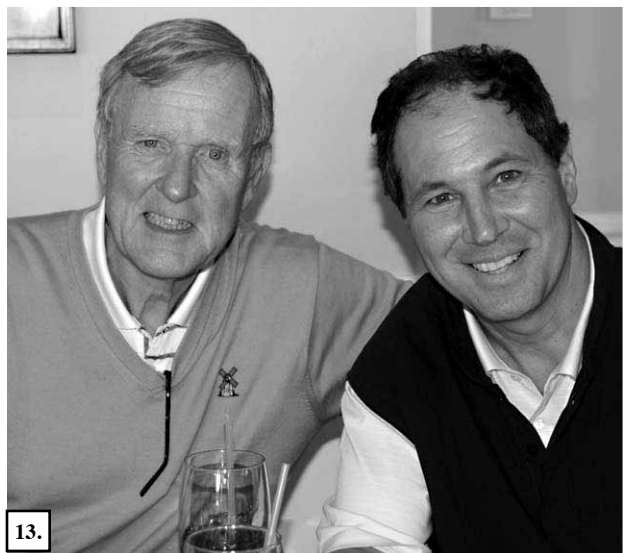
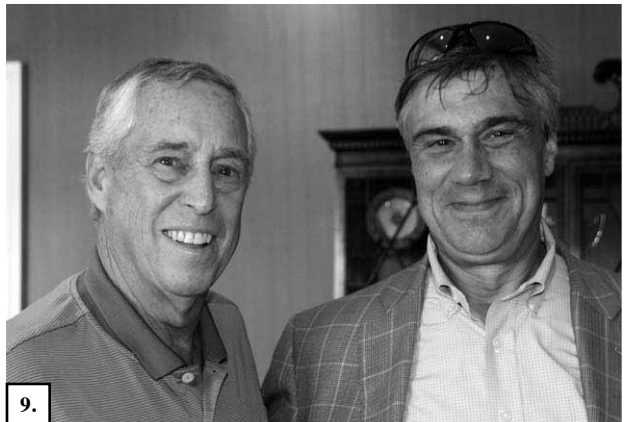
BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett

Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

The 2014 Thomas S. Durant, MD, Golf Tournament was held June 16 at the Oyster Harbors Club in Osterville. The event honors the late Dr. Durant, a beloved MGH physician and humanitarian, and benefits the Thomas S. Durant Fellowship for Refugee Medicine program at the MGH Center for Global Health. Directed by MGH primary care physician Laurence Ronan, MD, the Durant Fellowship offers health care providers a unique opportunity to travel abroad to serve refugee and displaced populations. This year's event was very successful. The fundraising golf tournament was created in 1996 by Bill Reilly, a good friend of Dr. Durant's. "This tournament is more than just about golf and raising money," says Reilly. "It has soul; it is an extension of all that is good and great about the MGH. It is about people, caring, sacrifice, service and so much more." Reilly and MGH Dr. Larry Ronan co-chaired the tourney, and it was organized by Mary McAleer, vice president of the Irish American Partnership.

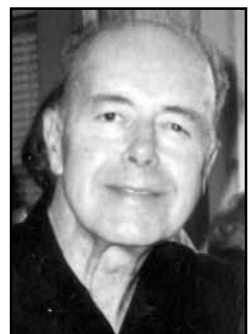
1.) Richard McManus, Bob White, Tom Finneran and David Brown; 2.) Phil Jones, Wayne Dupont, Ken Evans and Frank Bonanno; 3.) Peter Dalton; 4.) Dr. Peter Slavin, MGH President; 5.) Dick Flavin, Billy Reilly, Bill Devin; 6.) Mary McAleer; 7.) Tony Athanas; 8.) Ed Buck, Pat Mooney, Bobby Caparella, Pat Stapleton, Don Lopez, Michael Caparella; 9.) Dr. Andrew Warshaw, Dr. Larry Ronan; 10.) Zoe Reilly, Colleen Reilly; 11.) Sylvia Hutter, Barbara Doyle, Cynthia Marr and Dan Cook; 12.) The pros: Matt Baran, Liz Gudas, Chris Catena, Head Pro Sean Edmonds; 13.) Des Heathwood and Carl Martignetti.



Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By BILL O'DONNELL

Shared Schools In NI: A Dramatic Shift – The push by Northern Ireland's political leaders to promote “shared education” between Protestants and Catholics will radically change the face of secondary education in the North. The move, to be phased in, will affect mainstream schools, students, and facilities in a now divided educational system that is badly in need of reform. The aim of this bold government initiative is to break down decades-old, deep-rooted sectarian divisions that have seriously undermined a full realization of good relations between the two Christian traditions.



Bill O'Donnell

Emphasizing the serious intent of the government to act decisively on the education front is the encouraging announcement that the effort will have the solid financial support of the government, which has endorsed the move with a start-up investment package of \$40 million, with more to come as needed.

The action to promote reform in the schools, now segregated and administered separately within the province, is no slam

dunk. Life in a divided society that is underpinned by religion – and by “peace walls” – where residents rarely socialize with those of another religion has nurtured a lingering distrust that is an obstacle to long-term peace and stability.

Parents from Catholic and Protestant homes often share fears that bringing children together will mean the lessening of their religious bonds; and with that there are deep parental concerns about corrupting dogma influencing young minds. Experience elsewhere does not support that belief.

Recent studies have clearly shown that the vast majority of schools are segregated. The research found that almost half of the North's schoolchildren were being taught in schools where 95 percent or more of the students were of the same religion. The study, which looked at the 2011-2012 school year, showed that 180 schools had no Protestant students and that another 111 schools taught no Catholic children.

The early mandate of shared schools would encourage shared classes, facilities, teachers, and buildings, a practical beginning that supporters hope will eventually lead to fully integrated schools.

Centenary Planning for The Rising Under Way – The Irish government has kicked off initial planning for the celebration that will mark a seminal moment in Irish history. The event is to be a lengthy rollout of events and remembrances of the revolutionary leaders and soldiers who confronted the British in April of 1916. But as it goes so often with many such historical celebrations, there are a number of interested parties who are determined to be officially and properly recognized and able to speak out.

It has only lately been announced by **Jimmy Deenihan**, the Irish Minister for the Arts, Heritage & Gaeltacht, that the descendants of the participants in 1916 have been publicly invited to the celebration. There had been some talk among the relatives of the 1916 heroes that they had heard little or nothing from the commemorative committee and were considering boycotting the government events. However, soon after came Minister Deenihan with a dose of damage control. He said that he wants to see as many of the descendants and relatives as possible attend and participate in the celebration. “Throughout the planning,” he said, “I have been impressed with the interest and commitment of the family members and their wish to be closely involved in the upcoming commemorations. I ask all to contact the department. The relatives and descendants should be involved.” Questions raised, case closed!

America Works: Faces Of Excellence – *The Boston Globe* (June 15) has earned a shout-out for the feature story and photographs of “Boston's Faces of Excellence.” The newspaper has done this before, highlighting Boston high school valedictorians who made it to the top of their class by hard work, caring parents, and teachers. The stories and bios tug at the heart, as they probably should.

Of the 40 valedictorians in this year's salute there are 18 foreign-born students (45 percent) from a variety of locales ranging from Haiti to Vietnam. Most all are going on to college and many who continue their education here will bring their skills and learning home later to help their people there. Others will stay here in America and contribute to the health and advancement of their adopted country.

I wonder if any of the diehard opponents of comprehensive immigration reform have ever looked closely at what immigration has done in so many ways to benefit this nation of ours. Just recently, the voters in a congressional district in Virginia ousted House Majority Leader **Eric Cantor** in a primary election. His sin, as charged by his opponent and his TV ad campaign, was that Cantor was for “amnesty” for undocumented aliens living here. Whether Cantor was for or against amnesty, the very hint that he might be was enough to defeat the second ranking leader in the House.

Cantor's surprise trouncing combined with the thousands of children from Latin America now crowding through Mexico and into the southern US is the death knell this year for any political moves to reform and regulate immigration. The Republican leadership and many of the members are conflicted and afraid

of sharing Cantor's fate. Re-election for many of our national elected officials has replaced or reduced integrity and conscience. Take the one-seventy a year and the perks and hide.

Ryanair's Chief Turns Charming – The CEO of Ryanair, **Michael O'Leary**, is apparently looking for love to go along with his famous lower fares. The airline that some people love to hate did some internal soul-searching and found that the public didn't like the airline for its add-on baggage fees and other anti-consumer tactics, and also that they liked O'Leary even less. Adding fire to the airline's stern practices was a warning to O'Leary from shareholders.

The market research highlighted Ryanair's shortcomings and suggested some remedies that are now becoming standard at the airline. Forgotten is the idea to charge for restroom use, and in its place there are now various discounts for parents traveling with children and a softer policy on family seating together. Also, there is now a range of customer-friendly upgrades, including more allocated seating, easier booking, less onerous airport check-in fees, and a free second carry-on bag. We'll have to wait for the annual balance sheet to see if redemption works for O'Leary and his airline.

Padraig O'Malley, On The March For Peace – Every once in a while it renews my faith in people when I get random updates about **Padraig O'Malley**, who holds the Moakley Seat at UMass Boston's McCormack Institute. O'Malley, a friend since our days 25 years ago working together with Boston Ireland Ventures, is an academic who has traded his syllabus for a well-worn passport and a bulging Rolodex. His quest now and for many years: Peace.

In the intervening years, or at least for a large chunk of that quarter-century, Padraig has been on the move with his 'Forum for Cities in Transition' that has led him to foreign ports of call including, among others, Northern Ireland, Iraq, Kosovo and Nigeria. He continues through interminable bureaucratic delays and hardscrabble challenges to put a shoulder to the task of showing us how one man can truly make a difference.

During the past five years Padraig has traveled, cajoled, challenged and put together against long odds a series of conferences and face-to-face meetings between cities and their leaders in efforts to wrest results that move enemies and ideas closer to peace. Throughout his journey Padraig has been followed and filmed by the award-winning independent filmmaker **James Demo**, who founded Central Square Films in Cambridge. Demo, whose film has the working title of “The Peacemaker,” has hundreds of hours of film on O'Malley and his work with cities in conflict. Demo told me in a telephone interview that he is 90 percent finished filming and now is editing the nearly finished product. Demo expects to have the film ready for showing next year. In the meantime, he will be traveling once more with O'Malley, this time to Belfast in the early fall to do more filming of Padraig at work, as always, for peace.

