

ALL IN GOOD FUN



Irish fans salute the players at the end of the Euro 2016 round of 16 soccer match between France and Ireland, at the Grand Stade in Decines-Charpieu, near Lyon, France, Sunday, June 26, 2016. France won 2-1.
AP Photo/Thibault Camus

Irish fans win admirers at Euro 2016

BY CIARAN FAHEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS
PARIS — While fans from other countries have damaged their reputations amid ugly scenes at the European Championship, Irish supporters have been winning friends across France with their antics and goodwill.
Social media is full of examples of Irish kindness, from Northern Ireland fans comforting a Poland supporter on a stretcher after he was

attacked by unknown assailants in Nice, or Ireland supporters picking up their leftover glass bottles after partying in Paris while singing “Clean up for the boys in green.”
Ireland supporters were in full voice in Bordeaux, too, serenading a pretty woman with “Can’t Take My Eyes Off You,” while others sang lullabies for a baby on a local train, shushing and jokingly warning fellow supporters to be quiet so the baby wasn’t disturbed: “Shut up or we’ll box the head off the two of ye.”

That Irish wit has been a fixture at the tournament.
Ireland fans berated Swedish supporters before their game in Paris with a rendition of “Go home to your sexy wives” to the tune of Village People’s classic “Go West.” Earlier they had been singing Abba songs together.
A nun who found herself on a train with Ireland fans was also serenaded, with a jovial rendition of “Our Father.”
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Brexit prompts anxiety, chatter of unification on island of Ireland

BY SHAWN POGATCHNIK
AND PAUL KELBIE
ASSOCIATED PRESS
The United Kingdom’s stunning vote to depart the European Union could end in the breakup of the UK itself. While majorities of voters in England and Wales backed the campaign to leave the 28-nation bloc, the UK’s two other regions of Scotland and Northern Ireland voted to stay. Hot on the heels of Friday’s results, nationalist leaders in both countries vowed to leave the UK if that is the required price to keep their homelands fully connected to Europe.

Scotland, where nationalists already in power narrowly lost a 2014 independence referendum, appears poised to be first out the UK door. More than 60 percent of Scots voted to remain in the EU, compared with 48 percent of voters in the UK overall, reflecting Scots’ belief that EU membership provides a moderating influence on political life in a UK traditionally dominated by the vastly more numerous English.
Nationalists in the long-disputed UK region of Northern Ireland say the British vote has reignited their demands for an all-island referendum to reunite the two parts of Ireland after 95 years of partition. They argue that a British withdrawal from the EU would force authorities in both parts of Ireland to renew customs and security controls on what would become the UK’s only land border with an EU state, the Republic of Ireland.
Sinn Féin, already in power in Northern Ireland’s nine-year-old unity government and positioned to become the Republic of Ireland’s top opposition party, insists that the hundreds of thousands of Irish citizens who live in Northern Ireland must be given a chance to vote for
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Joe Leary column
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‘Yours Faithfully, Florence Burke’

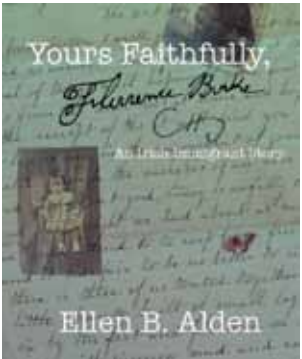


Suitcase with letters and tin photo.
Courtesy Ellen Alden

BY KIERA MURRAY
BIR CORRESPONDENT
The June sun was beginning to set over the Andover Bookstore courtyard casting a golden light on the evening. The fire pit crackled, and the tune “Cockles and Mussels” floated through the warm air as Andover resident and first-time author Ellen Alden sat at a table surrounded by glossy stacks of her debut novel, signing copies for a fast-growing line of family, friends, and fans.
Three years ago, Alden was looking for old photos in her attic when she came across an antique leather box. Inside, she found nineteen handwritten letters, aged and splat-

tered in mud but entirely legible. They were written to a woman named Ellen.
In impeccable script, the letters told a first-person account of a soldier’s time fighting for the Union in the Civil War.
From Virginia, he was writing to his wife in Massachusetts, and the couple appeared to have two young sons and a daughter, just like Alden. Each letter was signed, “Yours Faithfully, Florence Burke.”
Alden called her parents to find out who this family was. They told her that Florence was her paternal great-great grandfather, and the first family member to emigrate from Ireland to begin a new life

in America.
Alden was enthralled by the discovery from all its sides – the history, the ancestry, and the deeply personal and emotional account of a war so often condensed into a chapter of a history book. Knowing she could not let this story sit in a box, forgotten, she spent the next three years researching her family, traveling to the sites where they walked, and then writing a historical fiction novel, using the letters as the backbone of the story.
Honoring the letters, she titled the book “Yours Faithfully, Florence Burke.”
Florence Burke fled Ireland during the famine



when he was 19 and settled in West Springfield, Massachusetts. There, he married his sweetheart, Ellen, who had arrived in America with her family just before he did. The couple had three children. Working as a tenant farmer just as he had done in Ireland, Burke struggled to lift his family out of poverty. When a wealthy man offered him a plot of land
(Continued on page 12)



I work in Hollywood but I keep my money
in my hometown-Kevin Chapman
Check out City of Boston Credit Union -
visit CityofBostonCU.com

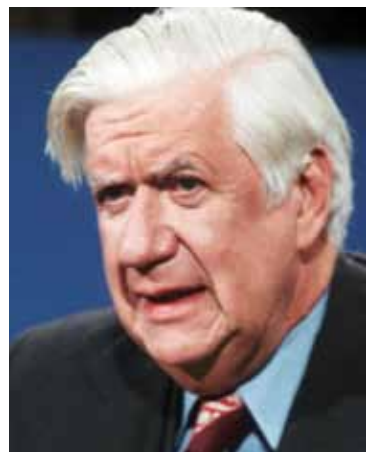


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Tip O'Neill

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CELEBRATE



#BOSTONTRI



Now’s a good time to think about Irish dance possibilities

By KIERA MURRAY
BIR CORRESPONDENT

People join the Boston Irish dance scene for a variety of reasons, maybe to embrace their Irish heritage, learn about Irish culture, engage in challenging physical activity, or perform and compete all over the world. For the next generation tapping their toes waiting anxiously to begin, or those hoping to start a new tradition, it is time to sign up for Irish dance.

Shona O’Brien of the Keane O’Brien Academy said that September is a great time to begin, as it is the start of a fresh new year for students. However, the Keane O’Brien Academy (with locations in Braintree and Reading) teaches in trimester blocks, allowing for registration three times per year. Beyond that, The Brady Academy of Irish Dance (locations in Quincy and Milton) and the O’Shea Chaplin

Academy of Irish Dance (various locations) run more like a school year, from September through June.

The right age to start depends on the child. The Keane O’Brien academy teaches a Tiny Tots Class for two and a half year olds, where they can start learning the very basics of Irish dance like turning out their feet and clapping to music. The O’Shea Chaplin Academy recommends students join at about age four, when they’ve already have some experience in a class environment. Professional Irish step dancer and teacher Kieran Jordan said age five or six is ideal, because by that time they’ve mastered one essential skill in the world of Irish dance - knowing right from left.

In most schools, students will have the options of dancing purely for recreation, for performance in the community or school



Dancers from the Keane O’Brien Academy, one of several local dance schools in Greater Boston.

productions, and/or on a competition track. No matter what they chose, through dancing young students will gain listen-

ing skills, learn about Irish culture and music, and make life-long friends in the studio.

Costs are a factor to

consider, especially if students are on the competition track. Besides lesson tuition, costs for a competitive dancer may

include shoes, costumes, transportation and accommodations. Some schools do, however, make efforts to keep costs down, such as buying back costumes and shoes and recycling them. Choosing a convenient location is also vital for a consistent routine, especially if families have multiple siblings dancing.

Irish dance provides fun, community, culture and opportunities for students far beyond lines and reels. In the spring, students from the Chaplin O’Shea Academy and the Keane O’Brien Academy were chosen through an audition process to open for Riverdance at the Wang Theatre, dancing on the same stage as their idols. Some dancers chosen were as young as eight years old. “We made it a point to choose the younger students to dance,” said Lisa Chaplin, “because they’re the next generation.”

Busy summer is on tap at ICC campus

“The ICC in Canton will host a number of concerts this summer and fall,” says Maudy Dooher, director of Programming & Membership. “Following on the heels of a fantastic Irish festival we will have Emish appear on July 15 for a great night of Irish music and a guaranteed ‘rare ‘ole time.’”

“Join us on our outdoor patio before the event for summer cocktails,” Dooher says. “Our restaurant will be open at 6 p.m. Call the ICC to purchase tickets or to reserve a table at 781-821-8291 or purchase online at Eventbrite, tinyurl.com/jhr4v89.”

Other concert dates planned this summer under the tent at the Cultural Centre include: Keltic Storm, Aug. 11; Sharon Shannon, Aug. 19; and Chloe Agnew,



formerly of Celtic Women, Sept. 17.

About the performers: Emish is high-powered rock group with Irish influence. New York na-

tives, the band has forged its own Americana folk rock sound by collating a background of Irish, rock, and folk influences.

In Emish’s fourth al-

bum, the group ventured further into the Americana movement by focusing on their original songs written by front man, Bobby Curreri.

New effort seeks to market North West of Ireland

The regional governments of Donegal and Derry are teaming up to encourage stronger business ties between Massachusetts and the North West of Ireland with the launch of a new economic development initiative that will seek to attract US companies to the region— and vice versa.

The program was announced on June 29 by the Boston-based firm Benchmark Strategies, which will support the effort.

“The North West of Ireland has a long history of collaboration and business linkages with the wider Commonwealth of Massachusetts,” said the Derry City and Strabane District Council and Donegal County Council in a joint statement. “We are delighted to announce this strategic initiative aimed at further embedding these relationships.”



– BILL FORRY



J-1 students always light up the IIIC!

The annual arrival of the J-1 Summer students never fails to energize the Downtown Crossing office of the IIIC. With their bright faces and eager enthusiasm on display, no one is immune to the infectious excitement generated by the J-1’s as they begin this new adventure in their lives.

Under new State Department regulations, the number of J-1 students is not as great as in former years but the hurdles are much the same. There are questions about opening

bank accounts, obtaining a Social Security ID, finding suitable accommodations and, of course, navigating their way around metropolitan Boston aboard the “T.”

Until they settle in, the students are welcome to utilize the resources available at the IIIC Cyber Café, including computer access, telephone service, and a staff that will try to answer any questions and, at the same time, provide a cup of tea and a biscuit.

Earlier this month, the IIIC held two orientation

sessions for J-1 students to provide them with the information they will need as newcomers to the United States. Representatives of two employers attended the sessions along with their new J-1 employees. Because their visas allow the students to both live and work in the US, they face different challenges than the average tourist to this country.

At these sessions, IIIC Executive Director, Ronnie Millar greeted the students on behalf of the Irish community of Boston. He

was joined by Vice-Consul General of Ireland Meg Laffan, who recounted her own experience as a J-1 student in America. She also emphasized that the full resources of the consulate were available to assist with any problem the students might encounter during their stay.

Officer Mark Bordley from the Boston Police Department was on hand to talk about local law enforcement but, more importantly, to discuss issues of personal safety that everyone should be

aware such as paying attention to MBTA service hours and traveling around the city late at night.

Staff from the IIIC Learning Exchange and the Wellness Programs also participated. Deirdre McCann, case manager in the Wellness Program, spoke about the “Ten Mistakes a J-1 Can Make.” These included losing your passport and ID as well as forgetting to use sunscreen in the rush to secure an “American tan.”

After the formal pre-

sentations, the students had an opportunity to follow up with their own questions. They also had the chance to meet and network with their fellow travelers.

The combined efforts of all of the participating organizations are directed to making sure that the J-1 students will have an enjoyable and safe summer and will return home with a bag full of fond memories, which they will treasure for the rest of their lives!

A trip back ‘home’ for the Biden family

By Ed Forry

You’ve got to admire Joe Biden, a man who shares so many of our common Irish-American roots.

The vice president visited Ireland last month, tracing his Mayo and Louth ancestry with his children and grandchildren. Just before he embarked, he invited folks to follow his visit online, and his words echo the experience of so many Irish Americans on that “voyage home” to Ireland.

“I’m heading out on a very special trip today,” Biden wrote. “I’m going back to Ireland – the country from which my ancestors hailed. It is my first dedicated trip to this nation as vice president – during which I’ll meet with the country’s leaders, discuss issues of trade, economic recovery, migration and refugee policy, and other national security challenges, and celebrate our shared heritage. Our shared values of tolerance. Diversity. Inclusiveness.

“And it’s a trip I’m so deeply grateful to be taking alongside my children and grandchildren. Over the course of my life, I’ve been to a lot of places. I’ve traveled all around the world – more than a million miles on Air Force Two alone. I’ve been honored to have held a lot of titles. But I have always been and will always be the son of Kitty Finnegan; the grandson of Geraldine Finnegan from St. Paul’s Parish in Scranton; a proud descendant of the Finnegan of Ireland’s County Louth; the great-grandson of a man named Edward Francis Blewitt, whose roots stem from Ballina, a small town in Ireland’s County Mayo – sister city to my hometown in Scranton.

“He was an engineer with a poet’s heart. Months after my mother passed away, I found an old box of his poems in my attic. In his poetry, my great-grandfather spoke of both continents, and how his heart and his soul drew from the old and the new. And most of all, he was proud. He was proud of his ancestors. He was proud of his blood. He was proud of his city. He was proud of his state, his country. But most of all – he was proud of his family.

