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# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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Devri – whose core members are (L-R) Chuck Parrish, Declan Houton, Steve O'Callaghan and Larry Flint – has just released its first CD, “Broad Street.”  
*Photo courtesy Devri Band*

## Devri the band: a fetching blend of personalities and temperaments

BY SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Devri, a band? Don't tell them that – they're too busy having a good time.

OK, yes, Devri is in fact a band, for all practical purposes. But Devri also defies the conventional idea of the “Irish band from Boston” in a few ways:

Start with the band's name: Contrary to expectations, “Devri” is not an obscure Celtic deity, or some long-lost hamlet out

on the Aran Islands, or a Gaelic word referring to food, drink, or sport (or all of the above). And what's more, the band members didn't even choose the name themselves – it was thought up practically on the spot by a photographer covering one of their gigs, based on the initials of those members who happened to be playing at the time.

That's another thing. While Devri has gradually developed a core quartet,

its members happily invite guests to sit in with them for various gigs, and so the roster will expand or contract as needed.

But none of this seems a particularly big deal to the Devri regulars, who are Declan Houton, Chuck Parrish, Larry Flint, and Steve O'Callaghan. They simply go about their business of playing at local pubs, festivals, and, especially, charity events, bringing with them an easy-going stage pres-

ence and a repertoire that includes traditional Irish songs and ballads, covers of popular contemporary material (most of it Irish-related), and even a few originals, not to mention the occasional set of Irish jigs, reels, hornpipes, or polkas. Their instrumentation is built around acoustic and electric guitars, mandolin, banjo, bouzouki, electric bass and drums, and supplemented at times  
(Continued on page 16)

## Justice minister: Ireland must widen abortion law

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBLIN – Ireland's justice minister declared last month that the country must end the “great cruelty” that requires women by law to give birth to infants who are the products of rape or have fatal genetic defects, as the head of state mulled whether or not to sign the

predominantly Catholic country's first-ever bill on abortion.

Justice Minister Alan Shatter predicted that legislators – fresh from months of grueling debate over the Protection of Life During Pregnancy Bill – would be forced to face the question again because the Irish public wants

wider access to abortion for the most difficult cases, like those involving rape, incest, and catastrophic fetal abnormalities.

The bill, overwhelmingly passed by both houses of the Irish parliament last month, permits abortions but only in cases where doctors deem the woman's life at risk from continued

pregnancy.

The government took action after a 31-year-old Indian woman died last year in an Irish hospital after being denied an abortion during a protracted miscarriage that ended in toxic shock and massive organ failure.

President Michael D.  
(Continued on page 19)

## Belfast Project update: Decision by US is next step

BIR STAFF

The long and winding road that has been the Belfast Project interviews case involving Boston College, an abduction-and murder probe by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), the US government, and the project director and his associates reached another crossroad at the end of last month as all parties awaited a decision by the US about a possible appeal of an adverse ruling to its case by the First Circuit Court of Appeals on May 31 of this year.

In its ruling, the appeals panel said that US District Court Judge William Young had abused his discretion with respect to the disposition of interview material from the Boston College archive and ordered the university to release only 11 segments of the 85 interviews with 7 former IRA members that the District Court had deemed relevant to the murder investigation in Northern Ireland. The 74 other interviews are no longer subject to release, the court said.

The US government was given until Aug. 2 to decide whether or not to appeal the Circuit Court's decision.

Said BC spokesman Jack Dunn as he awaited the government's next move: “Boston College's intention was to be a repository of an oral history project that would serve as a future resource for historians and scholars seeking a better understanding of The Troubles, while also helping to promote peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. At no time did Boston College desire to obfuscate a criminal investigation into a horrific abduction and murder. That is why Boston College asked the US District Court to review the tapes to make a determination as to their relevance, while also considering the University's request to balance the treaty obligation [between Northern Ireland and the US] against its interest in protecting academic research and the enterprise of oral history.

“We have always believed that the US courts would review the matter with appropriate discretion and make an informed judgment on the case in accordance with American law. Nothing that transpired has changed that view.”



Deval Patrick joined the farewell reception for Consul General Michael Lonergan at the Irish Consulate in Boston on July 11. Lonergan, his wife Kirstie, and their three children, from left: Hugh, Robert and Garret, will leave Boston this month as he takes a new post in Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin. Harry Brett's photos of the ceremony are on Page 4.