Fulton Sheen Gets High Ratings at Vatican – The sainthood cause of Archbishop **Fulton J. Sheen** is in full regalia and moving forward following recommendations from a panel of theologians who recently met at the Vatican. Our younger readers may not recall Sheen, who died 35 years ago. Yet in his heyday, with his colorful nationally televised program, “Life is Worth Living,” the then-monsignor was the golden voice of 1950's TV, with ratings that sometimes challenged the competing TV comedy show starring Milton Berle.

Following the panel of theologians, a second panel consisting of seven doctors further studied the late archbishop's possible miracle and found that the survival of a newborn child had no natural explanation. Now, the quest for sainthood for Sheen will be reviewed by the cardinals and bishops who are members of the Congregation of Saints' Causes. After that, evidence of the miracle will be presented to Pope Francis and if he affirms that the miracle occurred through Sheen's intervention, the late New York archbishop could then be declared “Blessed.” A second miracle would be needed for canonization, and no timetable has been set for that.

Mystery surrounds Jackie K's College Repository – The mysterious disappearance and the later return to All Hallows College in Dublin of the **Jackie Kennedy** letters to **Father Joe Leonard** are just the tip of the iceberg regarding valuable stolen and lost artifacts at the college.

In the months before the existence of the letters exchanged by Kennedy and Leonard became public information, there was a series of probable thefts, most likely by an insider, at All Hallows that has Garda and church officials bewildered. According to an Irish rare book expert, the college archives had been “plundered for years.” A number of books and etchings and small paintings had disappeared but many were returned when the missing material came into focus as the “Jackie letters” became a media news item.

A sad sidebar to the contretemps at All Hallows is that there will be no sale or auction windfall of the now-famous letters. But they may be the subject of negotiations between the college and the Kennedy family. Following the collapse of any notion of a sale of the letters, All Hallows began winding down its operations and announced it is closing.

Top Obama Aide Reassures Irish – The unusual 18-month delay by the Obama administration in naming a new ambassador to Ireland and its reporting by the Irish and American media apparently caught the eye of the White House last month. The sometime besieged White House quickly backed up the appointment of Missouri lawyer **Kevin O'Malley** to Dublin by

sending out the WH chief of staff **Denis McDonough** to be warm and friendly with reporters, assuring them that Ireland and the peace process in the North was a continuing priority of President Obama.

McDonough, with his fresh face and certified Irish roots, said all the right things and told the assembled Irish beat writers that O'Malley “is a close personal friend of the president,” which presumably copper-fastened the ambassador-designate as the choice de jour of the Obama White House. However, don't hold your breath waiting for an answer to why it took so long (the longest vacancy in the country's history) to name our newest envoy to Ireland.

Guildford Four 'Victim' Gerry Conlon is Dead – **Gerry Conlon**, 60, who served 14 years for a 1974 bombing in England, has died. His life after being exonerated and freed from prison in 1989 was largely a tortured existence as he was haunted by his prison years, suffering two breakdowns, continual nightmares, a suicide attempt, and addiction to drugs and alcohol.

The jailing of Conlon and the other members of the Guildford Four is considered the biggest miscarriage of justice in British legal history. Eleven years after Conlon's release, Prime Minister **Tony Blair** became the first senior politician to apologize to the Guildford Four.

Peter Robinson Should Go, Says Newsletter – The Belfast Newsletter, the oldest continuously operated newspaper in the world printed in English and a respected, conservative publication representing members of the Unionist/Protestant population in the North, has called for the departure of First Minister of the North, **Peter Robinson**. He and **Martin McGuinness** are the administrative leaders of the government. The Newsletter cited Robinson's failures, including his inability to placate the flag protestors, his U-turn on the Maze/museum, his bad relationship with McGuinness, a series of public polls that reflects a growing lack of confidence in Stormont and the Executive, a downturn electorally, and the increasing attacks on Robinson by credible sources in the North. Those flaws just scratch the surface.

It seems to this observer that, as the Newsletter says forthrightly, “Peter Robinson has already hung on too long.” Amen!


RANDOM CLIPPINGS

Congratulations to **Colette & Mike Quinlin** who are celebrating their 15th anniversary as the nation's only cultural tourism organization specifically promoting Irish culture, history, and heritage. Look for BITA's Travel & Cultural Guide available free at Irish venues, pubs, gift shops, museums. ... Golfer **Rory McIlroy** finally dropped the other shoe, telling us that he will represent Ireland in the 2016 Olympics. ... Conservatives (aka Tea Partiers) aren't excited by new US House majority leader **Kevin McCarthy**, but they have been fussed by tradition and the returning speaker, **John Boehner**. ... Ireland has been cited by industry leaders as one of the best countries for entrepreneurial activity in Europe. ... Dublin-based scientists are working on developing a universal cure for (are you ready?) – snakebite. ... The wood to make hurleys, ash, is being imported from Queen Elizabeth's Sandringham forest. The royals reportedly are happy at the GAA connection.

They are starting to disappear under a strong sales assault, but Galway homes are still a bargain. As are homes in Mayo, Clare, and Longford. ... **John Malone**, a cable billionaire, was outbid for the Mount Juliet golf resort by a 35-year old UCD grad. ... Tip's son was in a recent June issue of the Inishowen News praising Tip O'Neill Diaspora Award winner **Therese Murray**, the president of the Massachusetts Senate. ... Border shopping in places like Co. Donegal are a bonanza to local retailers, largely due to sterling customers flocking south for bargains and good weather. ... Taking few chances the Irish Finance Dept. has hired a crack legal team to fight any problems affecting Apple's favorable tax rate. ... The Museum of Newport (RI) Irish history is located on Lower Thames St. in the city center and is open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, noon to five, through Oct. 26. ... The troubled Irish Health Service paid out \$350,000 in agency fees to fill a \$150,000 job. The math is a bit skewed but sad. No wonder the Health Dept. is under siege.

WGBH Radio will add an hour to the **Jim Braude & Margery Eagan** show (11 a.m. to 2 p.m.) in September. ... The Irish manufacturing sector grew for a 12th straight month. ... The world has more millionaires than ever before, with 16.3 million households and \$152 trillion in wealth, up almost 15% in just one year. Inequality reigns. If you hadn't noticed. ... Ireland is on the march economically and Standard & Poor's has restored the country's A rating, with more to come if they can get the budget deficit below 3 percent. ... Independent Councillor **Christy Burke** has been elected Lord Mayor of Dublin. He is a former Sinn Féin member. ... Peter Robinson may be off his medications with his odd remarks insulting Muslims. **Ian Paisley's** son, who succeeded his father as Minister of the Free Presbyterian Church, called the First Minister a “condescending ignoramus.” Wow! ... Channel 2's Greater Boston host, Emily Rooney, first chair there for 18 years, will step back, just focusing on the Friday edition of Beat The Press. ... The French economist and best selling author of “Capital in the 21st Century,” says that “a progressive wealth tax would be the ideal solution to resolving global wealth inequality.” ... There are several ongoing probes into the babies buried in a mass grave in Tuam, the latest having been ordered by the Justice Minister. It is being carried out by the Garda, Ireland's national police.

IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER



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Jason Wall: J-1 IWT participant profile

After only a few minutes at One Stop Business Centers in Woburn, it is obvious that Jason Wall has found a home. His colleagues speak nothing but high praise and from the easy way they all joke with one another, I can tell he is part of the family.

Jason is in the United States on the J-1 Irish Work and Travel visa program, a twelve-month internship visa sponsored by the Irish International Immigrant Center. He decided to leave Ireland for the year to gain experience for his future career. With the aid of a family connection, he got plugged into One Stop

Business Centers while on holiday in Boston last summer, and after interviewing with them, he was offered a position to start in the fall.

“My experience so far has been really good,” Jason said. “I’ve learned loads from working here, so much more than I ever learned in university.”

An avid rower, Jason is involved with a local rowing club, and can be found out on the water three mornings a week. He is clearly enjoying his life in Boston. “I haven’t even gotten homesick,” he said, “and I was quite happy coming back [to the US] from Christmas.”

Jason was on a bit of a time crunch after landing the position to get his visa paperwork processed. He credits Jude Clarke, Program Manager for the J-1 IWT program, with making the process smooth and hassle-free.

“I cannot say enough good things about Jude. He was so helpful; he took the time to answer my questions and was genuinely interested in me going to Boston.”

Not only is Jason gaining valuable career skills, but he is also getting a complete cultural experience from his time in the US. “I went with a friend to Philadelphia



Jason Wall: “I’ve learned loads from working here.”

for Thanksgiving at his house,” Jason recalled. “Driving for eight hours is an experience.”

His least favorite thing so far? The Massachusetts drivers.

Matters Of Substance

Self-Care in the face of Tragedy

With all the recent news coverage reporting on the growing pressure on the Irish government to hold a full historical inquiry into the deaths of almost 800 children in a mother and baby home in Tuam, Co. Galway, between the 1920s and the 1960s, we thought it might be helpful to share some resources.

It is possible all this media attention may be triggering for those who have links to this or other state/religious institutions or were adopted from them. Some may be experiencing anxiety, anger or a re-occurrence of depression or other PTSD symptoms as a result. Please know there are resources in Ireland and in Massachusetts to support those impacted by trauma and abuse and who may need a safe place to talk and be listened to. Please encourage anyone you know who needs added

support, to reach out. If you have questions, need further resources or would like to arrange a time to chat with our counselor Danielle, e-mail her at dowen@iicenter.org or call 617-542-7654, Ext. 14. If this media attention is triggering a traumatic response for you, we would first encourage you to avoid (for now, until your symptoms ease) reading articles and visiting websites describing the evidence discovered or reading people’s comments. The Riverside Trauma Center here in Massachusetts has a wonderful fact sheet with practical suggestions on how to take care of yourself in the event of a traumatic event, which for some reading these news reports may experience it as.

Even if you are far away from family, there are many things you can do to take care of yourself:

1. Maintain social connections: When we experience a loss or a tragedy, it

is easy to isolate or withdraw from our network of friends and family. But in a time of crisis, these support networks are more important than ever. Reach out to those who can support you, make plans to see friends and stay connected—in person or on the phone. And remember, that it is okay to take time out for yourself to rest and recharge.