“And that is America: This notion that home is where your character is etched. As Americans, we all hail from many homes. Somewhere along the line, someone in our lineage arrived on our shores, filled with hope. We are blessed to experience that simultaneous pride in where we’ve found ourselves, while never forgetting our roots.”

Biden had a busy six-day visit. From a base in Dublin, where he met with Taoiseach Enda Kenny and President Michael D. Higgins, Biden visited family roots in both Mayo and Louth. Flying cross-country in a C-17 dubbed “Air Force 2,” Biden became the first American vice president to land at Ireland West Airport Knock in Mayo, where he joined the Taoiseach for a round of golf. Later, he attended a special Chieftains performance at Matt Malloy’s in Westport.

In Louth, he toured the historic Kilwirra Church at the foot of the Colley Mountains, where some of his ancestors were baptized. The Veep had lunch at Fitzpatrick’s Restaurant in Dundalk, an eatery once owned by distant cousins of his.

Back in Dublin, he toured Kilmainham Prison, and in a speech at Dublin Castle, referencing the Irish roots he shares with President Obama, he said:

“Around the same time my great-great-grandfather, Owen Finnegan, the shoemaker, boarded the Brothers [ship] on May 31, 1844, another shoemaker named Joseph Kearny, from Moneygall, sailed aboard the Caroline Reade, arriving in America just five weeks before my great-great-grandfather.

“It’s doubtful they ever knew each another. But one thing we do know – they left everything behind for an uncertain future. And in all of their dreams, could they ever have dreamt that 160 years later, two great-great-grandsons of shoemakers from Ireland would be sworn in as President and Vice President of the United States of America?”

Joe Biden has been a great vice president. Too bad his term soon comes to an end. Wouldn’t he be the perfect choice as a running mate for Hillary this fall? Think about it....!



Perils abound after Brexit vote

By Joe Leary
Special to the BIR

In a stunning surprise the British people have narrowly voted to leave the 28-nation European Union (EU), with the Brexit (short for British exit) campaign winning 51.8 percent of the vote on June 23.



Joe Leary

Anger against rules issued by distant EU officials, a desire for unfettered British sovereignty, and a strong reaction to migrants from other EU countries were issues well exploited by self-serving, unknowing, right wing politicians hoping to gain from a vote to leave the union.

Very few of the voters or their leaders had any real idea what the impact of their vote would be. It was flag waving and malicious exaggeration

at its worst. Distorted claims were made on all sides. And today, most of the world, especially the British and the Europeans, are reeling from the result.

The current prime minister of Britain, David Cameron, announced his resignation the next morning. Stock markets around the world collapsed, with the New York Stock Market losing 610 points, a major drop in value. Regrets, sadness, and anger are being echoed throughout Europe.

Cameron, when he was running for re-election two years ago, promised his adversaries – known as Euroskeptics – that he would hold an election on the question of remaining in the EU if he won. And so, the people of England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland were asked to vote as to whether or not they wished to stay in the European community. Even the so-called experts are unsure and confused about the benefits of staying or leaving this amalgam of 28 European countries that has unified more than 500 million people to support each other.

In the wake of two tragic world wars, the European Union, or Common Market, was set up allow the multiple countries of Europe an easier way to trade between each other and to reduce border controls. Britain and Ireland joined the EU in 1973, 43 years ago. Richer nations were to help poorer nations and one look at the new Irish road system shows how smaller nations have benefitted. Ireland’s road system was modernized largely with EU funds.

The problem for many of the British people was how membership in the EU compromised their nation’s sovereignty. They feel they were losing control of their freedom. With the massive refugee problem created by the constant violence in the Middle East, many thousands, encouraged by the EU’s open border

policy, made their way into union countries, where, to many, they were not welcome.

During the referendum campaign the two sides of the question tried to scare the population of Britain to vote their way, a strategy not all that dissimilar to what we frequently experience here in our country. But in the Brexit case, there were very few acknowledged facts to justify a vote one way or the other.

It will be several years before we know the full impact of the leave vote, the details of which must be negotiated between British and European leadership. While estimates have been that the leave-taking would take up to two years, over the weekend after the vote, continental leaders have forcefully announced they want to proceed more quickly and concentrate on the servicing of the remaining 27 members of the Union. The intervening months will not be a pleasant time.

There is no doubt that the leave vote will diminish both Britain and Europe, who would be stronger together. The EU could now lose other members now that precedent has been set, so its leadership has vowed to be very tough on Britain’s exit to discourage additional countries to leave. With some 65 million British in the union now, it will best if the sides understand each other.

There are probably tens of thousands of non-British, French, Germans, Polish and other individuals living in Britain under the free travel feature of the current EU. What happens to them? Are they to be sent back to their home countries or will they be allowed to become citizens of Britain. How do you set up a system to handle such transfers?

Britain is a critical member of the NATO defense organization as are most of the significant members of the European Union. Continuing to work together for their own benefit seems a must. The security forces and various police organizations must also continue to work together, an effort that will require good will and good communications that could be difficult as Britain leaves the union.

Already some British officials are worried about losing EU funding. A good example of second thoughts was heard in England’s southwestern district of Cornwall after the results were published. District Council President John Pollard announced he wanted to be assured that Cornwall would not lose any EU funding, which has amounted to millions of pounds in subsidies from the EU for over a decade. Cornwall people voted 56.52 percent to leave and yet still they want the funds. Pollard urgently wants these funds protected in the negotiations to leave. Fat chance!

European countries working together is a strong force facing enemies like Russia, or ISIS, even China. The vote to leave will not help the collective arrangement in place now.

Off the Bench

The campaign as Colosseum spectacle

By James W. Dolan
Special to the Reporter

Can you hear that noise in the background? A consistent drone, more often shrill than muffled; a public spectacle that cannot be avoided. It’s the campaign, what we call the democratic process at work. Sure, democracy can be messy, but does it have to be chaotic. Absent an enormous ego, what sane individuals would put themselves and their families through the campaign wringer?

Any person who wants to be president should be immediately disqualified. Only those pulled kicking and screaming into the arena should be considered. Today, the election process seems like an interminable public execution as candidates try to destroy each other. Is the presidency an award we bestow on the surviving gladiator, emerging from the pit?

Politics has become a blood sport with a thousand commentators urging the combatants on. It’s the Indianapolis 500, World Series, and Super Bowl rolled into one gigantic show where entertainment reigns supreme. How long before we get to feats of strength and the swimsuit competition? Perhaps after the insult, name-calling, and mud-slinging rounds. Substance is buried in trash talk to the point where it is almost irrelevant.

At least in theory, truth emerges and justice is achieved in a courtroom as two advocates under strict rules seek to persuade a jury or a judge of the merits of their respective positions. The process is at least coherent and relevant (albeit not always accurate) as it proceeds to a conclusion. One can at least see a structure and a design at play. Not so, particularly in the presidential election gauntlet that has evolved.

Instead of identifying abundant campaign falsehoods with “Pinocchio,” the press should use candles to identify occasional truthful statements. Campaigns are endless. Soon we can expect that right after the president is sworn in, candidates to succeed him/her will begin their campaigns. We’re already at the point where entire networks seem

to be devoted to campaign coverage. What is now hyped as “Breaking News” will be called “Breaking Newtownment” as we further confuse the line between important and fanciful.

I suggest there be referees in striped shirts on stage during the debates to call fouls. Offending candidates would be escorted to a penalty box for a period, the length of which would depend upon the seriousness of the violation. For example “Little Marco” would be a five-minute penalty for disparaging the size of an opponent. “Low Energy Jeb” would cost you three minutes. Insulting a debate interrogator would be a one-debate suspension. There also should be pre-debate drug tests to make sure the candidates are not using steroids or some other stimulant.

The spectacle may run its course. Viewers will become jaded and look for something more entertaining. A show that combines zombies, car crashes, space aliens and super heroes might catch on. The drafters of the Constitution were aware of the external threats to democracy, but never anticipated it would collapse from within, and that the balance of power would become a stalemate and the elective process a carnival.

They knew human failings would be exaggerated within institutions and provided safeguards. What they failed to anticipate is the extent to which those weaknesses would be further amplified by constant publicity. No person or institution can long withstand relentless exploitive attention. Will future generations one day visit the Democracy Museum and view the following memorial?

Here lies Democracy (1788-2050)
Dead of Exposure.
A Noble Experiment;
It Served The Nation Well
For 262 Years
– Until the Public Lost Interest.

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

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news@bostonirish.com www.bostonirish.com

Mary C. Forry, President (1983-2004)
Edward W. Forry, Publisher
Thomas F. Mulvoy Jr., Managing Editor
William P. Forry, Editor
Peter F. Stevens, Contributing Editor
News Room: (617) 436-1222
Ads : (617) 436-1222
Fax: (617) 825-5516 news@bostonirish.com

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Point of View

FURY, FRAUD, AND FAILURE

It's summertime, and the livin's not always easy

BY PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

Early on the steamy afternoon of July 14, 1863, the worst riot in Boston's annals erupted, a melee was sparked by Irish immigrants' fury at the class and ethnic unfairness of the nation's first Conscription Act, which allowed "sons of wealth" to buy their way out of the Civil War draft for \$300. The sum was far beyond the reach of impoverished Irish families and fueled the epithet "rich man's war, poor man's fight."

Boston's Irish population rose in savage protest against President Lincoln, as had the New York Irish that same month. In Boston, however, there was a pronounced difference from what occurred throughout New York City. The Boston Irish did not run wild in a mass killing of African Americans, as did the mobs of New York.

On July 14, 1863, Provost Marshals David Howe and Wesley Hill were serving Union army draft notices in Boston's Irish-dominated North End at a time when many local men were at work. At the lower end of Prince Street, a drafted Irishman answered the door.

When Howe handed him the notice, the man's wife flung herself at Howe, her fists flailing at him. She, along with her immigrant neighbors, had seen many other fathers, sons, and brothers march away in Federal blue, never to return from battlefields or surgeons' tables, or else to come back as amputees. Acutely aware that the 28th Massachusetts Regiment of the vaunted Irish Brigade had endured one of the war's highest casualty rates, many of the North End Irish had had enough of "Mr. Lincoln's War." Many immigrants believed that the Emancipation Proclamation would flood Boston and other Northern cities with hordes of ex-slaves looking to take Irish jobs.

The North End Irishwoman's shouts sent Howe backpedaling onto Prince Street and straight into a crowd of Irish laborers "away from their work this hour... in the narrow, crooked streets" near the Boston Gas-Light Company. According to the *Boston Herald*, "the cries of the infuriated woman acted like a signal upon the people in the neighborhood." Hill fled as the mob closed on Howe and beat him.

Police Officer R.H. Wilkins plunged into the crowd with his billy club, cracking heads left and right.

Somehow he dragged the dazed Howe to a nearby store and barricaded it until several more policemen arrived. The mob attacked them, and though the officers got Howe safely away, several more were savagely beaten, one of them "trampled upon and maimed for life."

By mid-afternoon, mobs stormed through the North End and soon surrounded the First Division Police Station. Scores of Irishmen, the historian Edward Harrington has written, "proposed to test the question whether the Government had the right to drag them from their home to fight in a cause in which they did not believe."

Mayor Frederic W. Lincoln answered by dispatching troops to the North End. A light battery of artillery was holding the Cooper Street Armory, a key point because of the weapons stored there. At 7 p.m., another company of artillery marched from Fort Warren through the jeering mob and into the surrounded armory.

As the reinforcements barred the gate, the throng stormed the bastion. The artillerymen wheeled out a six-pounder cannon loaded with canister shot—bits of metal used to tear apart massed troops—and ordered the crowd to fall back. For several minutes, the massed workmen complied. But just a few minutes later, at 7:30 p.m., hundreds launched another attack at the main door with "brickbats" and hurled rocks and rubble through "every pane of glass."

A company of soldiers rushed from the armory, snapped off a volley—blanks—and drove the crowd at bayonet point a short way up Cooper Street and toward Charlestown Street. Then the troops wheeled around and marched back into the fortress with the crowd of cursing Irish following warily at a distance.

Again, the mob again attacked. The main gate flew open, and, Harrington writes, a cannon suddenly belched "full in the face of the crowd." The hissing canister shot left scores of the Irish dead or writhing on the remnants of the cobblestones. The mob fell back again, but still made "riotous demonstrations just out of harm's way."

Several infantry platoons pushed against the mob, unleashing 69-caliber musket balls into the Irish crowd. Seventy-one-year-old William Currier was slain

by a ball that ripped through his side. An unidentified young Irishwoman lay lifeless on Cooper Street, a ball having pierced her throat. A youth named McLaughlin "thrashed on the streets with wounds in his arms, shoulder, and chest until friends dragged him to a hospital."

Dragoons and infantry cleared the streets by 10 p.m. No one knows how many Irish were killed or wounded in the Boston Draft Riot. The figure will forever remain a mystery because the rioters dragged away the bodies of slain neighbors and buried them in secret.

"Thick as a Brick"

What is it with Donald Trump and walls? Apparently, he believes that we're all thick as the bricks of his proposed projects. Lies and hypocrisy are the concrete upon which he seeks to erect them. Along with the "beautiful wall" that will allegedly seal off our southern border from "hordes of Mexicans," Trump is also bellowing about building a wall at Doonbeg's Trump International Golf Links & Hotel, in County Clare. As Trump rants and rails against the "Chinese hoax of global warming," he asserts that climate change is harming his Irish course.

According to RTE, The Donald has "explicitly cited the threat of global warming in its attempt to secure a permit for a two-mile stone wall that would section off the sprawling resort from the Atlantic Ocean, according to the company's application, first reported on by Politico and filed earlier this month in Ireland." Fitting that "Fraud" and "Trump" are both five-letter words.