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## American Ireland Fund lures 150 to Nantucket gala

On Saturday, July 20, The American Ireland Fund hosted 150 people at its annual Nantucket Celebration, held at the home of Bob and Laura Reynolds, who were co-chairs of the event along with Chris and Ann Quick and Guy and Dede Snowden.

The honorees on the occasion were Jack and Suzy Welch, summer residents of Nantucket who have shared distinguished business and philanthropic careers.

Among the guests were Bank of America's Anne Finucane and her husband, Mike Barnicle of MSNBC, Jack Manning (Boston Capital Corporation) and his wife Lyle Howland, Chairman & CEO of The Boston Company Bart Grenier and his wife Lesley King Grenier, *Vanity Fair* feature writer Maureen Orth, Irish Ambassador Michael Collins and his wife

Marie, President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Ireland Fund Kieran McLoughlin and The American Ireland Fund New England Director Steve Greeley and his wife Jan.

The American Ireland Fund is part of The Worldwide Ireland Funds, an international philanthropic network operating in 12 countries that has raised over \$450 million for worthy causes in Ireland and Irish causes around the world. It is the largest network of friends of Ireland dedicated to supporting programs of peace and reconciliation, arts and culture, education and community development. Founded in 1976, The Worldwide Ireland Funds have benefitted more than 1,200 organizations. All funds raised are contributed by private philanthropists at no cost to the taxpayer and represent a net contribution to Irish charities.

## Dubliner critically injured in biking accident on Cape

By GREG O'BRIEN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Bucolic Main Street in Brewster on Cape Cod is known for its stately oaks that arch this serpentine country way, graceful sea captains homes, historic churches, and fine cuisine. Brewster in the 1800s was home to more sailing masters per capita than any place in the world. It's easy to see why.

And so tragedy does not come easy to this town, yet it came suddenly the morning of July 1 as Dubliner Padraig Schaler, a 23-year-old student at Trinity College, was struck by a van and critically injured while bicycling to his job at the stately Bramble Inn, built in 1861 and once a gathering place for locals.

Schaler, who was living in Brewster on a J1 work visa, was not wearing a helmet. He was rushed to Cape Cod Hospital where he was placed in an induced coma to protect his brain, then flown back to Dublin's Beaumont Hospital days later where he remains in critical condition, his parents, Patricia O'Bryne and Reinhard Schaler, by his side. They parents had flown to the Cape with two of his sisters upon hearing of the accident.

According to Brewster Police report, Schaler was struck by a van driven by Mark Couto, a Brewster plumbing and heating contractor. Both were traveling east on Main Street (Route 6A). Police Chief Richard Koch told the *Boston Irish Reporter* that Couto's speed at the time was estimated at 15-to-20 miles an hour in a 30-mile-an-hour zone. No charges have been filed against him.

"The bicyclist without warning darted out in front of the vehicle," the police report states, noting that Schaler "appeared to have struck the passenger's side front pillar along with the windshield." He was knocked to the ground, the report says, and landed on his back on the pavement.

"It appears the driver was trying safely to pass the cyclist with a break in traffic," Chief Koch said. "The cyclist apparently saw the break as well, and not aware the van was behind him, turned left toward the Bramble Inn in front of the on-coming vehicle."

"There as nothing the



**Padraig Schaler**  
Rehabbing in Ireland

driver of the van could do," said eyewitness Neal Milin in an on-line comment. "This is heartbreaking," added Koch. "I wish he had been wearing a helmet."

"It's tragic," said Ciaran Delargy, public affairs officer at the Consulate General Of Ireland offices in Boston. "We're working closely with the family. They are very private individuals."

The starkness of a town police report or the compassion of a quotation doesn't even begin to tell of this story.

Schaler was well liked in Brewster – affable, respectful, and committed to returning to Dublin to continue his studies. He worked two jobs here, one at the Bramble Inn, the other at Gerardi's Café in neighboring Dennis. On occasion, when the weather was bad in Brewster, some of the locals would drive Schaler home after food shopping at Brewster Farms, putting his bike in the back of their trucks, Chief Koch said.

The *Irish Independent* reported that Schaler was actively involved with Trinity College's Irish language society, Cumann na Gaelach, and once held the position of auditor within the society. Founded in 1906 with nearly a thousand members today, Trinity's Cumann na Gaelach promises, "It is not necessary to be a fluent speaker of Irish to feel at home in the Cumann, as people with only a few words of Irish are also welcome. The Cumann aims to provide an opportunity and a meeting place for those who have an interest in speaking, improving their knowledge of, or learning the Irish language."