2. Engage in health-promoting behaviors: Exercise several times a week and try to maintain a healthy diet. Our healthy routines and good eating habits disappear during emergencies, so we need to find ways to carve out time to go for a walk, swim, or whatever exercise you enjoy. Do not overdo it. If you are pressed for time, a short walk is fine. Do not be hard on yourself. Right now may not be the time to start a diet or quit smoking. Stay hydrated. When we are stressed we tend to use up more water than normal, and our bodies do not always give us the signals that we are thirsty, so it is important to drink a lot of water.

3. Maintain good sleep hygiene: Traumatic events often disrupt our sleep. Some people report nightmares or find that nights are harder for them. Try to maintain regular sleep routines and get eight hours of sleep a night. Stay away from caffeine in the evening. Recent studies support turning off all electronics – televisions, phones, and computers – at least one hour before bedtime.
4. Find balance in your life: During a crisis people often report excessive behaviors – working too much, eating too much, sleeping too much, and even drinking too much. Avoid excessively watching television (or website/internet) reports of the event. Set limits for yourself on activities and make sure you are taking care of yourself in all areas – social, behavioral, and spiritual. Our assumptions about the world being a safe place can be shattered and anything we can do that gives our life meaning or gives us a plan of action will help speed our recovery.

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Entrance is at 201 Devonshire Street

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Contact Danielle Owen at 617-542-7654 ext. 14 for full job description or go to: <http://iiicenter.org/sample-page/job-opportunities/>. Send resume and cover letter to career@iiicenter.org by June 26.

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IMMIGRATION Q & A

I just got my Green Card; Now What?

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

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

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

When you travel abroad you must be careful not to “abandon” your residence in the US. If you want to leave for more than 12 months you must get a “reentry permit” from USCIS before you leave or CBP will presume that you have abandoned your status and may not readmit you. A reentry permit is granted at the discretion of USCIS for specific purposes, for example, going abroad to attend university, or going to your original home country to take care of an elderly or ill parent. Also, if you leave for more than six months but less than a year, you are not automatically presumed to have abandoned your US permanent residence, but you can face scrutiny on this issue from CBP when you return. It is important to consult with us at IIIC or with your immigration lawyer before taking a trip out of the US lasting more than six months.

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

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

Other responsibilities of permanent residents include filing accurate federal and state tax returns annually and paying any taxes that you owe; reporting any change of address to USCIS within 10 days; and having your children who are permanent residents register with USCIS within 10 days of turning 14.

Your green card does not entitle you to vote in US elections or serve on juries – you must be a US citizen for that. Doing so as a legal permanent resident amounts to a false claim of US citizenship and can have very serious consequences.

USCIS has issued a pamphlet entitled “Welcome to the United States: A Guide for New Immigrants.” This publication is available in eleven languages at no cost to view or download from the USCIS web site, uscis.gov. It contains detailed information on your rights and responsibilities, as well as discussion of many practical issues facing new residents: finding jobs and accommodations, health care, education and child care, taxes, learning English, and so on. This would be a good place for general orientation if you have questions in these areas. Keep in mind, however, that while the publication was current when it was last revised in 2007, laws and regulations are subject to change at any time and can vary significantly from state to state. Also, no general publication can fully address the particulars of your individual situation. Visit one of our weekly legal clinics advertised in the Emigrant for a free, confidential consultation on your specific questions about any immigration-related issue.

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

Bostonia Public House: ‘elegant renewal’ near Faneuil Hall

By **BILL FORRY**
EDITOR

A who’s who of Boston business leaders— with a heavy dose of Irish-American heavies – packed the city’s newest hot-spot near Faneuil Hall last week. The opening of Bostonia Public House – located in the Board of Trade Building on State Street – was hailed as a “elegant renewal of a classic Boston meeting space.” The restaurant and bar replaces the Irish pub Kitty O’Shea’s, but is bigger and American-themed. Partners in the venture include Irish-American development titan Dave Greaney of Synergy Investment & Development, Michael Vaughn, co-owner of The Banshee and president of Nauset Strategies, and John Fitzgerald, the operating partner and a veteran of the city’s hospitality industry.

“Our objective is to create an establishment that celebrates the history, traditions and people of Boston, said Fitzgerald, the former operations manager of the Somers Group. “We recognize that Bostonians are increasingly seeking out refined yet relaxed offerings. I come from a place where a true public house is about more than just food and drink. It’s about community – a place where friends can socialize after work, visitors can pull up a stool and feel at home, and people come together to create memories.”

Designed by HGTV Host and Food Network Designer Taniya Nayak, Bostonia serves locally-inspired cuisine and beverages in a space that “integrates rustic elements with polished modern accents”— including throwback maps and the iconic seal of the city. For more on Bostonian, please visit bostoniapublichouse.com.

...

Syngery, the development firm owned and operated by Dave Greaney, has sold the rights to one of its key development projects next to JFK-UMass MBTA station in Dorchester. The “Residences on Morrissey Boulevard” project— which received the go-ahead from the Boston Redevelopment Authority in 2013, will be a five-story, \$50 million apartment complex next to the transit hub near the *Boston Globe*. Last month, Greaney told the *Reporter* that Synergy would sell the property and project rights to Criterion Development Partners, a Waltham-based company that specializes in the “development, construc-



The exterior of Bostonia Public House on State Street.



Michael Vaughn and Dave Greaney, left, are part of the investment team behind Bostonia Public House on State Street. Above, John Fitzgerald, the operating partner at Bostonia Public House.

tion and asset management of investment-quality multifamily communities.”

Synergy continues to control other key properties along Morrissey Boulevard, including the Shaw’s supermarket and the Greater Boston Media Company buildings. The “Residences at Morrissey Boulevard” project has been framed as the first phase in a 20-year redevelopment effort along the roadway, which will now include the disposition of the Globe property, which is currently being marketed for sale by owner John Henry, who purchased the newspaper company and its holdings last year.

Greaney said Criterion’s prior development experience and “commitment to executing the plan consistent with what we presented to the neighborhood and the city was a significant factor in our decision to award them the deal. We will continue to be large stakeholders on Morrissey Boulevard and we have a vested interest in the successful completion of this project,” said Greaney. “We are confident that the new ownership team will deliver a first-class product to the neighborhood.”

...

Longtime Boston builder Michael O’Malley has a new venture that is targeting a condominium development in Dorchester’s Lower Mills section as a first project. O’Malley and his partner, John Sambucci, intend to buy and redevelop five parcels along Washington Street, including the former Molloy’s Funeral Home property.

O’Malley and Sambucci’s new company – City Point Development – is expected to pay over \$3 million for the land, according to sources familiar with the deal. In a series of meetings recently with abutters, plans emerged for a six-story residential building with 50-plus units. O’Malley has since agreed to re-design the proposed building to address height and density concerns raised by neighbors.

“We’re going to re-design the building and get back to the community in the next two weeks,” O’Malley told the *Reporter*. “You will have a fabulous area to live with shops in the front and we won’t overbuild it. I will stay involved even after we sell the condos,” O’Malley said, adding that he plans to keep ownership of any commercial space designed in the new plans.

Contact Bill Forry at bforry@dotnews.com.

Irish, British consuls, BC fellows discuss issues confronting Ireland

As the rapprochement in Northern Ireland continues to evolve, scenes unimaginable before 1998 continue to unfold. In late May, a conference held at the Beacon Hill home of British Consul General Susie Kitchens offered a profound reminder of just how much has changed. Consul General Kitchens and Irish Consul General Breandan O Caollai hosted a symposium with BC’s Irish Institute and its 2014 Rule of Law fellows on May 27.

The professional fellows and interns of the Irish Institute broke into three sub-groups for the discussion. The three top-

ics covered were Diversion and Early Engagement with Youth; Enforcement and Police Services for Youth Offenders; and the Justice System for At-Risk Youth. Each group offered insights from their experiences, knowledge of US policy on these issues, and a comparison of both Irish and Northern Irish policy and practices on these issues. At the end, the discussion turned into a question and answer session reflecting on shared futures.

The professionals hailed from law enforcement, youth justice, and the law to engage with their American counterparts in

and around Boston during a month-long fellowship on the American practices of good governance and the rule of law.

The focus of the discussion was “specific and effective policies aiming to encourage at risk young people to cooperate with one another and engage with political and economic institutions.” The consulates, as well as the Irish Institute of Boston College, are continuing to promote cooperation and understanding among the United States, Ireland, and the United Kingdom.

– PETER F. STEVENS



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**BOSTON IRISH ARTS,
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Much ado as festival makers strut stuff

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Dancers small, tall, and in between swarmed the Irish Cultural Centre of New England campus June 14 for the second Boston Irish Festival Feis, a day of Irish step dance competitions that attracted some 450 participants of various ages and levels from across the Northeast, as well as from Toronto, South Carolina, and even New Zealand.

Co-organized with the Harney Academy of Irish Dancing, the Feis was the third of three consecutive weekend Boston Irish Festival events celebrating popular Irish pursuits at the Canton-based ICCNE, which is marking its 25th anniversary. On May 31, the festival featured a day of sporting events – notably hurling and Gaelic football – and children's activities. The middle portion of the festival, June 6-7, showcased top-line Irish/Celtic acts Black 47, The Screaming Orphans, and Eileen Ivers & Immigrant Soul, as well as numerous musical performers from the Greater Boston area and elsewhere in the region.

Misty, murky weather greeted the Feis, and a steady, 45-minute drizzle at mid-day posed a potential threat to the styled hair and make-up sported by some of the competitors. But most of those present, being pretty experienced in matters of feis, seemed unperturbed by the damp and focused on the task at hand – although a number



Kathleen Parks and Ricky Mier of the band Cat and the Moon share a duet during the Boston Irish Festival music weekend.
Sean Smith photo

of younger dancers found the temptation of the center's playground facilities irresistible.

The day's competitions took place in two tents, the "Grades Stage" on the ICCNE patio, and the "Championship Stage" about 50 yards or so away on the grass. The dance floor in the packed Grades Stage was divided into four separate sections (us-

ing yellow "Caution" tape as dividers), and competitors – sometimes in groups of three or four – did their routines, then cleared the area hurriedly for the next. It was less crowded at the Championship Stage, with dancers mainly competing in pairs, but adjudicators kept things moving along briskly: One pair would complete their routine, bow, stand and

wait while the adjudicators tabulated scores and the next pair of dancers took the stage; at the ring of a small bell, the previous competitors departed and the next round would begin.