Lose and Hopefully Learn

While it comes as no surprise that the gifted golfer Dustin Johnson finally claimed a major, his feat came in large part because of Irishman Shane Lowry's final-round stumble at the recent US Open. The 29-year-old from Clara, Co. Offaly, headed into the fourth round with a four-stroke lead, poised to add another major to the Emerald Isle's collective trophy case. Unfortunately, Lowry staggered through a 6-over 76 to lose to Johnson by three. Still, it's a solid bet that Lowry is poised to break through and claim a major, given his age and his recent rise through the tour ranks.

Replica cannon adds historic element to Dorchester Heights National Park

BY GRIFFIN CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

The National Parks of Boston unveiled and dedicated a replica cannon brought to Dorchester Heights from Fort Ticonderoga during the 1776 Siege of Boston in a ceremony last month. The cannon, resting atop a six-and-a-half-ton granite mount, will remain on permanent display, according to a press release from the National Park Service.

"We hope this cannon can help new audiences form their own connections with the significance of Dorchester Heights—using the cannon to capture and convey the intangible meaning of what took place here," National Parks of Boston general superintendent Michael Creasey said during the ceremony's introductory speech.

At the onset of the American Revolution in 1775, the British army and its American counterpart set their sights on the hills south of Boston, coveted for their strategic importance in controlling the city, which the redcoats had occupied since 1768.

As Isaac Bangs, a second lieutenant in the Continental Army, wrote in his journal in 1776, the heights "by nature seemed formed for the command of Boston."

With permission from Gen. George Washington, Col. Henry Knox led a rag-tag team of New Englanders transporting 59 cannons from Fort Ticonderoga roughly 300 miles to Boston—in the dead of winter.

"It was a Herculean effort to drag more than 50 cannons like that from Upstate New York," Sean Hennessey, the director of arts, culture and tourism for the National Parks of Boston, said. "They did it through swamps and forests, ice and snow. It was really an engineering marvel for them to be able to do something like that in just a couple of months."

On March 4, 1776, under the cover of nightfall, Maj. Gen. John Thomas led about 3,000 men, Bangs among them,



Congressman Stephen F. Lynch, right, is shown with World War II veteran Ed Hamilton at the dedication on Sat., June 4. Photo courtesy Lynch office

and scores of ox-drawn carts carrying the artillery pieces to Dorchester Heights. His men set to work and, by morning, had fortified their position, cannons squared north toward Boston.

As the sun peeked over the Atlantic horizon, redcoats and civilians within the city "appeared numerous on the tops of houses and on the wharves viewing us with astonishment for the appearance was unexpected to them," Thomas hastily scribbled in a letter to his wife.

Two weeks later, on March 17, all British troops and 1,000 Boston loyalists to the crown boarded ships to Nova Scotia, bookending a successful 11-month siege.

"It was not a battle, per se, such as what had taken place at Lexington and Concord or at Bunker Hill where a lot of blood was shed," Hennessey said. "This was an initiative that—I won't say bloodless, because there were some casualties—was a seminal point because it scared the British away with this threat of artillery that was aimed down at them. It was really quite a

brilliant maneuver."

The replica cannon, aimed 10 degrees west of due north toward a modern Boston skyline, is a shade over 10 feet in length and weighs in at around two tons.

The cannon itself was fabricated at a foundry in Kentucky, and the base—carved on each flank with a circular pattern evoking the wheels of a wooden carriage—was cut at Fletcher Granite in Westford, Mass.

Representative Stephen F. Lynch of Massachusetts's 8th Congressional district delivered the keynote address to an audience of several hundred that included state Representative Nick Collins, Boston city councillor Michael Flaherty, and a dozen or so disinterested sunbathers dotting the rooftops of townhomes surrounding the oval Dorchester Heights on a sunny, 70-degree day.

Planners of the event didn't skimp on pageantry.

Red, white and blue bunting laced the gates along the perimeter of the park's central monument. The Lexington Minutemen and Lincoln Minutemen re-enactment companies were on hand for the ceremony, joined by the Waltham American Legion Brass Band and Excel High School ROTC students.

A red, white, and blue sheet cake was sectioned and served with tangy lemonade, and a local pizza joint provided dozens of pies.

The day—which featured ranger-led talks about the site's historical significance and an educational archaeology program geared toward children—was the culmination of a collaborative, four-year effort to revitalize the park and revamp its appeal to future generations.

"The park service is interested in reaching new and younger audiences and making sure these stories are known locally," Hennessey said. "To have some kind of personal marker on the site, a cannon, would really bring the story home for visitors."

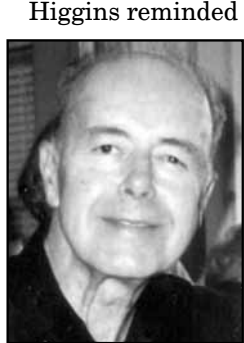


Dorchester Heights addition sparkles in the sunlight. Griffin Connolly photo

Creasey hopes the newest addition to Dorchester Heights will tap into guests' metaphysical side. "Our aim is not instruction, but provocation," he said in his speech, "with the cannon serving as the vehicle that allows visitors to ask, 'So what do the events of the past have to do with me and my times?'"

Boston Irish Reporter’s Here & There

By BILL O'DONNELL
Irish President in UN Debate – The ninth president of Ireland, **Michael D. Higgins**, is a 75-year-old veteran politician from the west of Ireland who has rarely been hesitant to air his opinions and ideas. This was evident in a speech he made recently to the Immigrant Council of Ireland that severely criticized members of the United Nations Security Council for not doing enough to aid migrants and help provide funding for refugees during the current crisis.



Higgins reminded his audience of the horrific numbers that include 60 million displaced, the highest such accounting since the Second World War, and the estimated 2,500 people who have died trying to cross the Mediterranean. The Irish president reminded these countries of their pledges of aid and warned there is an obligation on developed nations to do more.

He added: “We are at a critical moment in our history. The migration crisis is great in scale and is likely to be at the center of the EU and international agenda for several decades to come.

“The opportunity we have to make a real difference to the future of our human family, to shape a future built on solidarity, compassion and common humanity is one we cannot afford to refuse.” Higgins’s remarks to an international audience, I strongly believe, is a principled role that an Irish president can and should play. When one recalls the decades of charitable giving and in-kind aid, and the diplomatic and humane values espoused by Ireland, it makes sense that this country of our ancestors speaks loud and clear to a troubled world.

Job Openings for Irish Speakers – There is a search on now to locate and hire some 180 Irish speakers. The qualified new positions are needed by the European Union to fill translator jobs in Brussels and Luxembourg. Oftentimes there are scant openings for Irish speakers, but as Gaeltacht Minister **Sean Kyne** noted, “This is a wonderful opportunity to pursue a rewarding international career and to raise the profile of our national language across Europe.”

The job openings are committed and funded. Applications are available at the recruitment website, jobs.eu-careers.eu. The competition is open to university graduates, including those getting out this summer, with an excellent command of Irish and a thorough knowledge of at least two other official EU languages, including English and French or German. The starting salary for the positions is 4,384 euro (or roughly \$52,000 per annum) with possible additional allowances

“Opposition” In Stormont. Still A Way To Go – In case you missed it, there have been crucial rule changes that now allow the executive to have two of its original, smaller parties — SDLP and the Ulster Unionists — be formally recognized as the Opposition, not unlike the Irish Dail and the House of Commons currently do. In theory this should mean a spirited and even vigorous debate over legislation under consideration, but so far it has meant crude assembly game-playing with the existing Opposition parties charging Sinn Fein and the Democratic Unionist Party with putting up roadblocks to the newly installed Opposition.

In a joint statement the two Opposition parties are alleging that the DUP and Sinn Fein (a strange but self-serving political alliance for each) are limiting the Opposition partners “to bringing debates to the floor only once every two weeks, and to have Opposition Days just every so often.”

The chief whip of the SDLP, **Alex Attwood**, and his UUP counterpart, **Robin Swain**, said “...the DUP and Sinn Fein have shown both their arrogance and their fear, with a slap in the face for our democracy.”

If nothing else, the realignment in progress could create a new political life, one not necessarily dictated by the longstanding unionist versus republican blocs. We shall see, and the same for the vexing leadership questions in the North.

Doubling Down On Muhammad Ali – Back some 44 years ago this month, in 1972, **Ali** came to Dublin’s Croke Park for an exhibition match between “The Greatest,” and **Al “Blue” Lewis**. We were visiting friends in Dublin when I found I could get tickets; promoters were having a hard time moving the 25,000 people they hoped the former Cassius Clay and Lewis would entice into Croke Park in mid-summer.

The bout wasn’t much. Ali won with an 11th-round TKO, but the real show was the week that Ali spent in the Dublin area. He was everywhere, chatting with a new friend, or a road sweeper in Centre City, waving to everyone he saw, and talking ragtime with anyone who would listen. Not since JFK’s 1963 time in Ireland

had a visitor from abroad found a bigger welcome in Leinster House.

Before the Dublin match, my wife Jean and I came upon Ali and his entourage out in Wicklow, I believe, where a club full of adoring fans cheered him on until he had to return to his training camp. He was a sensation, the Irish loved him, and as an old political junkie, I thought he might have given someone a tough race for a Dail seat that summer.

Fast forward: It was in the 1990s, date uncertain, when I was in Boston at my office and saw that Ali would be in a downtown bookstore, likely it was Barnes & Noble, then on Washington Street. I wanted to see how Ali had dealt with age and infirmity so off I went to stand in line to see him and shake his hand maybe, or who knows, mention our time (not together!) in Dublin.

After about 20 minutes, it was my turn to say hello to the Champ. The only thing we had in common was Dublin, 1972. I shook his hand, firm, still an athlete’s paw. I had little time but I wanted to mention Ireland and that long-gone day 20 odd years earlier.

I blurted out as I still held his hand, “They loved you in Ireland!” And I mentioned the smiles and the cheers and I repeated that he was a big hit, and to my astonishment a big smile, I mean a smile big enough to warm a rogue’s heart, creased his face. It lasted a few moments. Then it was time to move on. And I wanted to believe that the big Ali grin was his recall of his days in Ireland, and, maybe, if God gave day passes, how he remembered that day just how much the people of Ireland loved him.

Respite For Bertie Ends On Up Note – Former Taoiseach **Bertie Ahern** hasn’t spent too much time recently on the front pages of the *Indo* or the *Times*, but he has a good memory and has been working diligently to elevate his status with the Dubs, some of it successful, some maybe less so. There he was, the retired PM, at Queen’s University Belfast talking to the issues of the day: “Reflections on Peace in a Changed Ireland.”

Bertie had good words to say about fellow politicians, albeit a bit surreal that his good words were mostly directed to Northern politicians, some dead, most, like Bertie, safely retired. He had praise for **Ian Paisley** and **Tony Blair**, and, surprisingly, more panegyrics for the first prime minister of Northern Ireland, **James Craig**. With Paisley, Bertie recalled, “It took longer ... with Paisley, but by the end it had blossomed into genuine friendship.”

Ahern reminded listeners in Belfast that for many years Northern Ireland hovered on the brink of “all-out civil war.” He noted that while politicians are often criticized ... “Northern Ireland had been served well by a generation of political leaders.” Who could Bertie possibly be thinking of?

The former Fianna Fail Leader also observed that cross-border accommodations ... and a growing tourism industry were “evidence of a new era in all-Ireland strategic cooperation.” There was more, but you get the idea.

Donald’s “Doonbeg Wall” Underwhelming – In the not-too-distant past **Donald Trump** saw a troubled golf course and decided to buy it. What else do you do when you’re a presumptive GOP nominee and presumptive billionaire. Well, sure enough, you buy things and Doonbeg in Clare was under-priced and needed some rehab. Donald described it in paraphrase as a steal. He grabbed a good deal in wee Ireland and he was not hiding his triumph under his cloak when there were tales to tell future constituents of his prowess with a deal. (Read the book and you, too, can become...)

In any event, the Donald managed to insult a regiment of local environmental activists, the Irish in general and his Clare purchase itself in humbling terms. That’s at least one major reason that the cute Dublin pols were meeting last month in the backroom of Lily’s Bordello to plan how not to be seen greeting Donald at the Dublin Airport when he arrived there late last month en route to Clare. Their dilemma was resolved when Trump cancelled his planned stop-over in Ireland – no love lost there – on the way home from Scotland where he touted yet another of his historic golf club purchases, Turnberry in Ayrshire.

Still, maybe Donald can collect (but not publish) meaty quotes from the abutters to Doonbeg. The most recent description of the Doonbeg High Seat is that it is “monstrous and unsustainable.” The neighbors termed the golf course area the result of “poor planning and research by the golf club.” A golfer from Newbridge said the wall will ultimately kill the dunes and leave Doonbeg a flat piece of land.

But the Donald is neither amused nor daunted. He wants to build a four-mile seawall barrier that he hopes will help to hold back the erosion-hit dunes beside his golf links. The last word from his neighbors is that the fantasy-driven seawall is “naive and unprecedented... and the “very thing that is being protected will be damaged.”

Loretto Sisters Report To Rome. What’s Up? – The *National Catholic Reporter* carried a story last month that the superior of a major order of Catholic nuns, the Loretto Sisters, has been summoned to the Vatican to explain her order’s stands on some “areas of concern.” This summons from the Vatican’s congregation for religious life comes months after the closing in 2014 of the visitations that began in 2008.