Schaler, a student of the Irish language, was at home with Cumann na Gaelach; he was a passionate, articulate coun-

tryman.

Trinity recently organized a special counseling session for affected students, and a Mass was celebrated to pray for Schuler's recovery. "An awareness night was organized by (Trinity) friends who compiled photo albums of Mr. Schaler," the paper reported, "and recorded video messages for him."



**Top, Honoree Jack Welch with Maureen Orth, Vanity Fair, and Steve Greeley, New England Director of the American Ireland Fund. At right, hosts Bob Reynolds, President and CEO of Putnam Investments, and Laura Reynolds**



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Friday Oct 25, 2013 11:30 PM Luncheon

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**2010** -Congressman Ed Markey, John Donohue, Arbella Insurance, The Brett Family and the Mayor Hynes family.

**2011-** Kathleen O'Toole, former Boston police commissioner, State Senator Tom Kennedy, the Corcoran family, the James Hunt family, the Mulvoy family

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

**2013 Honorees to be announced**

More information: Ed Forry, 617-436-1222, ext 11, [edforry@bostonirish.com](mailto:edforry@bostonirish.com)





# BRETT'S BOSTON

*By Harry Brett*  
*Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events*

The doors of the Irish Consulate in Boston were thrown open on July 11 to welcome a large gathering at a farewell reception for Consul General Michael Lonergan. Consulate staff and members of Boston's Irish organizations were among the well-wishers at the early evening reception as Lonergan and his wife Kirsty prepared to leave Boston this month for a new post in Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin, where they and their three children will make their home. The Limerick native has served in Boston since 2009, and during his time here he helped established the Irish Network/ Boston, a consulate-sponsored networking group that quickly became one of the most successful Irish social organizations in the city.

1.) Dave Greaney, Cohasset; Charlie O'Connor, Worcester; William Lee, Woburn; 2.) Jim Carmody, Milton; Michael Lonergan, Irish Consul General; Jim Brett, NE Council; 3.) Amanda Mawn, Dorchester; Genevieve Bartoloni, So. Boston; 4.) John Naughton, Cohasset; Tom McNaught, Kennedy Library Foundation; 5.) Philip Budden, Citizens Financial Group; Kevin McCarthy, Enterprise Ireland; 6.) Bob O'Neill, Holliston; Sandy Moody, So. Boston; Paul McNamara, Scituate; Patrick King, So. Boston; 7.) Maureen Carney Hayes and Jerry Hayes, Springfield; 8.) Joe Leary, IAP; Mary Joyce Morris, So. Boston; 9.) Jim O'Brien, Lowell; Una Barrett, Cambridge; 10.) Lawrence Shields, Harvard Medical School; 11.) Michael Lonergan; 12.) Brian Murtagh, Cohasset; Barry McMenamin; 13.) Louise and Michael Potorti, Beara Irish Brewing Co.; 14.) Ken Quigley, Curry College; Ron Millar, IIC; Jim Morris, So. Boston; Jim Carmody, Seaport Hotel.

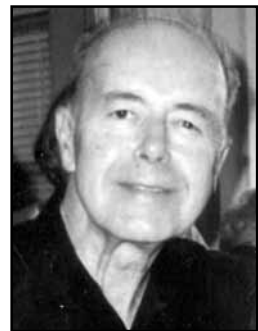


# Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By **BILL O'DONNELL**

**Flags, Parades, fuel Unionist Protests** – It all began last December following a vote by the Belfast City Council to limit the days that the British Union flag would fly over Belfast City Hall.

For the previous 106 years, Britain's flag had flown every day over the ornate city hall; it would now be flown but 18 days a year. A vote, perhaps, for "parity of esteem." The unionist/Protestant community was shocked and took to the streets of Northern Ireland to vent their anger and frustration. The weeks of violence that ensued were the most expansive, and most violent since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement. Serious stuff, indeed.