As they awaited their category, a pair of 12-year-old Graces carved out a little practice space on a smaller patio outside the ICCNE main building.

Grace Mussari, of Bridgewater, went through her paces wearing rain boots, trading off with her friend Grace Gilmore, a Kingston native. The two talked about the pre-feis regimen they follow – involving crunches, sit-ups, lots of stretching, yoga and "listening to powerful music" – and avidly agreed that a feis, as Mussari put it, "is a whole different world."

"It's just the best time, meeting up with everyone and seeing what they do," said Gilmore. "And it's like you all speak the same language," added Mussari. "You just do Irish dance and no one minds. Not like when you're with your friends at the grocery store; it kind of freaks people out."

Wait, you do Irish dancing in grocery stores? "Um, sometimes," said Mussari, bursting into laughter along with Gilmore.

Elsewhere, 10-year-old Maeve McCann of Hanover and 11-year-old Weymouth resident Megan Siegfried, along with their respective mothers, Nancy and Maria, enjoyed some cool drinks while waiting for the results of their competition to be posted. Both girls have a few years of experience in Irish dance, and taking part in a feis definitely ranks as a high point.

"You go to your class every week, you really focus, and then you come here and make your hard work pay off," said Megan.

Maeve said the feis can serve as an extra dose of development: "The judges will tell you the areas where you need improvement, like crossing your feet or pointing your toes. It's very helpful."

Rockland resident Kristen Gallagher, an Irish step dancer as a child, watched her nine-year-old daughter Mairead stretch out and warm up. "We've made some wonderful friends through Irish" (Continued on page 12)

He's immersed in history and the arts scene

BY R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

For a relatively young guy, Michael Duncan Smith has developed an unusually deep understanding of history. He also has a passion for the performing arts. Happily, the Westford native has found a unique way to satisfy both interests.

Most days you'll find him at New Repertory Theatre in Watertown where he serves as marketing and public relations director. However, when the weekend arrives, he can often be found portraying a Colonial Minuteman – an experience he describes as "living history."

His interest in theater began early. At UMass Dartmouth, he was vice president of his theater group. After graduation, he joined the staff at Boston Playwrights' Theatre, later moving on to Boston Center for the Arts.

Several months ago,

Mike accepted the position at New Rep where he is currently working on marketing a fall season that kicks off with the musical "Closer Than Ever," followed by productions of Stephen Sondheim's "Assassins," Tennessee Williams's "The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore," the world premiere of Robert Brustein's "King of the Schnorrers" and more.

Early in his career he worked as an actor and director. Now having a two-and-a-half-year-old daughter at home, he remains focused on arts administration. Here's a condensed look at our conversation.

Q. Your interest in the arts began very early.

A. My high school (Westford Academy) had a really great theater arts program. It's still run by the same guy, Michael Towers. He was really instrumental in getting me to pursue theater



Michael Duncan Smith, Marketing and Public Relations Director at New Repertory Theatre.

through high school and into college.

Q. I hear the two of you crossed paths again several years later?

A. It's a very interesting relationship with him... He showed up at Boston Playwrights' Theatre. He was (at BU) to get his MFA in playwriting. So he was a graduate student while I was marketing coordina-

tor... I probably wouldn't be in this profession if it wasn't for this gentleman. It was a really interesting cycle. The next year, we produced his play, "Five Down, One Across," so it came full circle. He helped me discover theater and see how beneficial it was to be in theater. And then I helped market and produce his show.

Q. Your time at Boston Playwrights' was a learning experience in more ways than one.

A. After college I was looking for work in town. I applied pretty much everywhere. I had an interview at The Huntington... I applied for a job at New Rep – this is going back eight or nine years (Continued on page 12)

Pendragon, at age 30: Still making distinctions

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Place, as well as time, counts for a lot with the Celtic band Pendragon, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary year. Although based in northern Rhode Island, the quintet is as much rooted in Massachusetts and the rest of New England through its repertoire, which reflects the Irish, Scottish, French-Canadian, and other Celtic traditions, and interpolates original material inspired by the lives and experiences of immigrants who have settled in the region over the centuries.

Geography is a strong influence on Pendragon in other respects, too. You won't see them embarking on any world or national tours, and while in the past they've occasionally ventured to New York City, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, and appeared at Harvard Square's Club Passim or the Bread and (Continued on page 13)



Mairead Gallagher, 9, of Rockland stretches out prior to competing at the Feis.



At the height of competition in the Grades Stage tent.

Much ado as festival makers strut stuff

(Continued from page 11)

dancing, and I really like the confidence it gives the kids," she said.

Asked what she liked about dancing, Mairead had a simple answer: "Everything."

Everything? All the practice, the long hours, the aches and pains? "Everything," she repeated, with emphasis.

The Saturday previous to the Feis had seen a picture-perfect early summer day for the festival's music weekend. Saturday's schedule included some 12 hours of live music, concentrated in three locations. In the center's main function room, Erin's Melody offered a veritable songbook of sentimental favorites, and singer Margaret Dalton smiled at the audience and asked, "Will you sing for me?" before launching into a medley with the likes of "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" and "Too-ra-

Loo-ra-Loo-ral."

By contrast, mere yards away at the Celtic Patio Tent stage, Cat and the Moon – a quartet of Berklee College of Music students – played high-energy instrumentals that fused Irish/Celtic, bluegrass and jazz styles, as fiddler Kathleen Parks and five-string banjoist Ricky Mier traded licks with one another, as well as bassist Charles Berthoud and guitarist Eamon Sefton (who fondly recalled attending the festival as a child). Clearly enlivened by the atmosphere, a clutch of toddlers used the tent's dance floor to demonstrate their considerable skills in romping and scampering.

Meanwhile, underneath the mid-day sun at the Emerald Field Stage, the trio Inchicore (Derrick Keane, Tom Miller and Damon Leibert) entertained the audience with "Some Say the Devil's Dead" and other tried-and-true festi-



Margaret Dalton and Erin's™ Melody perform at the Boston Irish Festival on June 7.

Sean Smith photos

val crowd-pleasers. Other performers on Saturday included Alfie O'Shea,

Yokeshire, Step About Boston, Norman Payne, The Jolly Tinkers, The

Gobshites, Erin's Guild, The Auld Locals, The Tom Lanigan Band, and members of Boston's Reynolds-Hanafin-Cooley branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, who hosted a ceili.

At the edge of Emerald Field, a contingent of Irish wolfhounds relaxed in the shade, seemingly oblivious to the stares of children, and not a few adults, amazed at the dogs' enormous stature. Some festival-goers browsed the merchandise of vendors in the Grafton Street tent, or opted for light refreshments in the Tea House tent.

At the latter location, a pair of friends who gave their names as "Thelma and Louise" talked about their different takes on the festival. Thelma, of Milton, said her experience dates back to the period when the festival took place at Stonehill College (it moved to ICCNE in the 1990s), and her daughter took part in step dance

performances. For Louise, a Detroit native now living in Dorchester, the festival is a more recent discovery: "I'm here for the crafts, the good food, and I like to see the people who come out."

Two other relative festival newcomers were Dedham residents Karen Kelly and daughter Julie, who were strolling through Grafton Street. "I love looking through the Irish jewelry," said Karen. "This is just a great place to hang around and enjoy yourself for the day."

High on Julie's list of things she's enjoyed during her few visits to the festival was joining in the "Redheads Photo," an attempt to gather the largest number of redheads in one place – although it was not in this year's schedule. Patting her stomach, Julie – expecting in November – said, "Hopefully, if they do the photo next year, we'll have another redhead to bolster the ranks."

Immersed in history and the arts

(Continued from page 11)

now. Didn't get that job ... It wasn't looking great ... and then Boston Playwrights' Theatre came up. ... and it worked out. I was there for seven seasons. BPT is part of Boston University, and they have a great master's program ... So I started taking classes and ended up with a master's degree in arts administration.

Q. Boston Playwrights is known for innovative creativity. Favorite moments?

A. One of them that really stands out – and it got not very favorable reviews – was "Miss Mar-

garet LaRue in Milwaukee" by Wesley Savick. I loved that show. It came about right in 2008 when everything went sour and theater was a luxury good and nobody came to see it. But we all just loved it. That was a real standout for me.

And I worked with Howard Zinn on "Daughter of Venus." We did that co-production with Suffolk University. He was the most gentlemanly individual. Everything you hear about Howard Zinn is exactly true. He was this gentle man who had such compassion. I remember designing the poster for the show and

having him tell me how much he loved it. That was really great.

Q. So how did you get involved in Colonial battle reenactments.

A. My wife and I moved to Lexington about four years ago. I had been to the Battle Green reenactment years ago when my grandfather took me, probably when I was 13, and I loved it. He had a great love of history and really instilled that in me. When I got my undergrad, I focused in English and history. So when I moved to Lexington, we would go to the Battle Green reenactment at 5:30 a.m. The view was terrible because

there were thousands and thousands of people. And I said, how do I get a better view? And my wife actually said, you should join the Minutemen.

Q. Do you portray an actual soldier?

A. With the Lexington Minutemen, we portray somebody who was at that first battle of the American revolution. I play a character called Ebenezer Bowman who lived in Lexington. He was on the Battle Green at the age of 17 ... He was at the Battle of Fort Ticonderoga in '77. Then he left the Army, went to Harvard, got his law degree and moved to Pennsylvania and became the first practicing lawyer in Luzerne County. This is all character research that we do ourselves. Not dissimilar to how an actors would learn about a character they're portraying.

Q. Were you assigned Bowman or did you select him?

A. I selected him. There was a list of open characters, and in my part of Lexington we vote at the Bowman school ... It's called Bowman School because Bowman lived in East Lexington. (The Bowmans) were actually one of the first families in



Michael Duncan Smith, Marketing and Public Relations Director at New Repertory Theatre.

that part of town, which at the time was called Cambridge Farms.