In a statement in the Global Sisters Report by Loretto President **Sr. Pearl McGivney**, she announced her summons to Rome for this October. In the statement she said her community “engaged wholeheartedly in the Apostolic Visitation process, and through it, affirmed our Loretto charism and our lives together.” The visitation was one of 90 nationwide that were personally visited in 2010. “The visitors seemed warm and genuinely interested in our lives,” McGivney said, “and we had no expectation that six years later we would find ourselves being asked to come to Rome to address any outstanding issues.”

After the six-year delay without any feedback or additional information requests for the Loretto sisters, the summons raises new and unexpected issues as to what could have surfaced to necessitate answering a call to appear at the Vatican. A major question might also be what was the goal or the purpose of the visitations and why did the call to Rome take so long to resurface under **Pope Francis’s** papacy?

Dublin’s Venerable Gresham Hotel For Sale – A handful of potential bidders for the famed city-center hotel are waiting to learn who will be the new owner. Depending on how determined the next proprietor might be, the selling price is reported to be around \$95 million. Among the short list of bidders for the famed hotel is commercial banking giant Goldman Sachs and Boston-linked Cerberus.

Berkeley Balcony Collapse: Owners Blame Students – The families of the victims and survivors of the June 2015 balcony collapse that killed six students and badly injured seven others in California have a new heartache to contend with. The several companies that are being sued in civil court for negligence and defective material use have blamed the students who were in California working on J-1 visas, suggesting that the group was at least “partly responsible” for the tragedy.

The civil litigation will be lengthy and expensive for both plaintiffs and defendants; possible appeals could mean several years before a decision is finally reached.

RANDOM CLIPPINGS

A sad 20th anniversary as we remember Dublin investigative reporter **Veronica Guerin**, 37, who was cowardly shot to death on the Naas Road in June 1996 by organized crime leaders. ... Early reviews of the Boston-based documentary “The Peacemaker” have good things to say about the focus of the film, **Professor Pdraig O’Malley** and producer/director **James Demo**. ... Projections for the financial health of the EU are mixed but the acid test will be how it reacts to Great Britain’s drawn-out exit from the Union after the June 23 referendum. ... Barring something dramatic, the elite on Nantucket can claim victory after Bay State legislators killed the Cape project dream plan of Cape Wind. ... Maybe robo-calls will never stop annoying consumers, but the US House is trying to force Telecom to offer us free blocking, Time will tell. ... After the Whitewater fiasco that haunted the Clintons for years, there’s scant sympathy out there for Baylor’s former president, Ken Starr. ... The new leader of the Irish Labour Party, **Brendan Howlin**, joined the parade in saying that **Enda Kenny’s** patchwork government will not last 12 months. ... A surprise call from **Archbishop Eamon Martin**, who is supporting a united Ireland. In no surprise, the Ulster Unionist Party is not convinced that Martin is right. ... **Alasdair McDonnell**, former leader of the SDLP, said that going into Opposition at Stormont was the “right decision.”

Kerry’s beaches – Inch, Banna and Rossbeigh – are the most popular as summer heats up in Ireland. ... Ashford Castle sits among the top hotels on the Isle, with Adare and Dromoland following. ... New York’s self-described billionaire couldn’t even play it straight with the veterans, stiffing them until called on it by a newsman – just like he did with his four military exemptions. ... The big shots at the Anglo Irish bank are starting to fall like dominoes. About time. ... How important is the Irish Senate? Not that important since the Taoiseach appointed **Billy Lawless** as the first Irish citizen “living in the US” to be named to that body. A tough commute – and those phone bills! ... It is sad to see nativist and part-time patriot **Pat Buchanan** spilling his colonial garbage and reduced to small-town newspapers and 17th century ideas. Retire, Pat, please retire. ... Having spent some of my best days ever in the Omeath and Dundalk area, count me as a solid advocate for the building of the Narrow Water Bridge linking north and south and for a fresh spirit of cross-border cooperation.

Irish fans win admirers at Euro 2016

(Continued from page 1)

One Paris resident was bemused to find a green

army of supporters on the street outside his apartment cheering him every time he appeared on the balcony. In Clichy, Paris, an Ireland fan climbed on the roof of a van and performed a full strip tease in front of hundreds of his amused compatriots.

“We’re here for the football. We like the football

first, but after the football we like the craic, we like to have the fun,” said Liam Brazil, who traveled from Dublin with his son Keith to cheer Ireland on against Italy. “We’re only there for the sport of it. It doesn’t matter what sport it is.”

Before making their way to Lille, the Brazils found themselves among

a throng of Northern Ireland fans partying in O’Sullivan’s pub on Rue Montmartre in Paris on Monday night.

“There’s no hassle, no nothin’. They wish us the best of luck and we wish them the best of luck. It’s all great banter,” Keith Brazil told The Associated Press.

Northern Ireland fans were singing “Will Grigg’s on fire, your defense is terrified” to the tune of Gala’s 1996 dance hit “Freed from Desire” - a reworking that has proved immensely popular wherever the team plays. It didn’t matter that Grigg, a forward, had yet to play at the tournament.

“They’re all crazy, absolutely,” said Austria fan Lucas Kirchbaumer, watching from a safe distance.

“It’s a football festival, everyone’s getting on so well,” Northern Ireland fan Matthew Gray said. “We have no expectations.

IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER



An agency accredited by US Department of Justice

100 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110

Telephone (617) 542-7654 Fax (617) 542-7655

Website: iiicenter.org Email: immigration@iiicenter.org

IIIC NOTEBOOK

Our hearts break for the victims and families of the horrific act of violence in Orlando and we stand in solidarity with the LG-BTQ community at this very sad time.

We also send our condolences to the family and friends of John Carmody, from Galway, who lived in Brighton, and passed away this past month after a short illness.

...

The Clinics

Tues., July 5, July 19 – IIIC, 100 Franklin St. Lower Level, Downtown Boston. (Entrance is at 201 Devonshire Street); **Mon., July 11** – The Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington Street, Brighton Center; **Wed., July 27** – St. Mark's Church (School Hall) 1725 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester.

For additional information about the Legal Clinics, call the IIIC at 617-542-7654.

Family Support

Our Wellness Program will be starting a drop-in family support group for those affected by alcohol and substance abuse on Thursdays evenings from

7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the IIIC office in Boston. This will be an ongoing group providing education, guidance and a safe place to talk in confidence with others who are experiencing similar challenges.

For additional information, contact Gina Kelleher at 617-542-7654 ext. 14 or email: gkelleher@iiicenter.org

Job Searching

IIIC's drop-in workshops will enable you to get individual help with all of your job search questions.

When: July 5 - August 2, Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon at the IIIC office in Boston. For more information, please call Hannah Deegan at 617-542-7654, Ext. 36.

Citizenship Classes

The IIIC is currently registering naturalization applicants for its six-week preparation classes beginning on July 7 and running until August 11. The classes are given each week on Thursdays from 1 o 3 p.m. For more information, or to register, call Sarah at 617- 542-7654, Ext. 36, or visit the Center between 9 and 5 on weekdays.

FOND FAREWELLS

Saluting Vice-Consul Meg Laffan



Friends and colleagues gathered at the Irish Consulate last month to honor and say fare-

well to Vice-Consul Meg Laffan, left her post in Boston at the end of June to take up duties in a new position with the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin.

After arriving in Boston less than a year ago, Megan worked tirelessly to engage with as many of the region's Irish residents and organizations as possible. This is no small task considering that the geographical area under the supervision of the Irish Consulate in Boston covers all of the New England states with the exception of Connecticut.

We wish Meg success in her new job and convey our thanks and gratitude to her for the help and assistance she provided to the IIIC and the entire Irish community.

Sister Eleanor retires; 7 years with legal team

After seven years, the IIIC recently said goodbye to immigration attorney Sister Eleanor



Martin, on her retirement. A member of the center's Immigration Legal Services team since 2008, Sister Eleanor has advised and represented immigrants from around the world for many years.

Sister Eleanor is a member of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky and a fateful meeting with our own Sister Lena Deevy brought her to the IIIC and we are all grateful for that!

Linking the word "retirement" with Eleanor's name is just not a good fit. Suffice it to say that she is charting a new course for her life and there will always be a need for the gifts of this very talented woman. We will all miss her straightforward way – laced with great humor – and her huge smile. We

Matters of Substance

Anxiety Disorders – What We All Need to Know

By GINA KELLEHER
IIIC WELLNESS DIRECTOR

Last month two types of anxiety disorders were described - generalized anxiety disorder (GAD) and panic disorder. In this article, social anxiety disorder and specific phobias will be addressed, including recommended treatments for all four types of disorders; consequences if left untreated, risk of self-medicating with alcohol/drugs, and effects on relationships, work, school and self-esteem.

There is a theory that we are born with innate temperaments. While most babies "make strange" at a certain age, as they get older it becomes apparent that some adapt well to being in new situations or meeting new people while others experience some distress, often clinging to a familiar care-giver or parent.

People who are naturally shy can be uncomfortable around new people or in crowds but it is still manageable and does not interfere significantly with their lives. They often overcome this with repeated exposure and age.

People who are diagnosed with social anxiety disorder or social phobia have an extreme form of shyness, where the fear of being judged or embarrassed in front of people occupies much of their thinking. They usually avoid being the center of attention and may endlessly worry after a particular social interaction, wondering if they in-



Gina Kelleher

advertently hurt someone or failed to measure up in some way.

While most people feel a bit nervous about public speaking, people with social anxiety disorder can worry for weeks ahead of the event. They may go out of their way to avoid any speaking engagements or job promotions that would entail public speaking. If they do have to make a speech, they suffer through physical symptoms such as racing heart, sweating, blushing or stammering. Mentally, they may feel as if they are having an out of body experience or that their minds are going blank.

Other everyday situations they may avoid are talking to strangers, initiating conversations, using a public bathroom or walking into a room where others are already seated. This is the second most common anxiety disorder and is equally common in both genders.

Specific phobias are the most common type of anxiety disorders. Phobias are a set of anxiety symptoms experienced due to a

strong irrational feeling of fear and distress in the face of specific things or situations. They can be categorized into five different types: Animal phobias (most common); Situational phobias, e.g., fear of flying, driving over bridges or being in enclosed spaces; Natural environmental phobias, e.g., fear of thunderstorms, heights or water; Blood-injection-injury phobias, e.g., fear of needles, fear of seeing blood; and other phobias e.g. fear of falling down or loud noises.

People with certain phobias will do their best to avoid the triggering object or situation and if they must endure it, may feel anticipatory anxiety for days or weeks ahead of the situation and extreme fear or panic during the event, e.g., flying or making a speech.

Treatment of anxiety disorders usually involves counseling, medication or a combination of both. Numerous counseling techniques can teach helpful strategies for managing the distressing thoughts and behaviors associated with these disorders, cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) being the most widely used and effective of these approaches. Exposure therapy works by gradually exposing the person to the feared object or situation while they practice relaxation techniques. This works to desensitize the person to the situation over time.

Medication can be very helpful by working on the

brain chemistry involved in anxiety responses. Doctors, nurse practitioners, psychiatrists, or pharmacologists can prescribe them. It may take time to figure out the best medication especially if there are co-occurring conditions such as depression and/or substance abuse.

Antidepressants known as Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRI's) not only help with depression but also with certain anxiety disorders. Benzodiazepines work very well for the short-term management of anxiety and panic by quickly helping to relax the body and soothe anxious thinking. If taken long-term, however, larger doses are needed to get the same effect, which can lead to tolerance and dependence.

Beta-blockers help manage the physical symptoms of anxiety such as sweating, shaking, or blushing. They do not work on anxiety-provoking thoughts, however. It is recommended also to adopt a healthy lifestyle to minimize anxiety. Reducing or avoiding caffeine and alcohol, exercising regularly, and practicing relaxation or deep breathing techniques can really help.

If you think you or a loved one may be experiencing any of these anxiety disorders, there is no need to suffer alone. For confidential help and guidance, please reach out to me at 617-542-7654, Ext. 14, or at gkelleher@iiicenter.org

Employment permission: Keep your records current

Q. I have an application pending with US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to adjust my status to that of legal permanent resident. I received a work card based on a form I filed back when I applied for permanent residence. It's now looking like my work card will expire before I get my green card. What should I do?

A. Your work card (what USCIS refers to as an "Employment Authorization Document" or "EAD") allows you to obtain a Social Security number and work legally in the United States pending the processing of your application to adjust status. You need a current EAD to continue to work legally here, so if it looks like yours will expire before you get your green card, you need to apply to renew it.

You should file your renewal application as soon as possible within the period allowed by USCIS. The agency currently accepts renewal applications no more than 120 days before the expiration date on the card.

The form for the renewal filing is I-765 (the same form you used for the initial work card). You check the box marked "Renewal." You should use the most recent version of the form (currently the one dated 2/13/2015). You can download the form and instructions without charge from the USCIS web site, uscis.gov, and follow the link to the list of forms. *Never* pay anyone for immigration-related forms; they all are free from government websites.

The same form is used for filing for a replacement card when the original has been lost, stolen, or contained mistakes when issued. The 120-day limit does not apply to replacement applications; they may and should be filed as soon as it is known that a replacement is needed.

Note that not just adjustment of status applicants, but other people, including asylees and asylum seekers, fiancées of US citizens, and those in or applying for temporary protected status, are generally eligible to apply to USCIS for work authorization. Eligibility, where to file, and whether an application fee is required vary according to a person's immigration status. Likewise, some non-US citizens are able to work in the US without applying for an EAD. For example, legal permanent residents, conditional permanent residents, and those with visas authorizing them to work for a specific US employer (such as holders of H-1 B temporary employment visas).

Note further that an EAD does not confer any immigration benefits beyond temporary permission to work in the United States. For example, it does not authorize the holder to remain in the US if not eligible to do so. If a person's application for legal permanent resident status were denied, then, in the absence of some other basis for lawful presence in the US, the person would be subject to removal from this country – even if in possession of a current EAD at the time of denial. Additionally, once the underlying application for legal permanent resident status is denied, the individual is no longer authorized to work in the US, and the EAD is no longer valid.



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For more information, call Sarah at (617) 542-7654 ext. 36 or visit the Center between 9:00 — 5:00 weekdays.

Made possible by the MA Office of Refugees and Immigrants.

WHAT:
Citizenship Class

WHERE:
Irish International Immigrant Center
100 Franklin Street, LL-1
Boston, MA 02110
(Enter at 201 Devonshire St)

WHEN:
July 7th - August 11th
Thursdays, 1:00 to 3:00 PM

CONTACT:
Sarah Chapple-Sokol
Phone: 617-542-7654, ext. 36
Email: sarahcs@iiicenter.org

FEES: \$30

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EATING AND EMOTION

Dr. Bernadette Rock

Brexit blues? Everyday life?
Some strategies that work

Until late last month, I had absolutely no doubts that the UK would “Remain” in Europe after the referendum, as did my family, and friends who work in the UK. The very notion that the UK would leave Europe was preposterous and unfathomable. Surely most voters would also understand the difficulties of extricating the UK from the EU and the Irish media were in no doubt as to the potentially massive impact of Brexit on Ireland.

So we were collectively stunned by the news that Brexit had happened. Attending a conference in Dublin city on Friday morning for which Leo VradKar, minister for Social Protection, and Katherine Zappone, minister for Children and Youth Affairs, were notably late, having been ushered to an emergency cabinet meeting, I felt the nightmare of Brexit that was on everyone’s lips.

We don’t know for certain what the implications of Brexit will be for Ireland and the Irish people. There is much speculation about the impact on the housing market, on dairy, on the Irish car market, on Irish trade in general, and for the Northern border. A colleague mentioned that her decision to withdraw from a house purchase was based on Brexit and fears about a possible economic depression and fall in house prices.

There is no blueprint for dealing with such an event, which has rattled the post-war order and is threatening to unravel a bloc of democratic nations. But we are being subjected to a constant rumble of speculation about a looming crash.

Speculation can breed confusion, uncertainty, and fear, which can impact negatively on our health and our emotional well-being. Fear narrows our perspective; it narrows our field of vision and restricts our perspectives.

– **False. Expectations. Appearing. Real.** Fear can keep us feeling stuck and helpless, and can lead to feelings of powerlessness and anxiety. Whether your fear is arising from Brexit or from an everyday encounter, such as a disagreement with your child, there are ways you can support yourself:

- **Accept your anxiety** – *Resist and it persists, a wise woman once told me.* Has fighting your feelings of being overwhelmed ever helped you overcome them? Most likely not. It’s “normal” to experience some degree of anxiety when events are unfamiliar or unpredictable. Think of acceptance as riding out a wave.
- **Beware of sabotaging thoughts** – Thoughts of uncontrollability or unpredictability are the backbone of overwhelm, and it is these unreasonable thoughts that spark our anxious reaction. That’s why it’s important to pay attention to what we tell ourselves and learn to create helpful thoughts. If you tell yourself, “it’s all a mess,” that can lead to stress and anxiety.


Ask yourself in what ways might this thought be inaccurate, unrealistic or unhelpful? Your goal is to generate alternative thoughts that will lead to positive emotions and behavior.

- **Journaling** – When your thoughts are overwhelming, another effective thing to try is writing. Writing out your thoughts has been shown to have a very powerful effect on your mind. It’s as though your mind relaxes about the thoughts because they’re on paper. You’ve taken a step back from them.
- **Exercise** – Exercise is a powerful tool to combat feeling overwhelmed for two reasons. It improves your breathing so that your symptoms are not as severe. Also, it floods relaxing neurotransmitters into your brain and tires your mind so that you can’t have as many overwhelming thoughts. Exercise and can be a powerful tool to combat anxiety.

We cannot control global events but we can take effective steps to care for our minds and health.

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“If/Then” – at the intersection of Choice & Chance

By R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

We face choices every day. Which flight to take, which job to accept, which person to date? You try to make an informed decision, but the question quietly lingers: What if you had chosen differently? How might your life have been impacted?

That's the intriguing idea explored in the original, contemporary musical “If/Then,” named Best Musical of the Year by *New York Magazine*. With music and lyrics by the Tony and Pulitzer Prize winning team of Brian Yorkey and Tom Kitt (“Next to Normal”), the show's national tour plays The Boston Opera House from July 5 to July 17.

“If/Then” follows two distinct story lines in the life of one main character. Elizabeth (played by Jackie Burns) is a newly divorced city planner who moves to New York to restart her life. In a city of infinite possibilities, her carefully designed plans collide with the whims of fate and her life splits into two parallel paths. “If/Then” follows both stories simultaneously as this modern woman faces the intersection of choice and chance.

Corey Greenan is a member of the show's ensemble. He plays a variety of New Yorkers, including the deputy mayor, as the story whisks along. He also understudies the principal roles of Josh and Stephen, the two men whose stories collide with Elizabeth's.

Originally from Northern California, Corey got his big break playing Sky in the national tour of “Mamma Mia.” He was subsequently invited to join that show's Broadway company. He has also been seen in “Scandalous” on Broadway as well as in regional productions of “Damn Yankees,” “Evita” and “I Am Harvey Milk.” He's a theatre graduate of Pepperdine University.

We spoke by phone when “If/Then” was playing in North Carolina. Knowing he'd be speaking with *The Boston Irish Reporter* and expecting to discuss his heritage, Corey said, “I was thinking about (our) show in terms of that. There's nothing more Irish than coming to New York to make a new start, and this show is that!”



Corey Greenan plays multiple roles in “If/Then.”

Q. Can you identify with the “what-if” theme in this show?

A. That's what's neat about this show. Everyone can relate to making a choice and living with the consequences. And wondering if it would have been a different situation if the choices had been different.

Q. Did you ever consider choosing a profession other than theater?

A. In my twenties, this was the only thing I could see myself doing. But now, I'm like, okay, I could see a different choice being made. But the way it worked out for me, there really were no other options at the time. (*Laughing*) I'm not really qualified to do anything else.

Q. Anthony Rapp (a member of the original company of “Rent”) is in your cast. You're working with a legend.

A. Man, that guy is the professional of all professionals. He is so focused and so consistent. And on top of that, he is just a really great company member. He engages everyone around him. He's got our Thursday night poker game going... He's a very smart, very intense guy, but he's become a wonderful friend. I gotta say I sit in awe of him sometimes. But then, you know, we'll be busting his chops the next minute!

Q. Jackie Burns plays Elizabeth, the role Idina Menzel created in the original Broadway production. Interestingly, like Idina, Jackie also played Elphaba in “Wicked.” Tell me about working with her.

A. Jackie is a force of nature in her own right. She is awesome... The reviews she gets in every city are unreal... She's a different person than Idina, so it's been neat to see the same character played by these two incredible, strong, and talented women in their own ways (at different



Corey Greenan (fourth from left) with Jackie Burns (center) and the company of “If/Then.”

Joan Marcus photo

times during the tour).

Q. You get to play multiple roles in this show. That must make for a lot of quick changes backstage.

A. It is kind of neat. All of us in the ensemble are “peopling” New York City. We've got to fill that space and represent all these different types of people you find in the city. It's nice to be able to do a lot of different little things throughout the show. It keeps it very interesting.

Q. Have you had a chance to step up and go on as either Josh or Stephen?

A. Never for Stephen... but the last weekend we

were in Detroit I got to go on for Josh (usually played by Matthew Hydzik)... And not only was I able to go on, I was also able to go on for a weekend. That was four shows, two days in a row, with a sleep in between.

Q. Did you have time to prepare, or what it a last minute thing.

A. It was last minute. It was a 2 o'clock matinee and I think I found out pretty close to 1 p.m.... The first (show) is always a little “deer-in-the-headlights” no matter how well you know the part. It's just not what you're used

to. To be able to do it four times in a weekend was really great... everyone was so supportive.

Q. To end where we started, talking about your heritage, I understand you had a very welcoming experience during a trip to Ireland.

A. We were coming out of Belfast, and coming south we went into this little town called Cootehill. And like any little Irish town, there's a nice little main street with a church right at the end of it, and ten pubs lining either side. I went and discovered this little Greenan

Pub. It was such a find! It was just the most quintessential thing. Once they found out my name, they brought out the guitars. Someone started playing “Danny Boy.” I don't know that it could have gotten any more Irish than that moment.

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

...
If/Then,” July 5 - 17, Boston Opera House, 539 Washington Street, Boston, MA. Info: 800-982-2787 or BroadwayInBoston.com.

Pastoral Centre besieged by calls for housing for summer students

The Irish Pastoral Centre staff is being inundated with calls from summer students who face a dire housing situation this summer. Cases the staff at the centre have become aware of include young immigrants sleeping on buses, at the airport, “couch surfing,” or even at place of work!

The centre is appealing to the greater community to help it find housing accommodations for some of these students. High

rents are excluding many of them from being housed safely, which may lead to bigger issues for them while they are away from “home.”

If anyone feels able to house a student, please call the centre at 617-265-5300 ask for Kathleen.

Students are urged to remain in contact with their sponsors CIEE 1-888-268-6245 or Interexchange 917-305-5420 or (800) 621-1202.



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Fisher-Price

Summer BCMFest on tap at Club Passim on July 3

**BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR**

Celtic music with a local flavor will once again be part of Boston's Independence Day Weekend, as Club Passim in Harvard Square presents the second annual Summer BCMFest on July 3.

This year's event will include a free outdoor concert with Afro-Celtic funk band Soulsha and traditional Irish music duo Armand Aromin and Dan Accardi. The festivities continue in the evening with a ticketed show in Club Passim featuring innovative fiddler Mariel Vandersteel and guitarist Owen Marshall, plus the Coyne Family Band.

Summer BCMFest is a warm-weather version of the annual BCMFest (Boston's Celtic Music Fest), a weekend festival held each January to celebrate the

Greater Boston area's richness of music, song, and dance from the Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton, and other Celtic traditions. Summer BCMFest is supported by a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

This year's edition of Summer BCMFest kicks off at 2:30 p.m. with a free outdoor concert on Palmer Street (directly adjacent to Club Passim). Providing the entertainment will be Aromin (fiddle, whistle) and Accardi (accordion, concertina, fiddle), two Rhode Island natives who have been mainstays of Boston's traditional Irish music scene for several years. Also on the bill is Soulsha, which brings together Scottish and West African music with a vibrant, infectious big-band energy that includes fiddle, bagpipes, electric bass, keyboards, percussion, and horns.



Fiddler Mariel Vandersteel will be one of the featured acts at the Summer BCMFest evening concert.
Natalie Champa Jennings photo

At 7 p.m., Summer BCMFest moves inside Club Passim for an evening that showcases the

diversity of Celtic sounds in Boston.

Mariel Vandersteel has connected with folk music in a variety of ways, whether exploring traditional music archives in Ireland, studying the hardanger fiddle in Norway, playing fiddle tunes from the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains, or finding inspiration through touring places like Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, India, and Bangladesh. She creatively bridges new and old worlds, melding the styles and sounds of the various fiddle communities in which she's traveled.

At Summer BCMFest, Vandersteel will be accompanied by Owen Marshall (guitar, bouzouki), who has frequently appeared at BCMFest in various collaborations. Marshall also is a member of the acclaimed

Maine-based traditional Irish music trio The Press Gang.

The Coyne Family Band embodies the enduring appeal of traditional Irish music across generations. Husband and wife John (bouzouki) and Lisa (flute, whistle) are among the most active and appreciated musicians in the local Irish scene; their children Josie (fiddle) and Rory (accordion) are already accomplished players. Together, the Coynes present the "pure drop" brand of Irish music with verve and a healthy respect and love for the tradition.

•••

Tickets for Summer BCMFest are \$18 for the general public, \$10 for Passim members and students. For reservations and other information, go to passim.org/bcmfest.



The Burren Backroom will welcome the distinctive Sliabh Luachra sound of Matt Cranitch and Jackie Daly on July 20. *Con Kelleher photo*

MUSIC EVENTS FOR JULY

**BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR**

In addition to Summer BCMFest [see separate story], here are some other Irish/Celtic-related music events taking place in Boston this month:

- The Burren Backroom series will present the legendary Sliabh Luachra duo of **Matt Cranitch and Jackie Daly** on July 20. The two are among the finest living exponents of the distinctive style and repertoire found in traditional music from Cork and Kerry, and in addition to their partnership have long and distinguished careers as soloists and in other collaborations. Cranitch (fiddle) has won All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil titles, performed on radio and TV as well as at concerts and festivals in Ireland and elsewhere, and is a highly respected teacher and scholar of traditional music. Daly (button accordion and concertina) has been a member of acclaimed groups like Patrick Street, Buttons and Bows, Arcady and De Danann, and recorded with fiddlers Séamus Creagh and Kevin Burke.
- Opening for Cranitch and Daly – and making its Boston debut – will be the **Raw Bar Collective**, the trio of Benny McCarthy (button accordion), Conal O Grada (flute) and Dave Sheridan (fiddle). The band's album "millhouse measures," recorded live in a Waterford pub, aptly reflects the members' uncluttered, back-to-basics approach.
- On July 27, the Backroom will go somewhat off-format with a concert by the **Caleb Klauder Band**. Klauder is a member of the Foghorn Stringband, which performed at the 2014 "A Christmas Celtic Sojourn" and offered a sample of the ties binding Appalachian and Celtic music. This time, Klauder will be accompanied by his country band, including his Foghorn colleague vocalist Reeb Willms, for an evening of American

tradition-based sounds.