Q. Your love of history has also led to revelations about your personal ancestry.

A. It's a natural progression for someone who loves history to want to know their own history ... (My) Irish side goes through my paternal grandmother (born and raised in Medford) – she was Irish to Irish, McDonaugh and Sullivan. They're from Co. Sligo. The Sullivans go back to New Hampshire. My great-great-great grandfather, Jeremiah Sullivan, was in the fourth NH Infantry during the Civil War. He named his son Jeremiah Lincoln Sullivan, presumably after

the President.

Q. And the other side of your heritage is French?

A. Yes, my Acadian ancestors. They were some of the first French settlers, going back into the early 17th century, in Port Royal – what is now Nova Scotia ... (With a laugh) Everyone's descended from Charlemagne ... (The links) are a little muddled, but they're there.

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

♦♦♦

For information on New Repertory Theatre at the Arsenal Center for the Arts, 321 Arsenal Street in Watertown, call 617-923-8487 or visit newrep.org.

RI's Kevin Doyle is awarded National Heritage Fellowship

Kevin Doyle, who has shared his Irish step dance talents throughout Massachusetts and New England, has won a 2014 National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. The fellowships recognize individuals for their artistic excellence and efforts to conserve America's culture for future generations.

Doyle, from Barrington,

RI, has been a step dancer for more than five decades, and his excellence in American-style tap dance as well has earned him further acclaim throughout his career. In recent years, he has performed as a member of the Rhode Island Celtic band Pendragon, and appeared in productions of "A Christmas Celtic Sojourn" and as part of the international Irish dance ensemble

Atlantic steps.

With ancestral roots in Roscommon and Longford, Doyle – who earned a Folk Arts Fellowship last year from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts – has passed along his dance legacy to many students – including his daughter Shannon, who has become an Irish dance teacher herself.

– SEAN SMITH

Irish Harp Orchestra facing a very busy summer

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

It's shaping up as an eventful summer for the New England Irish Harp Orchestra (NEIHO), a popular act that has performed at many Greater Boston area Irish and Celtic events. The six-year-old group is in the midst of raising funds to attend next month's prestigious Brian Boru Harp Festival in Ireland, while a subset of NEIHO – the New England Irish Harp Ensemble – is putting the finishing touches on its first CD.

NEIHO will present a concert on July 13 at the Aisling Gallery in Hingham, proceeds from which will go to defray the costs of attending the festival, which is taking place in Limerick and commemorates the 1,000th anniversary of the death of legendary High King of Ireland Brian Boru – who, in addition to his leadership qualities, also was known for his talents as

a harpist, notes NEIHO founder and director Regina Delaney.

"We've received some help already, which is marvelous," says Delaney, who teaches at the music school of Boston's Comhaltas Ceilteoirí Éireann branch. "For 10 of us to go to Ireland, the cost will be about \$35,000; we're hoping to raise half that amount and cover the other half ourselves. This is definitely our most ambitious undertaking, but it's very exciting."

NEIHO, whose 15 members span six decades in age – and include an 87-year-old former Marine who only began playing harp six years ago – has appeared at the Irish Connections and ICONS festivals, Féile Cheoil Boston, the Kennedy Library, the Community Music Center of Boston, and the New England Folk Festival Association, among other places. The orchestra performs dance tunes, airs and ballads, mainly from



The New England Irish Harp Orchestra has been invited to perform as part of a major Irish music festival in Limerick next month.

Ireland but with influences from American as well as other Celtic traditions.

The Brian Boru Harp Festival [brianborumillennium.com] is being organized by Delaney's former teacher, Janet Harbison, a renowned composer, arranger, and scholar in the Irish harp

tradition. A highlight of the festival will be the performances of "Brian Boru, Lion of Ireland," a new Harbison composition that recounts the story of Boru in music, song, and narration, featuring NEIHO and other visiting harp ensembles as well as an orchestra, choir, pipe

band, and several guest performers.

"Preparing for 'Lion of Ireland' has been a lot of work," says Delaney. "The piece is something quite different than what we're used to, what with the orchestral setting – this isn't just jigs and reels. So it's been a great learning

experience for all of us."

NEIHO also will present concerts on its own during the visit to Ireland, Delaney adds: "We'll have opportunities to showcase our own repertoire and style, and give people a taste of the American brand of Irish harp playing."

While NEIHO has two CDs to its credit – a live album recorded in Portsmouth, NH, and "The First Star," a collection of traditional Celtic Christmas tunes – the NE Irish Harp Ensemble, comprised of Delaney and five other NEIHO members, is close to releasing its debut recording – "Hopefully in time to bring with us to Ireland," says Delaney. The ensemble has recorded 15 tracks so far, and final edits and other last details are in process, she says.

For information on the New England Irish Harp Orchestra, including the group's July 13 benefit concert in Hingham, see neiho.org.

Pendragon, at age 30: Still making distinctions

(Continued from page 11)

Roses Festival in Lawrence, as well as the New Bedford Folk Festival, they're far more inclined now to do gigs in their Blackstone Valley home base.

To be sure, band members' "other" jobs and family considerations are a major reason they stay in their stomping grounds. But as co-founder Russell Gusetti explains, Pendragon sees its territorial tendencies not as a constraint, but as a source of strength and nurturing.

"If we had tried to push it, we certainly could have wound up performing at concerts and festivals in many different places," says Gusetti, who plays guitar and concertina. "But some years ago, we agreed, 'Look, let's not kill ourselves. We don't want to have to be concerned about making money as Pendragon. We want this to be fun.' So you go to the rooms you love to play in, do the shows you're really psyched to do, be with people you enjoy playing for. And this is an area to which we feel a strong connection, so why not focus on it?"

Last month, Pendragon celebrated its three-decade mark with a performance to close out the Blackstone River Theatre Summer Solstice Festival in Cumberland, RI. In anticipation of the event, which Gusetti helps organize, this past spring the band released its first live CD, which was recorded at the Blackstone River Theatre (BRT) last September.

The 13-track album features classic instrumentals – "The Humours of Tulla/Star of Munster," "The Battering Ram/Roaring Barmaid/Johnny O'Leary's," "The Gravel Walk," "Sean Ryan's Polka" among them – led by Bob Drouin (fiddle, bouzouki, low whistle) and John Kane (flute, whistles), joined by former member Phil Edmonds on accordion and whistle,



Pendragon, L-R: Bob Drouin, John Kane, Mary Lee Partington, Russell Gusetti and Kevin Doyle.

and traditional songs "The Water Is Wide" and "Handsome Molly" and Robert Burns' "The Birks of Aberfeldy," sung by Mary Lee Partington with guest appearances by ex-Pendragons Doug Brunelle and Ken Lyon; Partington also showcases her history-based songwriting with "Through the Glass Darkly" and "Manchester Mulespinner." Supplying rhythm along with Gusetti is percussionist Kevin Doyle, whose step dancing – familiar to local audiences who've seen him at "Christmas Celtic Sojourn" and BCMFest – is a highlight of any Pendragon show.

Contrary to what one might expect, Pendragon did not originate from a pub session somewhere in the Ocean State: It started when Gusetti met Drouin and Partington in a madrigal singing class, and the trio began performing at renaissance fairs and similar events,

gradually building up a folk/traditional repertoire that would be the basis for the band. But as Gusetti tells it, Pendragon really took off a few years later, when it began performing songs by Partington (and others by regional songwriters like Jon Campbell, whose "Restless Waters" appears on the new CD) that drew on Blackstone Valley history.

Pendragon's music was used for a video project, "Along the Blackstone," which won awards for public service in education from the New England Cable Television Association and has aired nationally on the History Channel.

"There was no point in us trying to tell the story of Ireland or Scotland; we thought it would be interesting to tell the story once it moved here, to New England – which was the legacy we all grew up with," he says. "Thing is, if you grew up along the Blackstone when we

did, you remembered it as being filthy, because the river turned the color of the dyes from the textile mills. But there is such a huge story underneath all that which we felt should, and could, be told. Mary Lee is such a wonderful songwriter, and she delved into the history of the textile mills and the other elements of life in the Blackstone Valley.

"For example, 'Manchester Mulespinner' refers to the fact that English as well as Irish worked in the mills around here, so there's a special link between the two peoples, which perhaps many overlook. 'Through the Glass Darkly' is a Civil War era song, and conveys the terrible sense of loss felt by so many in the Blackstone Valley – as elsewhere – from that conflict.

"As we know, the great thing about folk music is that it doesn't matter what the time period of a song is – the emotions are

timeless, and universal."

That the new CD was recorded in BRT is no small circumstance, since the theater is an important component in Pendragon's story, symbolic not only of the band's connection to the Blackstone Valley but also the area's rejuvenation. About 20 years ago, Gusetti and Drouin spearheaded an effort to relocate the old BRT from its longtime Central Falls site (where for nearly a year it hosted a numerous Celtic, folk and acoustic music events) to an abandoned historic building in Cumberland, and to make the theater a nonprofit cultural center for the music, dance and folk arts traditions of the Blackstone Valley.

The roster of acts that have appeared at the theater, in its old and new incarnations, includes Cherish the Ladies, Tommy Makem, Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill, Aine Minogue, Karan Casey,

Matt and Shannon Heaton, Robbie O'Connell, Dervish, Kathleen Guilday and Laurel Martin, Solas and bohola – and that's just the Irish/Celtic performers. Its offering of music and dance classes include Irish fiddle and step dance.

All of this progress seemed more than a little unlikely back in the day, according to Gusetti, who remembers the skepticism Pendragon used to encounter: "We'd hear, 'Why are you singing about this place? The river's dirty, the mills are closing, the area's going downhill.' But we'd give the background and the history, try to help them see things in a different light."

"Now, the story's changed, and for the better. The river's been cleaned up significantly, the heron is returning, and the area has an identity it didn't have a generation ago – just to have people referring to 'the Blackstone Valley' is a major step."

Pendragon is, ultimately, about making music, says Gusetti, but making connections between past and present is definitely a valued part of their work. "Mary Lee wrote a song about Deer Island in Boston Harbor, which in the 19th century was a landing point for Irish immigrants fleeing the potato famine, and several hundred of them died there. When we've performed it, we've always had someone coming up to us and saying, 'You know, I've lived in Boston all my life, and I never knew about that.'"

"Above all, we want our audience to have a good time and enjoy the music. But we love it if people learn something, about the area and those who lived and worked here in past generations. They may wind up learning a little something about themselves in the process."