Both shows begin at 7:30 p.m.

For more information on the Backroom series, including links to buy tickets, go to burren.com/Backroom-Series.html.

- New York state-based Irish rockers **Emish** will perform at the Irish Cultural Centre of New England in Canton on July 15 at 7:30 p.m. Now into its second decade, the quintet of Bobby Curreri (guitar, vocals), Christy Halligan Brown (fiddle, backing vocals), Jennifer Curreri (flute, vocals, trumpet, whistles), Andrew Hulle (drums, percussion) and Mitch Sumner (bass) combine unmistakable Irish flavorings with an Americana/folk-rock core, playing traditional songs and tunes, their own material, and covers of popular favorites like "Ride On" or "The Devil Went Down to Georgia."
- For ticket information and other details, go to irishculture.org.
- Boston-area husband/wife Irish-American music duo **Matt and Shannon Heaton** will play a free concert on July 26 at noon, as part of Club Passim's series in Kendall Center, near the Kendall Square MBTA station. The Heaton's – Shannon on flute, whistle, accordion; Matt on guitar and bouzouki – are celebrated for their dedication to the Irish music instrumental and song tradition, with which they creatively and tastefully incorporate their own compositions and modern influences.
- For more on Passim events and other information, see passim.org.
- The Heaton's also will be among the performers at the New Bedford Folk Festival on July 9-10. Others with an Irish/Celtic connection include guitarist-vocalist **John Doyle**, **Jefferson Hamer** (of The Murphy Beds), **Runa**, **The Harper and the Minstrel** and **John Roberts**. Get full festival information at newbedfordfolkfestival.com.

CD Reviews

**BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER**

Anne Wylie, "Songs from the Seas" • An Irish native living in Germany, Wylie has the theatrical, storyteller/chanteuse approach to her singing, but fortunately not to a degree that overwhelms the listener or oversells the song. As its title implies, this album focuses mainly on traditional and contemporary material, including her own, with a



maritime context: songs of people whose livelihood is tied (for better or worse) to water, of creatures – some of them supernatural – who inhabit it, or of events and adventures that take place in its midst. It's a composite portrait of the sea (or its aquatic kin) as nurturer, provider, destroyer, enabler, or observer.

Some selections are obvious and familiar, but welcome nonetheless: from tradition, the austere but romantic "Fisher Boy" and bitter-sweet "Blackwaterside"; the jaunty "Nead na Lachan/The Duck's Nest," whose melody is known as "The Foxhunter's Jig"; and "The Bonny Swans," Loreena McKennitt's take on the old ballad commonly known as "The Cruel Sister." The late, great Canadian songwriter Stan Rogers also is represented here – not by pub favorites like "The Mary Ellen Carter" or "The Flowers of Bermuda," as one might expect, but the elegiac "The Jeannie C."

Among the other tracks are two Wylie originals, somewhat more pop-inflected: "The Waters of the Wild" (inspired by dolphin scholar Ute Margreiff) and "September Bird," evocative scenes-of-surf-and-shore dedicated to the memory of harpist Antoinette McKenna.

Wylie and her backing musicians – Uwe Metzler (bouzouki, electric and acoustic guitar, dobro), Henrik Mumm (electric and string bass, cello),

Hendrik Morgebrodt (pipes, whistle, flute), Maike Mohr (piano) and percussionists Markus Faller and Heige Andreas Norbakken – create a soft rock/jazz milieu for the songs, with some quite pleasing instrumental passages and interludes: a contemplative duet by Mohr and Mumm on Mickey MacConnell's "The Tinkerman's Daughter," for example, and an Africanesque percussion/vocal-driven break on "Nead na Lachan." Metzler and Mumm in particular give heft to many of the tracks.

If you're not too literal-minded about the title (what does "Tinkerman's Daughter" have to do with the sea, exactly?), "Songs of the Seas" can be as bracing, and beautiful, as an early spring morning out on Gloucester Harbor. [annewylie.com]

Various performers, "Our Dear Dark Mountain with the Sky Over It" • There's still plenty of life left to Ireland's regional music traditions – Sliabh Luachra, Clare, Sligo, Donegal, to name a few – but inevitably, some have persisted less than others, through a combination of time, demographics, a trend toward the "homogenization" of Irish music through the advent of mass media, and other social, economic, or political factors. So it's heartening to see this project come to the fore: an exploration of tunes, songs and styles associated with the Sliabh Beagh region of Monaghan and Fermanagh by some of the area's current crop of traditional musicians.

Their ranks include the project's co-coordinators Seán McElwain (bouzouki), of the band Téada, and Dónal McCague (fiddle), a former TG4 Young Musician of the Year, Eamonn Curran (uilleann pipes), a former member of the group Reel Union, and Brian McGrath (piano, banjo), who has become a fixture in the national Irish music scene, having played and recorded with musicians such as Frankie Gavin, Noel Hill, John Carty, Matt Molloy and Dolores Keane. Much of the material presented here comes from manuscripts by collectors James Whiteside and Bernard Bogue and archival recordings.



One question inevitably associated with historically driven projects is, can you enjoy the CD if you listen to it without knowing the context? The answer is, emphatically, yes: McElwain, McCague, McGrath and the other musicians, some of them of recent generations (Darren Breslin, accordion; Michael Rooney, concertina; Laura Beagon, fiddle; Michael McCague, guitar and bouzouki; and Conor McCague, banjo), bring an engaging freshness and vigor to the Sliabh Beagh tunes, many of which are likely new or unfamiliar to session players. Among the highlight tracks are a pair of flings ("A Traugh Clog Dance/John Joe McElroy's"), a set of reels ("Miss Mullen/The Green Cockade/Margot Jackson") and a hornpipe-jigs medley ("Mick Rooney's/The Monaghan Scutcher/When You Come Home, You'll Get It, You'll Get It" – the latter, of course, easily qualifies for the Best Tune Name category).

The Sliabh Beagh song tradition is represented here, too, with Monica Beagon-Treanor ("My Charming, Edward Boyle") and Caitríona Shrock, all of 15 years old at the time of the recording ("The Maid of Sweet Kilmore").

Still, while one can enjoy "Our Dear Dark Mountain" on its own terms, taking time to look through the sleeve notes or browsing the project website [ourdeardarkmountain.com] is enlightening and instructive. However many other dynamics might have affected the region, its people and its customs and traditions, research shows the considerable impact of the 1921 Treaty Boundary Commission and the Public Dance Halls Act. As so often seen before, political decisions – whatever the supposed merits or aims – can have far-reaching, unintended consequences.

Nollaig Casey and Arty McGlynn: Complementary in every respect

By SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

If you look at the combined resumes of fiddle-guitar duo Nollaig Casey and Arty McGlynn, it's nearly impossible not to be impressed.

Casey has played violin with the RTE Symphony Orchestra and fiddled for two of Ireland's most groundbreaking traditional music bands, Planxty and Coolfin, also toured and/or recorded with people like Sinéad O'Connor, Nanci Griffith, Ricky Skaggs, Rod Stewart, Emmylou Harris, Mary Black, Moving Hearts, Elvis Costello, Christy Moore, Cherish the Ladies, and Sharon Shannon.

McGlynn? Well, he has played and/or recorded with some of the same folks, while also serving as a member of the aforementioned Planxty, not to mention two other distinguished Irish bands, Patrick Street and De Dannan. Oh, and he has also been the backing guitarist for a fellow named Van Morrison.

But perhaps most importantly, Casey and McGlynn both accompanied Makem and Clancy in the early 1980s. It was the start of a partnership that transcended music to include marriage and family, and which continues to this day.

Along the way, they've released two well-received albums as a duo, "Lead the Knave" (1989) and "Causeway" (1995), which display their considerable virtues: Casey's All-Ireland caliber fiddling and singing, McGlynn's prowess as both a rhythm and lead guitarist, and their abilities as tune composers as well as interpreters of traditional music. (Casey also recorded a 2004 solo album, "The Music of What Happens," on which McGlynn appears.)

Recently, Casey and McGlynn passed through Boston – where they performed at The Burren's Backroom series – during a somewhat rare stretch of time when they've actually been able to play together as a duo. On a very warm late-spring afternoon, the two savored some downtime to reflect on their individual and shared paths in music, marked by contrasts as well as commonalities.

Perhaps the first thing to know about this couple is they seem to complement one another temperamentally as well as musically. McGlynn possesses a deadpan, dry wit, and when prompted by Casey to answer the question of whether they were aware of "chemistry" between them during that early stint with Makem and Clancy, he replies quietly, "Well, she sort of kidnapped me; she really wanted a back-up guitarist..."

"That's a joke, you do know that?" Casey says to the questioner in between laughs, nodding in McGlynn's direction.

"It's the truth," McGlynn says, poker-faced, as Casey falls into laughing again, and gives him a playful swat.

"We got on well together, I suppose," muses



Casey and McGlynn have played (separately or together) with major acts in Irish music, including Makem and Clancy, Planxty, Sharon Shannon and Van Morrison. Sean Smith photo

Casey after a few seconds. "Oh, yeah," says McGlynn, languidly. "She's a good cook."

Both Cork native Casey and Tyrone-born McGlynn came from families strongly invested in traditional music. Singing was the big thing with Casey's parents, who taught her and her sisters not only an extensive repertoire but also how to sing in harmony. In fact, Casey's sisters have cultivated highly successful careers themselves: Máire Ní Chathasaigh, regarded as one of Ireland's best harp players of the past few decades, and Mairéad, an accomplished fiddler, tin whistle player, harpist and singer. The three sisters released an album together last year, "Sibling Revelry," and Casey and McGlynn sometimes play with Máire and her guitarist husband Chris Newman as The Heartstrings Quartet. They've just put out their second album.

Casey was quite the budding uilleann piper as a young girl, and joined the pipers club in her native Cork. But when she was in her late teens, her set of pipes developed a leak in the bag, so she put them aside and focused on playing fiddle. "But I still play a lot of tunes from the pipe repertoire, more so than fiddle," she says.

Graduating from University College Cork with a music degree at only 19, Casey joined up with the RTE Symphony Orchestra. But even during that period, she never completely left behind her traditional music leanings, and was able to experience the flowering of the Irish folk revival while making connections with some of its leading lights. In 1980 she caught on with Planxty, which had reunited the previous year; among its other activities, the band recorded a piece, written by keyboardist Bill Whelan, called "Timedance" for the 1981 Eurovision Song Contest, which was the genesis for

Whelan's groundbreaking "Riverdance" more than a decade later (Casey would make occasional appearances in the show). Her sojourn with Planxty, which ended when the band split in 1983, had brought her squarely into the Irish music scene.

"I just feel very fortunate to have known so many wonderful people, musicians and otherwise, at various stages of my musical development," says Casey. "I'm grateful for all the opportunities that come my way."

McGlynn's family was as trad-rooted as Casey's: His mother and two uncles played fiddle, his father the accordion – the latter instrument McGlynn took up around the time he entered school, although he credits his mother as a bigger influence – and his grandfather was a poet and traditional-style songwriter who had one of his compositions recorded by David Hammond. But as McGlynn entered his teens, by which time he had started playing guitar, he found himself wanting something more, and he began venturing into rock, skiffle, and jazz. This led to him joining a succession of Irish show bands and other ensembles – Dixieland, swing, rock 'n roll – and over time learning different styles and techniques for guitar.

"But I always had Irish music in my head," says McGlynn, who in the 1960s and early '70s saw a transition from what he felt were the more rigid, conservative aspects of traditional music to a period of innovation and creativity, with performers like Sean O'Riada, Planxty, and Paul Brady, among others, catching his fancy. Brady, in particular, was "a big influence early on. I started playing on electric guitar – I didn't have an acoustic guitar at the time – all the tunes I used to do on accordion."

Concurrently, McGlynn felt he had come about as far as he could on the show

band circuit, and began to apply his guitar-playing more and more to Irish music – Brady eventually invited him to be part of his band in the late 1970s – culminating in his 1979 solo album, "McGlynn's Fancy." The album is widely regarded as a watershed in the guitar's sometimes uneasy role in Irish music, establishing the instrument's melodic as well as rhythmic qualities – *Flatpicking Guitar Magazine* compared McGlynn's impact on Irish music to Doc Watson's on American fiddle tunes. It put McGlynn in the spotlight, and got him invitations to play with the likes of not only Makem and Clancy, but also Van Morrison, in whose band McGlynn stayed for several years.

"Van is just great," he says. "I've never had a cross word with him. I would classify him as one of my best friends. He's a very wise bandleader and a great musician. Van doesn't tell you what to play, he just tells you what not to play, and he's absolutely right – he makes you think for yourself."

"I never planned for any of this to happen – it all kind of came about by accident. I guess you could say it was a case of meeting the right people at the right time," he says of his musical odyssey, adding a characteristic zinger. "Or

maybe the wrong people at the right time."

Nollaig and McGlynn's "Causeway" album represents a distillation of some of those major influences and directions that informed their experiences up until that time. On the title track (a joint composition), for instance, McGlynn flatpicks an establishing riff on electric guitar against his pulsating acoustic guitar rhythm (as well as a rich backing on Hammond organ by Rod McVey) until Casey takes up the melody – with occasional punctuations from McGlynn – and throws in some jazz and R&B variations; then the two duet for a while, entwined at one point by additionally tracked fiddles and viola from Casey. In that three minutes and 33 seconds, you can glean a multitude of presences, from O'Riada and The Chieftains to Planxty and The Bothy Band to Moving Hearts and Sharon Shannon, and points in-between.

"We decided that the album wouldn't be totally traditional, and that it would incorporate a lot of the things we had listened to and taken an interest in," says Casey. "And we wanted to play a lot of our own material as well as traditional."

"Causeway" also is notable as the first recording on which Casey sings

– three songs in Gaelic, including the sorrowful "A Stór Mo Chroí (Darling of my Heart)," which she learned from her mother, who had gotten it from her mother – and as the beneficiary of another of McGlynn's happy accidents: a chance encounter with talented harmonica player Brendan Power, whom he recruited practically on the spot to appear on several tracks.

"I'd been playing with Van Morrison, and with some other people as well, in the years leading up to when we recorded it," says McGlynn. "These were some good, swinging, cooking bands, and I was just very impressed with what they were doing, so I tried to put that feeling onto the album."

Yes, they're talking about doing another album sometime, but the challenge for Casey and McGlynn is getting into a studio to do their own project. There was the Casey sisters "Sibling Revelry" CD and then the recent Heartstrings Quartet CD, and McGlynn – in addition to recording a live album with Matt Molloy and John Carty – has been working on "Botera" (named for his birthplace in Tyrone), a collection of jazz numbers mainly from the 1940s and '50s, as well as some of his own compositions and a few traditional tracks; Casey and McGlynn's son Jerome are among those appearing on the album.

More than three decades after teaming up through Makem and Clancy, Casey and McGlynn have by now played with a ton of luminaries. But there's no question of whose qualities they admire most.

"I've always appreciated Arty's amazing sense of rhythm," says Casey. "He's not rigid in his playing – he'll go with what you do, and he'll really lift the music. I also liked his attitude toward harmony and chords; he has very good taste in the way he uses them in Irish music."

Casey turns to McGlynn and smiles: "Is your head bigger now?"

"Nollaig can read very well, and she's very versatile," says McGlynn. "She's invaluable to have in the studio – you show her what you have in mind, and she'll scribble it down and just pick up the fiddle and play."

"I can make up my own stuff, too, you know," Casey points out.

"You can," McGlynn nods. "Sometimes."



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‘Yours Faithfully, Florence Burke’

(Continued from page 1) in exchange for Burke taking his son’s place in the draft, he accepted out of desperation, knowing he could be sacrificing his life for his family. It is estimated that more than 175,000 Irish immigrants fought in the Civil War, the majority for the Union. A small percentage fought out of sympathy with the Confederacy, comparing its drive for secession to their own recent escape from an oppressive rule. Few, it was said, were concerned about the emancipation of slaves, for the slaves’ freedom meant more competition for already scarce jobs.

The Irish were also being harshly disrespected in their new country, and some wanted to prove their loyalty while improving their standing. They gained a reputation as strong fighters, and it is part of Civil War lore that Lee told Grant the Union side won because it had more Irish. Alden, however, didn’t find a trace of political or patriotic incentive in Burke’s letters. He wrote, “I often think how foolish and cruel this war truly is, boys and men killing each other so the states may be united. I find myself praying for both sides, praying for their families, praying death comes without suffering.”

Added Alden: “All he said was, ‘My motivation is my family.’ When he was there, he wanted so badly to leave and come home. I think he needed the money, I think he needed the land. It’s not about the union of the states or anything like that; it’s really about a father’s love and what he was willing to do for his wife and children.” In fact, most Irish who fought for the Union in the Civil War did so out of necessity. Either they could not afford the \$300 needed to avoid the draft, or they were bought off as substitutes, as Burke was. In her research, Alden learned that many joined out of desperation - enlisting guaranteed them a

set of clothes, boots and a hat, and food to eat they otherwise could not afford. Ellen Burke would have received state aid, as well, which was vital for families. In addition to the years of research, writing the novel took Alden to Ireland and Virginia, and involved her maintaining a delicate balance of historical accuracy, imagination, and ancestral intuition. The embodiment of Irish cheer, Alden is a natural storyteller with an effervescent personality. She employs a lively voice on her author’s blog and in conversation, finding humor and magic in everyday situations and encounters. The tone of her book, however, is a somber reflection of the devastating circumstances of the characters’ times. It was a challenge for her to change her voice to properly and respectfully portray the circumstances. “I really had to go to a different place,” she explained, “and then when I was done writing, snap out of it so I wouldn’t be this big downer.” Physically, that other place was the third floor of the Andover Public Library, where she wrote the majority of the book without distraction. However, most of her inspiration for characters and story lines struck unex-



Ellen Alden and her husband Michael Alden. Courtesy Ellen Alden

pectedly and sometimes inconveniently, like while she battled her thick red hair (likely inherited from the Burkes), blow-drying it into submission, or in mid-conversation. An event featuring local talent, crafts and businesses in addition to her novel, Alden’s book launch attracted more than triple the expected attendance. People strolled through the courtyard, enjoying the live music, and taking photos with the two Civil War-era actors hired to bring the book’s characters to life. Among the attendees was the Irish Cultural Centre’s Dave Barrett, who has stocked two copies of the book in the centre’s library in Canton. He has already been flooded with requests. “The book is going to appeal to a few different types,” he said, “to people interested in

history, people interested in genealogy, and Civil War buffs. Not to mention the Irish connection here in Boston, the hub of Irish America. So, I think with all of those things taken into consideration, you can see why she’s got a great crowd here. This book is gonna go far.” Though it was nearing eight o’clock and the festivities were almost over, Alden was still signing and readers were still entering the courtyard, books in hand. Some were in perfect, crisp condition, waiting to be cracked open while others were dog-eared with frayed edges, already devoured. Either way, they were lucky to have copies in tow. Word was going around that they were sold out. “Yours Faithfully, Florence Burke” is available on amazon and at ellenalden.com.

Brexit prompts anxiety

(Continued from page 1) their own UK escape. In Dublin, Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny convened an emergency Cabinet meeting late last month as Ireland’s stock market suffered the biggest market falls in Europe, reflecting the fact that Ireland’s main trading partner is Britain. Kenny emerged saying his government’s top priority was to minimize damage to Ireland’s exports-driven economy, not to open old wounds in Northern Ireland. Kenny and Britain’s secretary of state for Northern Ireland, Theresa Villiers, agreed that Northern Ireland’s U.S.-brokered 1998 peace accord contained a provision for staging an all-Ireland vote on reunification in event of popular demand. But both asserted that decades of opinion polling and election re-

sults had demonstrated that such a demand was too weak to merit a vote anytime soon. Kenny said his government would support an Irish unity referendum only if analysts could document “a serious movement of a majority of people to a situation where they would want to join the republic. There is no such evidence.” “There are much more serious issues to deal with in the medium term,” he said, citing the need to protect Ireland’s decades-old agreement to maintain special travel and trade relations with Britain, an agreement that predates both nations’ 1973 entry to the then-European Economic Community. “That’s where our focus is.” And Villiers, who joined Conservative Party rebels in opposing Prime Minister David Cameron’s push to remain in the EU, called a potential Irish referendum “a divisive distraction.” She noted that “remain” won with just 56 percent of the vote in Northern Ireland, the biggest per-capita recipient of EU aid in the U.K.

Left unmentioned was the ever-present sectarian rivalry of Northern Ireland, where a decade of delicately balanced peace has followed three decades of bloodshed that left nearly 3,700 dead. While Sinn Féin led the Catholic minority in seeking to remain in the EU, the top Protestant-backed party campaigned to reject it. As a result, Catholic areas staunchly backed “remain,” Protestant areas “leave.” Sinn Féin usually is an EU critic, but this time it backed the “remain” cam-

paign because of the risk that Ireland’s nearly invisible border could become a daily economic, social, and security obstacle again. Sinn Féin’s overarching goal is to overturn the 1921 division of the island, when Irish rebels in the south fought a successful war of independence from the UK but pro-British Protestants anchored in industrial Belfast received a new northern state that remained within the U.K. Martin McGuinness, the former Irish Republican Army commander who is Sinn Féin’s co-leader of the Northern Ireland government, said Irish nationalists in the north – representing more than 40 percent of the population – would demand a chance to test public support for Irish unity versus continued UK membership. McGuinness said the prospect of reintroducing security checks along Northern Ireland’s meandering 310-mile border, barely a decade after the outlawed IRA renounced violence and British security forces were withdrawn from border forts, should be avoided at all costs. “Anybody who doesn’t think this is big stuff needs to get their head around it. This is huge for us,” McGuinness said. “I do have great concerns about the future.” In Scotland, high-profile opponents of independence forecast that Cameron’s backfiring referendum would end in the UK’s own fracture. “Scotland will seek independence now,” said “Harry Potter” author J.K. Rowling, who donated a million pounds to anti-independence campaigners two years ago.



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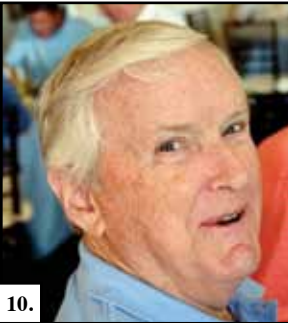
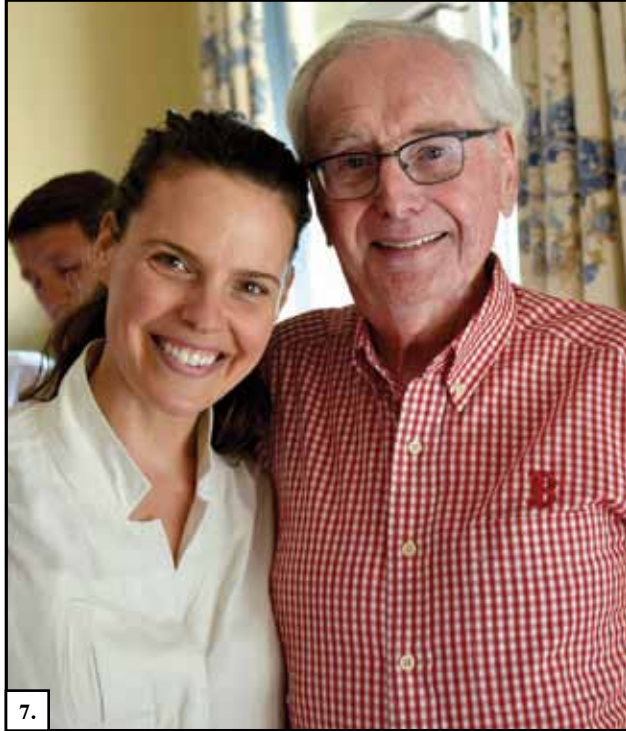


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BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett

Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

The 2016 Thomas S. Durant MD golf tournament was held on Monday, June 20 at the Oyster Harbors Club. Osterville on Cape Cod. The annual event honors the life of Dr Durant and continues his legacy of humanitarian engagement, by endowing the Fellowship for Refugee Medicine at Mass General mHospital. The event was chaired by Dr. Larry Ronan and Bill Reilly, Jr. Honorary Co-chairs were Dennis Drinkwater and Ken Evans. For more details about the tournament, contact Mary Sugrue at mary@irishap.org.

Pictured are: 1.) Zak Hanoyan, Weston; Jack Connors, Brookline; James Maselan, Weston; Anthony Athanas, Boston; B.J. Haseotes, Oyster Harbor; Carl Martignetti, Chestnut Hill; David Torchiani, Wenham; 2.) Barbara Doyle, Sylvia Hutter, Both Needham; 3.) Bob Ryan, Quincy; Charlie Ryan, Canton; Tom Ryan, Osterville; 4.) Bill Reilly, Norwell; Mike Reilly, New York City; Mike Kearney, Back Bay; 5.) Dr. Larry Ronan, Boston; 6.) Bill Reilly, Marblehead; 7.) Colleen Reilly, Dick Flavin, both Boston; 8.) Charlie Smith, Revere; Bob O'leary, Charlestown; 9.) Waichi Wong, Boston Harborfront; 10.) Jack Connors, Brookline.

Traveling People

In Leitrim, the gracious Bush Hotel aims to ‘make people happy’



The front of the Bush Hotel in 1927.



Bush Hotel in the town center in Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim.

Photo courtesy Bush Hotel

By JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Not every hotel has a book written about it, but the Bush Hotel in lovely Leitrim is not just any hotel.

A friend and I stayed there this spring and were delighted by the sincere and warm welcome extended by the staff of the 60-bedroom Carrick on Shannon hotel, its handy central location, ample and secure off-street parking, the cleanliness of the comfortable bedrooms and bathrooms (great water pressure in the shower), free WIFI, and the varied eating and drinking options on site.

The Bush has won many awards for its “green” focus and works with staff and suppliers to make sure the environment tops their agenda. The oldest business in Leitrim, it originally opened in the late 1700s. The hotel’s story is proudly displayed along corridor and lounge walls with framed newspaper reports, photos and other memorabilia. Some bedrooms are named and theme-decorated for famous Leitrim residents and visitors, including Michael Collins, who spent a night there, the writer John McGahern, the novelist Anthony Trollope (who lived in central Ireland while working for the postal service), the Irish poet and satirist Susan Mitchell, a Carrick on Shannon native, and many more. Old world charm and personality is exuded by these named rooms, which many guests specifically request.

GAS LIGHTS

The original hotel (a one-story thatched building with gas lights and just one bathroom per corridor) was demolished in 1900 and rebuilt. There have been numerous upgrades and additions since including new function rooms, a business center,

and more bedrooms.

Jo Holmwood explains all that in her book, “Under the One Roof, a Creative Memory Document of the Bush Hotel,” published by the Leitrim County Council Arts Office and written after her artist-in-residence stay at the hotel in 2012.