CD Reviews

By Sean Smith
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Ashley Davis, “Night Travels” • Davis has had quite the journey – and not just in geographical terms – since she left her native Kansas 20 years ago: Her stops have included Nashville, New York City, and the University of Limerick. Along the way, she has earned a master’s degree in traditional Irish music, charmed the likes of author Colum McCann and *Irish Times* writer Sean O’Driscoll, and cultivated friendships and collaborations with such Irish music worthies as Moya Brennan, John Doyle and Eileen Ivers – all of whom appear on this CD, her fourth. Oh, and she has produced some pretty intriguing and quite distinctive music, blending Irish-Scottish tradition with her own take on Americana/roots.

Davis avoids a lot of obvious accoutrements and qualities that often characterize the Celtic-American fusion genre. For starters, there’s her voice: no affected Irish accent or phrasing, yet quite clearly influenced by the dramatic presence and regalness of Moya Brennan and Loreena McKennitt. The central instrument in “Night Travels,” meanwhile, is the Irish harp of Cormac De Barra; other instruments are in evidence – guitar, mandolin, octave mandolin, banjo, dobro, flute, accordion – but the spare arrangements emphasize the pairing of Davis and De Barra. It makes for a haunting, agile sound that seems ancient and exotic yet familiar, as if Clannad had been transplanted from Donegal to the Appalachians.

The songs of “Night Travels” involve or suggest dreams of waking as well as nighttime, and how these might intersect, especially when it comes to the matter of love. All but one, “The Blackest Crow,” credit Davis as composer or co-author, although a few are largely rewritten or tweaked from tradition (not meant as a

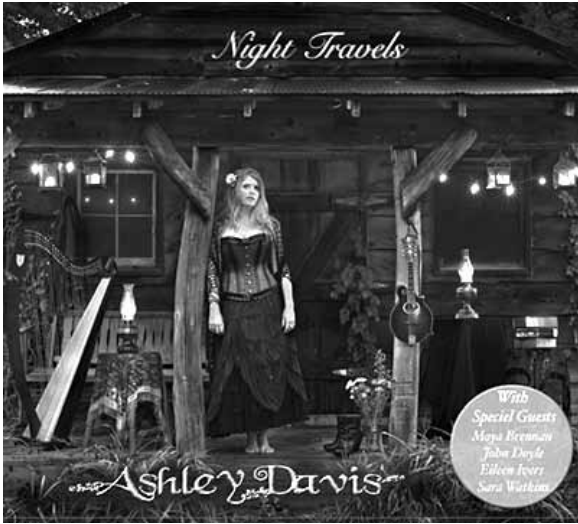
criticism; it’s a long and not undistinguished practice). That includes the opening track, “His Bride I’ll Be,” which borrows the melody of “Silver Dagger” and in some ways comes across as an epilogue to that archetypal night visiting song; Sara Watkins of the band Nickel Creek shares lead vocals, and serves perhaps as alternate narrator, to help Davis piece the story together.

In the same vein is “Barbara Allen,” on which Davis is joined by Doyle in an essentially unchanged – although somewhat truncated – imagining of the classic died-for-love ballad; quibble about their composer credits if you must, but the fact is that Davis and Doyle sound exquisite together. And her gorgeous duet with Brennan, “Beside You Near,” utilizes a minimal, almost fragmentary meter and narrative structure that, while not tied to a specific traditional song, certainly has all the trappings (the O’Carolan-like motif supplied by De Barra is another fine touch).

Other highlights include an English-Gaelic hybrid in 3/4 time, “I Follow You (Leanain Thú)”; Ivers’s bravura appearance on “With You Tonight”; and the title track, which captures the album’s theme in a tale showcasing the seductive powers of music and night, interpolating the reel “The Queen of May” in the process.

In addition to the aforementioned notable guest appearances, Davis is aided by a host of other accompanists, including fiddlers Máire Breatnach and Pat Mangan, accordionist Buddy Connolly, octave mandolinist Joe Pickett and particularly multi-instrumentalist Gawain Matthews, who produced the album with Davis.

“Night Travels” may be immersed in the stuff of dreams, but by no means will it put you to sleep.



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tect has suggested it may be possible to get up to 3 more home sites approved. Public water supply could be ran to the lands or there is abundant room for private wells to be sunk.

If interested you can view the property on Daft.ie. If you have additional questions regarding the property please email me danielmulhern@yahoo.com.

Sharon Corr, “The Same Sun” • The second solo album for Corr, best known as a member of the very successful eponymous Irish folk-rock-pop band she headed up with siblings Andrea, Caroline, and Jim. Here, the emphasis is far more on the pop than the rock or folk. The songs, all of which were written or co-written by Corr, are by and large unabashedly, straightforwardly romantic and/or lovelorn, and – as Corr has explained in interviews – aspire to evoke the honeyed sound of songwriters of yesteryear like Burt Bacharach, The Carpenters, and Dusty Springfield.

The “retro” feel comes through in, for example, “Raindrops,” with the tinkly lounge piano notes alongside her vocals on the refrain, or the French horn and strings that massage “Take a Minute,” or the reverb-heavy guitar chops in “Upon an Ocean.” But tracks like “Edge of Nowhere” and “You Say” – with their simpler arrangements that focus on Corr’s fine backing ensemble of guitarist Val McCallum, bassist Davey Faragher, and drummer Pete Thomas – and particularly the album’s last track, the piano-and-vocal ballad “Christmas Night,” bring more immediacy to the emotions Corr seeks to convey.

And that’s no small thing, because the songs seem less about the glory of love than its various incarnations of pain: “Anger raging from the skies/Tears like knives upon my face again” (“Raindrops”); “...as I turn to leave/I see that look you know/you cannot hide/Every time we say good-bye” (“Take a Minute”); “Summer’s gone/Packed up and done/You moving on/Where you belong” (“Upon an Ocean”).

At other points, Corr muses on the general state of missing or lost connections, like “Edge of Nowhere” – a first line like “Streaming motel neon lights/That fall across this road tonight” is a dead giveaway – or “The Runaround,” its infectiously bouncy personality juxtaposed against less-than-sanguine meditations on human behavior.

The album’s outlier is the title track, which speaks to Corr’s involvement in humanitarian causes, notably her visit to Tanzania on behalf of Oxfam. There’s a sense of purposefulness in the performance by Corr and her band, aided by a well-placed recurring keyboard riff and a percussive build-up to the chorus. The lyrics are vivid (“Mountains frame the falling light/An African vanilla sky/The evening sun is leaning toward the dawn”), and eloquent yet simple: “A dirt road with no sympathy/Is breaking ground in front of me/To question everything I’ve ever known.”

The glimpses you get on that track, and on “Christmas Night” – where she seems at her most vulnerable – suggest the promise of Corr as performer and songwriter.



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BIR SPORTS

Liverpool-Roma return to Fenway for friendly match

BY SOPHIE GAYTER
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER
“Football” comes home to Fenway Park this month as Liverpool Football Club returns to take on AS Roma on Wed., July 23 at 7:30 p.m. A Fenway Sports Group press release stated that the game would “feature two of the most prominent clubs in European football- both of whom have significant New England fan bases and ties to the Boston area—setting the stage for an exciting re-match at America’s Most Beloved Ballpark.”

Founded in 1892, Liverpool is one of the world’s oldest and best supported football clubs, having won 18 English league titles, and five European Cups, among many other accolades in its illustrious history.

Many Boston-based Liverpool fans will be hoping to see club captain Steven

Gerrard, whose calamitous slip against Chelsea FC in the final stages of last season ultimately cost Liverpool a potential 19th title, and striker Daniel Sturridge, who scored 21 league goals last season to propel Liverpool into a second place finish in the league, their highest since the 2008-2009 season.

Fans could also catch a first glimpse of latest squad additions, Rickie Lambert, a forward and lifelong Liverpool supporter who joined the club in June from Southampton, an exciting 20 year-old midfielder who joins the club after a spell in Germany with Bayern Leverkusen.

One player almost certain to miss the match is star Uruguayan forward Luis Suarez. After video cameras caught Suarez biting the shoulder of Italian defender Giorgio Chiellini in Uruguay’s World Cup match with



Liverpool FC and AS Roma last played at Fenway Park in the summer of 2012. The teams return to Boston for a match on July 23.

Photo by John Powell/Liverpool FC/Getty Images

Italy in June, FIFA, world soccer’s governing body, banned Suarez for nine international matches with Uruguay and for four months from “any football-related activity.” For Liverpool, that means the earliest Suarez could

be back on the pitch is November 1.

In the other locker room, AS Roma fans will likely see club legends Francesco Totti, who continues to captain the team at the age of 37, and Daniele De Rossi, arguably one of the

best defensive midfielders in Europe.

One of the most famous teams in Italian football, three time Serie A winners Roma will be hoping to have a similar performance at Fenway to the ones they had at

the beginning of the 2013-2014 season where they went on a seven match win streak. After a mid-season dip in form, Roma still managed to finish a very respectable second place behind eventual winners Juventus, and like Liverpool will be eagerly anticipating a return to the UEFA Champions League in the fall.

With both clubs gearing up for the start of their domestic seasons in August, and with many players coming back from a grueling summer of World Cup action, this friendly match will be a perfect appetizer to see from their clubs in the upcoming season. It is also a rematch of a game played between the two on July 25, 2012, where a Michael Bradley inspired Roma team defeated Liverpool 2-1. Tickets are on sale now at the Red Sox official website.

The Banshee pub in Dorchester is World Cup Central

(Continued from page 1)

Thus began a tradition that made the Banshee the “go to” place for soccer fans well before the 2010 World Cup frenzy took hold. That attention to the soccer community has paid off now that interest in the US national team has broadened. On Monday, an article in USA Today heralded the Banshee as one of the best places in the United States to watch

the World Cup games.

“If the US wasn’t in this tournament right now we would still be busy with all the other teams. But without a doubt with the US doing well, the Americans blow everyone else out of the water when it comes to attendance for us,” said Butler. “We host the Boston chapter of the American Outlaws US national support team who are great people to

be involved.”

Said American Outlaws founding member Garrett Quinn, a Boston-based political reporter, “The Banshee has been ground zero for us because it was one of a few bars that would show the US games with the sound up. Now bars all over are knocking down our door to get us to hang out at their place.”