She writes that Peter Darby McDermott opened the Bush in 1793 as an inn with stables for tired passengers and horses from the Bianconi Stage Coach traveling from Dublin to the Northwest. McDermott’s family, heirs, in-laws, and others owned the hotel for many years thereafter until the Dolan family bought the property in 1989, undertook renovations and opened for business in 1993.

Maybe it’s that The Bush is not only family-owned but also family-run that makes staying there such a pleasure. The hands-on approach is evident everywhere in the attention to guests’ needs and wants.

We met with the ebullient managing director, Joe Dolan, who could not be more outgoing or accommodating. Dolan was recently elected president of the Irish Hotel Federation and manages those duties in addition to the hotel. He, his wife Rosie, and other family members are completely involved in the everyday work at the hotel. Asked what job his brother David does there, Joe said, “He does everything.”

Joe said hospitality is a treasured tradition at The Bush and that all 58 staff members work hard to exceed the expectations of modern day travelers. “They’re wonderful people,” he said, adding that The Bush boasts the highest hotel staff retention and lowest absentee rate in Ireland. “The staff takes ownership of the hotel. It’s not just a job. Happy people make

people happy.”

Even though The Bush has all the amenities needed for a great stay, it is not a “castle hotel” and there’s not a hint of the attitude or pretentiousness that can be evident at some other hotels. This is a “down home,” comfortable and friendly place to spend time in a most interesting part of Ireland.

For special offers and rates, contact the hotel directly at info@bushhotel.com or visit the website at bushhotel.com.

LEITRIM
ACTIVITIES

In addition to staying at The Bush, is there any other reason to visit often-overlooked Leitrim? You bet!

Right around the corner from the hotel is the fascinating 16-foot-long Costello Memorial Chapel, the smallest church in Ireland. It was built in 1879 by Edward Costello to honor his wife Mary Josephine, who was only 46 when she died. It’s touching and well worth a visit.

There’s an 18-hole golf club in Carrick as well as fishing and water sports available. Two pubs and several restaurants are within easy walking distance of the hotel as is The Dock art center, located in a 19th Century former courthouse, where you can view art shows, hear musical presentations, or visit a café and top-notch gift shop. There’s a nearby marina where pleasure cruises are offered (see moonriver.ie for one of many offerings). You can get involved in Rivermania (rivermania.ie), visit St. George’s Heritage and Visitors Center (carrickheritage.com), or enjoy the Shannon Blueway’s water and walking trails (bluewaysireland.org) between Drumshanbo to Carrick. Also nearby are: the Arigna Mining Experience (arignaminingexperience.ie) where all underground

tours are led by ex-miners, Lough Key Forest and Activity Park (loughkey.ie), Glenview Folk Museum (glenviewmuseum.ie), and much, much more. See enjoyleitrim.com for other attractions. And take a look at offthebeatentracknw.com for some interesting touring routes around rural roads.

WALKING

Want to get out and walk around Ireland? There are loop and hill walks offered in many counties as well as a series of walking festivals.

You can walk the historical Miners Way, a series of way-marked routes that form a network through Cos. Roscommon, Sligo, and Leitrim (unabhan.ie) along paths used by miners heading for work in the Arigna Mines. If you want a hillwalking guide, Philip James is available by previous arrangement. Contact philipwalking.com for more.

This is the 49th year of the popular 4-day International Castlebar (Co. Mayo) Walking Festival, from June 30 to July 3. Enjoy spectacular scenery on guided rambles across bogs, moorland or roads. For more information, see castlebar4dayswalks.com.

There’s a Slieve Bloom Eco (mini) Walking Festival in Cos. Laois and Offaly July 9 and 10 that offers two guided walks in remote areas of Slieve Bloom only accessible on foot and rarely visited by hill walkers. See slievebloom.ie for more.

SUMMER
ACTIVITIES

There is so much to do in Ireland in the summer. No matter where you go, you can always find something fun and interesting.

Stop by 800-year-old Hook Head Light in Co. Wexford to hear tales from the past recounted by life-sized hologram figures. The tour is fun for all ages.

Details are available at hookheritage.ie

In Dublin, there’s a special exhibition of Leonardo da Vinci original drawings at the National Gallery of Ireland through July 17. Admission is free but entry is by timed tickets, which may be booked at nationalgallery.ie.

The Earagail Arts Festival (eaf.ie) takes the stage in Donegal from July 8 to July 24. The festival is two weeks of music, theatre, visual arts, film, literature, circus and carnival.

The gardens at Rathmullan House, Co. Donegal, become a theatre set July 21 at 3 p.m. for a performance of Wuthering Heights, presented by Chapterhouse Theatre Company. For more information or tickets, see rathmullanhouse.com.

The Spraoi International Street Arts Festival takes over Waterford July 29-31 with acrobats, aerial dancers, floats, fireworks, a parade on the 31st and more. See spraoi.com for more.

From July 24 to Aug. 1, Durrow, Co. Laois, hosts a Scarecrow Festival. There are free events and a children’s camp. For more, see durrowscarecrowfestival.com

The Gaiety Theatre in Dublin offers Riverdance 21 performances through Aug. 28. For details, visit gaietytheatre.ie

If you’re in Mullranny, Co. Mayo, stop by the Environment and Craft Centre on the main street (N59) from 11-5 daily to learn about Mullranny’s rare ecology and machair system, plants, birds and mammals that support and rely on this special habitat. The Centre also features the Old Irish Goat, Mullranny’s railway heritage, and the history of the Achill Railway Line.

Another interesting attraction in that area is the Achill Experience in Keel. Some of the area’s sea life

is displayed in saltwater tanks there. You can also stop by and take an Apple iPad device to lead you to beaches, loop walks, and homes of some of the island’s famous artists. For more, visit achilleexperience.ie.

Love Irish sheep? Who doesn’t? Enjoy a day of sheep dog demonstrations, bog cutting, countryside walks, sheep shearing demonstrations and more at the Killary Sheep Farm, Bunowen, Leenane, Co. Galway. Demonstrations are at 11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m. Be sure to contact the farm before going at 353872988051 or visit info@killarysheepfarm.com.

You can also enjoy the woolly breed at one of Ireland’s largest sheep farms, Glen Keen Farm just outside Louisburgh, Co. Mayo. In addition to sheep, the farm offers crafts and an excellent restaurant with home-made food.

Between Newport and Mullranny, Co. Mayo, see live sheepdog demonstrations daily from June to September, at Nephin Derrada Sheepdogs. Demonstrations are at 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. or by appointment. Email: greatwesternsheepdogs@gmail.com.

You can try sheep herding at Causey Farm, Fordstown, Navan, Co. Meath, on Fridays at 2 p.m. in July and August. There’s also bodhrán playing, mural painting, and giant bubble blowing. For more information, contact causey.ie.

The annual Bray Air Display is July 23 and 24 in Co. Wicklow, as part of the Bray Summerfest Funfair. See brayairdisplay.com.

Enjoy Ireland whenever you visit. For details about events, accommodations and other visitor queries, visit discoverireland.com.

They want tourists to listen while looking along the Irish way

By KIERA MURRAY
BIR CORRESPONDENT

When you land in Shannon airport after an overnight flight, just stepping off the plane and heading to the rental car lot, then driving on the left side of unfamiliar winding roads is enough to worry about. Managing maps

and travel guides while following a GPS on top of that can complicate what should be an enjoyable scenic drive in a new place.

That is why Cultural Roadmapp decided to streamline its road trip. The startup is crowdfunding an IOS app that combines GPS technology

with high-quality museum audio tours. When the driver approaches landmarks or places of interest, the app provides commentary through the car’s speakers while users keep their hands on the wheel and their eyes on the scenery.

“Our audio tour app is weaving together subtle

strands - the history, the literature, the arts - into a tapestry of interviews, storytelling, and performances that give context to the landmarks along the driving route,” says Cultural Roadmapp founder and president Deborah Schull on the app’s Indiegogo fundraising page.

The app is currently in production with plans to launch its pilot tour of Co. Clare on Saint Patrick’s Day 2017 if it meets its \$35,000 fundraising goal. The money will be used to cover development costs and to professionally record and produce the music and audio content. From there, Cul-

tural Roadmapp plans to create tour content of the entire Wild Atlantic Way, a 1,500-mile driving route on the west coast of Ireland, and then of regions all over the world.

For more information on Roadmapp visit culturalroadmapp.com.

The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

Now that we have learned all of the “irregular” verbs, as well as the “regular” in the following tenses, **Present**, **Definite Past**, and **Future** we need to keep them fresh in our memories. This means that we need to practice them from time to time -- and there is no time like the present. See if you can translate these sentences into Irish:

1.) “Did you see Sean in the station yesterday?” 2.) “No, but I saw him last night.” 3.) “Nora will go to Dublin tomorrow.” 4.) “Will she? I know that she went today.” 5.) “I will go to Kerry tomorrow.” 6.) “I prefer coffee or tea.” 7.) “Did you eat haggis in Scotland?” 8.) Yes. And I liked it.” 9.) We saw Nora and Liam in the church.” 10.) “She spoke Irish.”

Answers: 1.) **An fhaca tú Seán sa stáisiún inné?** 2.) **Ní fhaca (mé). Faca mé sése aréir.** 3.) **Rachaidh Nóra do Baile Átha Cliath amáireach.** 4.) **An rachaidh sí? Tá fhios agam go ndeachaigh sí inniu.** 5.) **Rachaidh mé go Ciarraí amáireach.** 6.) **Is fearr liom caife no tae.** 7.) **D’ith tú haggis sa hAbain?** 8.) **D’ith mé. Agus is maith liom.** 9.) **Chonaiceamar Nóra agus Liam sa eaglais.** 10.) **Dúirt sí Gaeilge.**

Ceart gu leor! “Okay!” So I didn’t tell you about what happens when the second part of a sentence is not as important as the first part -- as in 4.) “I know that she went yesterday”. You had these as “After Particle” forms. Here this is called a “Subordinate Clause” rather than a “Compound Clause”. In Compound Sentences both parts of a sentence are equal, usually joined by “and”, “or” or “but”. **Subordinate clauses** in English are usually joined to the main clause by “that”. -- “She told me *that* she went to town.” In traditional English grammar this in a “Complex Sentence.”

In traditional Irish grammars the **verb** in the second clause is called a **Dependent Verb** and may or may not be the same as the **Independent Form** which can stand alone. “That” is usually expressed by **go** plus **eclipsis** and whatever follows in the sentence is viewed positively or affirmatively. English attaches the negative “no”, “not” or “nor” to “did” in the **verb phrase**, “She told me that she *did not go*” or “She *didn’t go*.”

Irish on the other hand uses the equivalent of “that not”, **ní** plus **lenition** (expressed in writing by **-h-** .) Everything in the part of the sentence that follows is understood to be **negative**.

Recall that **l**, **n**, and **r** cannot be **lenited** (in writing) and **eclipsis** effects only initial **b**, **c**, **f**, **g**, and **p** in **nouns** and **verbs**: **b-→mb-**, **c- →gc-**, **f- →bhf-**, **g- →ng** and **p- →bp-**. So far you have only had **eclipsis** on **nouns** but now you know it will be on **verbs** following **ní**, “that not”.

Now, here are some additional sentences and phrases for you to practice. See if you can make sense of the following short conversation between a two men that share an office. Here is some vocabulary to hrlp you but see if you can sound out unfamiliar words and guess their meaning. **Imigh** is “motion toward” or “Went to”; **mall** is “late” and **thart** is “finished”. **Gaoth** is “wind,” and **dearna** and **aon dochar** are both “damage” or “harm”. **Crann** is “a tree”, **thit** is the Definite Past tense of **tit**, “fall” while **bróthar** is “road”. **Stoirm** and **pictiúrlann** you will have to guess at -- but both are from English so it shouldn’t be difficult.

Pádraig: **Dia duit, a Liam. An chuala tú an stoirm aréir?**
Liam: **Dia ’s Muire duit, a Phádraig. Nior chuala. D’imigh muid do’n pictiúrlann agus d’fhág sé go mall nuair a bhí sé thart.**
Pádraig: **Bhí sé go han-dona. Bhí fluich agus bhí gaoth mhor ann.**
Liam: **An ndearna sé aon dochar thuas ansin?**
Pádraig: **Ní mórán, buíochas le Dia, ach thit crann ar an mbróthar ag an siopa.**
Liam: **Chonaic mé sin. Bhí mé thuas ansin ar maidin.**
Pádraig: **Ní fhaca mé féin é ach dúirt duine go raibh crann eile.**

Translation:
Patrick: Good morning, Liam. Did you hear the storm last night?”
Liam: Good morning, Patrick. No. We went to the cinema and left so late that it was over.
Patrick: It was very bad. There was rain and it was very windy.
Liam: Was there any damage down your way?
Patrick: Not much, thank God, but a tree fell on the road by the shop.
Liam: I saw that. I was by there this morning.
Patrick: I didn’t see it myself but a man told me that there was another tree.

I hope that you remembered to put the little “unwritten vowel sound” in between the **r** and the **m** in **stoirm**. “Pictureland” is a term for “cinema”, never say “movies”. We will review this conversation next month.



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Take to the Wild Atlantic Way, an epic 1,500 mile touring route that hugs the untamed west coast of Ireland. Explore the charming Dingle Peninsula, savor the majesty of the Cliffs of Moher and watch the Northern Lights dance over the Inishowen Peninsula. Then, continue on to Northern Ireland's Causeway Coastal Route "one of the world's great road journeys" where beauty, history and adventure greet you at every turn.

So make plans today - and we're fairly certain the road will rise up to meet you on the way.

Find out more at Ireland.com

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