Quinn says that the American Outlaws —

whose signature logo is now emblazoned on the front window of The Banshee— aren’t going anywhere.

“We have been going to The Banshee for several years now. They took us in when others wouldn’t. They would accommodate us for the smaller matches when others wouldn’t.”

The Banshee is also home base for many supporters who don’t sport the red, white and blue. Over the din of Monday’s raucous crowd, one of the Ghana fans shouted about having cheered on the team at The Banshee for months. “Been here all the time every part of the English Premier league here! We come here every Saturday and Sunday for all the weekend games. This is a family bar!”

Another American soccer fan, a member of the Outlaws, credits The Banshee with being the driving force behind his fiancée’s decision to move in with him. “I’m a Dorchester resident. I teach at an unnamed Catholic school on Morrissey Boulevard. I have been here for over 40 US games and countless other sporting events. My fiancée only moved in with me because The Banshee

is so close by,” he said.

It was all hands on deck on Sunday for the Banshee’s wait staff and doormen as the crowd swelled for the US match. They were prompt and friendly despite the rush as lifelong soccer fans mingled with first-timers and Ghana supporters without animosity. When the US scored its winning goal late in the second half, the two-story building seemed to shake. As the final seconds ticked away, the roof shook to the sounds of leaping, hugging and high-fiving fans.

Quinn summed it up neatly: “If you are looking to get into the game and be with a group of passionate fans, you should join us at The Banshee. We are there to help explain the nuances of the game, and you’re just going to have a good time.”

In fact, the Banshee is a good time year-round, long after the soccer lights in Brazil. It’s a home-away-from-home for Green Bay Packers fans and a choice venue for fans of Irish sporting matches of all stripes. It’s also become a favored stop for fans of pub trivia, as Savin Hill native Joe O’Malley runs a popular Wednesday night

event.

The Banshee, which offers an excellent, full menu of breakfast, lunch and dinner, is located at 934 Dorchester Avenue, just south of Columbia Road.



Anne Costello’s Under 14 camogie team just won the All Ireland Feile (Festival) of Camogie by beating a much-fancied team from County Meath in the final last month in Derry. Anne, who is married to Frank Costello, a political player and civic activist in Boston in the 1980s and 1990s, played for several years for the Emerald Isle Camogie Club in Boston during that time and headed up the North American League. A native of Co. Clare, she and Frank have four sons – Owen, Emmett, Conor, and Ronan—all playing Gaelic games in Co. Down.

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Traveling People

If you're passing by, stop in and you'll see: Great dining abounds on Ireland's West Coast

BY JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Ireland has changed a lot in the past 30 years. Much of that change is probably thanks to – or the fault of – the internet, depending on your perspective. But, changes can also be credited to the country's many visitors who demand the best, to the Irish who travel widely and bring home creative ideas from everywhere, and to the influx of foreigners living in Ireland.

Frequent travelers will note the many changes, subtle and otherwise.

GREAT FOOD

I often mention the improvement in Irish food because meals there were once so predictable, plain, and not very tasty. All of that has changed. Delicious, wholesome, and nourishing meals can now be ordered in pubs and restaurants almost everywhere.

Food and food service is important enough to the Irish economy to have inspired the University College Dublin's (UCD) Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School to launch a degree program for those planning to enter the food industry. Simon Coveney, minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, was quoted in the Irish press as saying, "The agri-food and drink sector is a driver of economic growth in Ireland. Food and drink companies in this indigenous industry employ some 50,000 people and achieved close to 10 billion euro in exports to 160 countries in 2013."

We have enjoyed many outstanding meals in Ireland over the last 15 years – especially along the West Coast where you can visit all sorts of restaurants while you're traveling the Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's first long-distance touring route that runs along the coast from Donegal to West Cork.

I wholeheartedly recommend eating out at Nancy's in Ardara and Kitty Kelly's in Killybegs, both Co. Donegal; Newport House, Kelly's Kitchen, and Grainne Uaile in Newport, Rua and Café Rua in Castlebar, An Port Mór in Westport, Healy's in Pontoon, all in Co. Mayo; Renvyle House Hotel on the Renvyle Peninsula, Lough Inagh Lodge Hotel in Recess, O'Dowd's in Roundstone, Mitchell's in Clifden, all in Connemara (Co. Galway); Linnane's Lobster Bar in New Quay, Wild Honey Inn in Lisdoonvarna, Gregan's Castle and Burren Fine Wine and Food, both in Ballyvaughan, Fitzpatrick's Eatery in the Hotel Doolin, Roadford House restaurant in Doolin, all in Co. Clare. Those are just my favorites on the West Coast.

Fish in Irish restaurants is outstanding, especially salmon (cooked or smoked) and cod. Foodies also rave about Irish lamb and beef. I don't happen to eat either but have heard praise from other diners.



The lovely Mulranny Park Hotel in Mulranny, Co. Mayo, was the site recently for a seven-course gourmet dinner celebrating the Gourmet Greenway and its artisan food producers.



The Great Western Greenway is the longest walking and cycling trail in Ireland and winds through the hills and dales between Westport and Achill Island in Co. Mayo.

There are many, many excellent eateries all over Ireland and you should have no trouble finding great food wherever you are.

GOURMET DINNER

I recently attended the 4th annual Gourmet Greenway dinner at the lovely 41-bedroom Mulranny Park Hotel in Mulranny, Co. Mayo, (mulrannyparkhotel.ie) and you'd have to travel far to find food as good, as well prepared, or as beautifully presented. Each elegant course was locally sourced and enhanced by specially selected wine from Wines Direct. To promote the culinary event, the hotel offered a very good value 99-euro overnight package that included the dinner as well as breakfast.

Mulranny Park general manager Dermot Madigan and Suzanne O'Brien of sales and marketing created the Gourmet Greenway dinner concept and have had great success, selling out every year.

Tables were assigned in the Nephin Restaurant, overlooking Clew Bay with distant mountains as a backdrop. The room was packed for this 90-seat, sold-out dinner and the evening started with servers passing canapés – incorporating Kelly's Butcher's Black Pudding (Newport) and Gerry Hassett's (Achill Island) smoked salmon – as guests chatted and sipped Clew Bay Brewery Ale or Prosecco.

According to Madigan, the dinner was a "bap-

tism by fire" for 37-year-old head chef, [Chamila Mananwatta](#), who had been working at the hotel as second chef for about seven years but took over the top job just one month before the big dinner.

"I knew what I was doing (from having worked at the hotel)," Chamila said, "but it was a challenge and pretty hard work." He credited his team of six additional chefs and Helen, the hotel's baker, for the dinner's great success. "I really enjoyed working with them and I couldn't have done it with just my two hands."

"Everything was local and homemade using modern cooking techniques," he said. The black pudding polenta, he added, was his own creation. "I love to create. You have to cook with your heart – it's not about throwing food on the table. You need to be focused. Every customer is important to me."

Chamila said his interest in cooking was influenced by his mother's curry. Before Ireland, he studied in Ceylon Hotel School and worked in the Dubai Hilton and he laughed when he added that he learned to make Irish Stew in Sri Lanka.

WORLD CLASS

Prior to the meal being served, several speakers pointed out that Mayo is "a world class place to do business" as evidenced by the presence there of "the largest Coca-Cola plant on the planet" and Botox maker Allergan Inc. in

Westport.

John Magee, senior enterprise development officer of Mayo's Local Enterprise Office, said, "Mayo is an amazing place to do business." He described the Great Western Greenway (an off-road cycling and walking trail from Westport to Achill Island) as "an amazing example of what can happen when people start to work together."

He praised the cooperation of local landowners (who allowed the Greenway to pass across their property) and said the Greenway "is an absolutely stunning success story that became the tapestry and allowed other things to happen, like the Gourmet Greenway." Both showed what can be done, Magee said, "when you join the dots and unlock the hidden potential." He added

that "everyone wants to replicate what's happening here, but it's not easy because they don't have the Mayo magic."

Tanya Whyte-Stanaway, Enterprise Office business advisor with specific responsibility for the food sector, said, "We're the envy of a lot of counties. Innovation in food is huge now and Mayo is internationally recognized for having great food producers."

Madigan said the Gourmet Greenway has been "hugely successful" and the hotel gets calls nearly daily from suppliers who want to be included. "This concept grabs people's imagination," he said, "and everyone who comes to the dinner loves it. It's been 100 percent successful." He said there is a possibility that another gourmet dinner will be scheduled for the autumn.

THE MENU

So, what was on this fabulous menu? To start, each table featured hotel baker Helen's homemade bread as well as Café Rua's Dilisk, Achill Island Sea Salt Bread, pots of Café de Paris butter (which Chamila made at his home), black olive tapenade and basil, and sundried tomato pesto.

First course was Croagh Patrick Seafood's Clew Bay Black Mussels garnished with asparagus and green pea veloute with a hint of white truffle oil. Next came Padraig Gannon's native oysters and Gerry Hassett's barbecue salmon, served with brown crab, avocado and buttermilk pannacotta, wasabi and chervil aioli, and cucumber ceviche.

Next, to cleanse diners' palates, came a "Slushy" of Mulranny mint and watermelon with a hint of Grand Marnier. Then there was pan-seared Curran Blue Sea Trout and glazed pork belly and, finally, Kelly's Seaspray lamb with Celtic crust, lamb and Clew Bay seaweed sausage, sweet bread fritters and Chamila's black pudding polenta. Dessert was Strawberry Bavarians with champagne jelly, basil syrup and Murrevagh honey ice cream followed by Carrowholly cheeses with A Taste of Days Gone By's homemade chutney. It was truly a meal fit for royalty and doesn't sound much like the traditional



Beautifully presented crab salad with garnishes at Renvyle House Hotel in Connemara.

Irish meat and potato dinner, does it?

Other members of the Gourmet Greenway are Newport House and Blue Bicycle Tearooms, both in Newport, Achill Mountain Lamb and Achill Island Sea Salt on Achill Island, Marlene's Chocolate Haven in Westport, and Rua and Café Rua in Castlebar.

Be sure to stop by the Mulranny Park for a meal or overnight if you're in Mayo this summer. It is truly a jewel in the village of Mulranny.

HAPPENINGS

There is so much to do in Ireland now that summer is in full tilt! See Ireland.com, Tourism Ireland's excellent website, for events and information.

- The Museum of Country Life in Castlebar, Co. Mayo, has an interesting exhibit through next Easter called "Preserving the Peace: Policing on the Island of Ireland: 1814-2014." The exhibition focuses on organized policing in Ireland over 200 years.

- The West Cork Chamber Music Festival welcomes nearly 100 performers to Bantry from through July 5. See westcorkmusic.ie for more information.

- A half-marathon and 10K run on Achill Island July 5, benefits the Children's Medical and Research Foundation at Our Lady's Hospital, Dublin. See achillmarathon.com.

- Foynes/Shannon 75th Anniversary Air Show will take to the sky on July 5 and 6. See flyingboatmuseum.com for details.

- Christy Moore with Declan Sinnott will perform at the Castlecourt Hotel in Westport, Co. Mayo, on Thurs., July 17. See Christymore.com for details.

- The European Juggling Convention will be held from July 19 to July 27 in Millstreet, Co. Cork. Billed as the world's largest festival of juggling and circus skills, the event promises world-class performers, master classes in all juggling disciplines, parades, games, and special events.

Enjoy Ireland whenever you visit and be sure to check online for airfare and ground deals available during the summer.



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The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

Fáilte do’n Bhealtaine ! “Welcome to May!”, the first month of the traditional Celtic calendar – although almost all Irish now begin the year with “January”.

In the past several months we learned that Irish uses the word “The” in front of a great many more nations than English does. Irish uses “The” in front of nations such as France, Norway, and Spain.

“Ireland” has two names. The “Official” name that you see on government documents is **Éire**, /EH-ruh/. Colloqually, “Ireland” is **Eirinn** /EH-ruhn/ using what linguists call the “diminutive”, an ending that makes something “nearer and dearer” or “smaller” as in **Cáit** “Kate” and **Cáitlin** “Katie.”

Diminutives in Irish are always end in **-(a)in** and may be attached to **nouns** and even some **adjectives**. **Seán**, “John”, can become **Seánain**. Johnny”. Sometimes diminutives can become a part of the word such as **caipín** “cap” A small amount” may be referred to as **beagán** /BEY-kuhn/.

Recall that an “Irishman” or “woman” is **Éireanach** /EH-ruhn-ahk/; the plural is **Éireannaí** /EH-ruhn-ee/. The language is **Gaeilge** /GAHL-guh/. It is “Irish” not “Gaelic”. Gaelic is reserved for **Gaeilge na hAlbain**, “Scottish Gaelic.”

“England” is **Sasana** /SAH-suh-nuh/, an “English person” a **Sasanach** and the English language is **Béarla** /BER-luh/. Scotland” is **Albain** /AH-luh-buhn/, a Scottish person is **Albanach** /AHL-uh-buhn-ahk/ and, while the vast majority speak **Béarla**, there are still many whose home language is **Gaeilge na hAlban**.

“Wales” requires “The” - “The Little Britain”, **An Bhreatain Bheag** /uh VREH-tuhn veyk/. A “Welshman” is a **Breatnach** /BREHT-nahk/ and they speak **Bhreatanais** /VREH-tuh-eesh/.

Again, here is a listing of other places, peoples, and languages. The Irish for “language” is **teanga** /CHEHN-guh/, “tongue”. The ending **-(n)ach** is equivalent to English “man” as in “Scotsman”. Languages usually end in **-is**, equivalent to English “ish” and pronounced roughly the same as they are English “loan words.”

Place:	People:	Language
Europe	Eoraip	Eorapach
France	An Fhrainic	Francach
		Fhraincis
Spain	An Spáinn	Spáinneach
		Spáinnis
Germany	An Ghearmáin	Gearmánach
		Ghearmáinis
Russia	An Rúis	Rúsisenach
		Rúisis
Netherlands	An Ollain	Ollanach
		Ollainnis
Norway	An Iorua	Ioruach
		Ioruais
Asia	An Áise	Aiseach
	teanga Áiseach	
Japan	An tSeapáin	Seapánach
		Seapánaís
China	An tSín	Síneach
		Sínis
America	Meiriceá	Meiriceánach
		Béarla
Canada	Ceanada	Ceanadach
	Béarla agus Fhraincis	

Irish cannot handle an initial /j/ or /ch/ sound so they both become /s/ as French “Jean” (“John”) became **Séan** and “China” becomes **Sín**.

Here are some words and phrases that I told you would be used in future columns:

Irregular forms of **Abair** “Speak!” – **Deirim**, **deir**, **deirimid** (Present), **duirt** (Past), **déarfaidh** (Future). In addition a new noun **caint** /kant/ “speech” and **cainteoir**, /KANT-er/ “speaker”. This is the source of the English word “cant”, a term used to describe a slang used by some to exclude non-cant speakers.

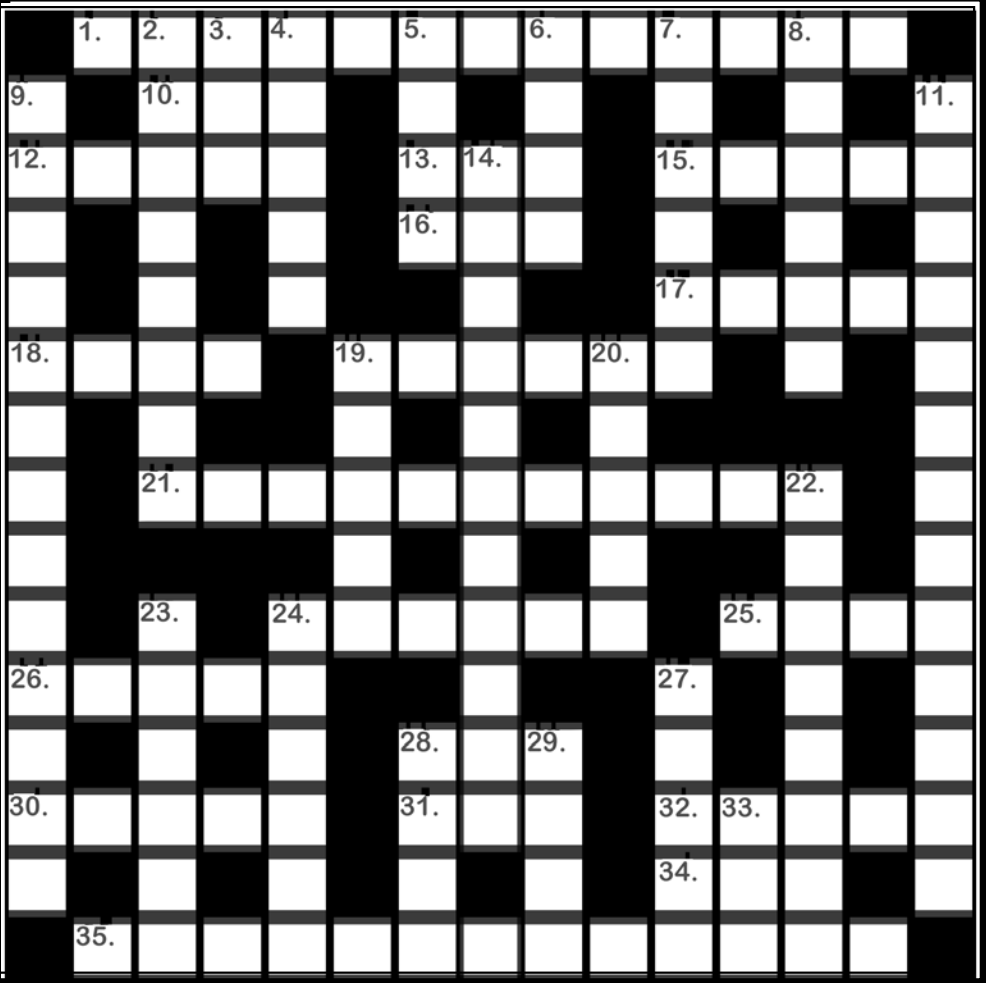
Other words or phrases used are “learn” or “learning” **foghlaim**, “go on a holiday” **ag dul ar saoire** /SEE-ruh/, “business trip” **turas**. To “go on a visit” is **tabhair cuairt – tabhair**, “give” is used idiomatically and is an **irregular verb** which you had some time ago. In the **Present** it is **tugaim**, **tugann**, and **tugaimid**; in the **Past** it is **thug** and **thugamar**, and the **Future** it is **tabharfaidh** and **tabharfaimid**.

See if you can write these in Irish: (1.) “Do you speak Irish?” (2.) “I speak English but I speak a little Irish now.” (3.) “I will go to Spain tomorrow.” (4.) “Oh, will you go on a business trip or a vacation.” (5.) “Do you speak Spanish?” (6.) “Yes. I speak Spanish and French.” (7.) “How much is that cup?” (8.) “We Canadians speak English and French.” (9.) “Patrick will go to Norway for a vacation.” (10.) “Didn’t he go to Asia at New Years.” (11.) “Does he speak any Japanese or Chinese languages?” (12.) “He has a little Japanese but he doesn’t speak any Chinese.” (13.) “He goes at three o’clock.” (14.) “Who is at the door?”

Answers: (1.) **A bhfuil Gaeilge agat?** (2.) **Tá Béarla agam ach tá beagan Gaeilge agam anois.** (3.) **Beidh mé ag dul don Spáinn amarach.** (4.) **Oh, an bhfuil sé ag dul ar turas no saoire?** (5.) **A bhfuil Spáinnis agat?** (6.) **Tá Spáinnis agus Fhraincis agam.** (7.) **Cén mhéad an cupa sin?** (8.) **Deirimid Ceanadaí Béarla agus Fhraincis.** (9.) **Beidh Padruig ag dul saoire ar an Iorua.** (10.) **Nach thug sé don an Áise ag an bliana úr?** (11.) **An deir sé teanga Seapánach no Síneach?** (12.) **Tá beagán Seapánach air nach tá Síneach air.** (13.) **Tiochfaidh sé anns trí o’clog.** (14.) **Cén atá ag an doras?**

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- 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 ante-chamber. (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 15

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 friends 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.”

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Seán Keane



Hear Seán sing:
Home
Isle of hope Isle of tears
Home away from home
Paint me a picture of Ireland
Fields of gold
Blackbird
No stranger to the rain
Never alone
& many more

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