**Bill O'Donnell**

As 2013 moved on toward summer and the unionists' July marching period, there was growing unease among the political leadership and cries for a calm approach to tamp down the more divisive aspects of the marches. And many middle-class Catholics in Belfast planned holidays to be away from the city during the marches. But the Orange Order had a different idea: They would march the Queen's Highway. The bile that had erupted following the flag council vote was now directed toward the rulings of the Parade Commission that said no to Unionist marchers confronting nationalist homeowners. The commission guidelines erred, if they did, on the side of limiting confrontation and potential violence. Yet, the Queen's Highway beckoned.

In short order the unionist community in Belfast, led by the Orangemen, targeted the Parade Commission as the enemy. Reflecting a feeling that unionism was being forced to take a back seat to the nationalists, the desperately inadequate political leadership, many unionist newspapers, and a confused and troubled unionist constituency, once again took to the streets. Scores of police were injured as hundreds of police from across the United Kingdom were rushed into Belfast to quell what had become a full-fledged street war in east and northern Belfast. Derry's marches, meanwhile, were peaceful and as the mayor noted, driven by "cool heads and respect."

All the parties made the obligatory nod to non-violence, but **Peter Robinson**, the North's First Minister, in his statement also said, "While there is justifiable anger and frustration at the Parades Commission, who bear much responsibility for the situation in Belfast..." This was swiftly followed by a statement of support for the unionist rioters by Orange Order Grand Master **Edward Stevenson**, who blamed the Parade Commission and the Belfast police. The Belfast newspaper the *News-Letter* published an unsigned editorial that said, "The unionist rage yesterday was entirely justified, entirely understandable, and entirely appropriate."

The United States has tasked former NI special envoy **Richard Haass** with trying to rein in the violence and get both unionists and nationalists talking. The damage to the small businesses in and around Belfast is severe, and the horrific vignettes of Belfast angry and in flames is hardly likely to attract investors or new foreign companies to the North. But what is clearly evident and sadly long range is the incalculable damage to a fragile peace.

**Waterford's Retired Workers Fight Clock On Pensions** – When the Waterford Crystal factory closed down four years ago it left many elderly and ailing former workers with reduced pensions. That's the bad news; worse yet is the fact that it could take years for the retirees to receive those earned pension entitlements. When the company went under in 2009, there were some 1,500 employees who were told that because of huge deficits in the company pension fund, most would receive only between 18 percent and 38 percent of their full pension.

The Waterford workers took their case to the European Court. Despite the Irish government's argument there that the country's economic situation was a factor in denying full benefits, the court ruled that Ireland was in breach of EU law and the court would decide what the state would have to cover eventually. The workers are arguing that if the state appeals the court decision on the level of pension payments, that action would likely add at least three years to a final determination and a just pension entitlement. Most of the plaintiffs are aged and many believe that a final court decision and upgraded pension payments will not be forthcoming while they are still alive.

**Irish Army Stands Tall** – Once again Irish troops are heading to trouble spots far from home to serve as peacekeepers, this time to the disputed Golan Heights in Syria. The 114-member Irish contingent will be on line by early September. The United Nations has specifically requested the participation of the Irish troops because of their track record in the Middle East, where they were regarded by all parties as "acting in good faith."

The long and proud record of the Irish Army, much of it in the volatile Middle East, has earned acclaim from the UN's peacekeeping operation. It is not widely known but any deployment of Irish Army peacekeepers is part of a "triple lock" mechanism that mandates approval by the UN, the Irish government, and Dail.

**Whitey Bulger's Life A Testament To Deceit** – The trial of **James "Whitey" Bulger** is ongoing as I

write this, and while the government may not be able to prove every last crime they have charged the former thug with, there are some immutable facts that are in sharp contrast to the image that Whitey has worked so hard to maintain.

He wanted us – his silent public – to believe three things about him that were patently untrue. It was important to Whitey that despite his evil career, he wanted desperately to portray himself in the following way: The three Big Lies of Whitey Bulger:

- He was not an informant.
- He did not murder women.
- He never dealt drugs in South Boston.

Each of those fantasies has been shown for what they are – lies manufactured by an insecure mobster more concerned with image than the murderous life he lived, a make-believe man with a comforting patina of lies that he hoped to sell to a gullible public.

And finally, Whitey cost his brother **Bill** his UMass President's job, cost brother **Jack** his court pension, dragged the respectable, hard-working Bulger family name through the mud, and

helped kill his neighbor's kids with his drugs. What a legacy!

**Thank Reagan For Advancing Gay Rights** – After **Lewis Powell** resigned from the Supreme Court in 1987, **President Reagan** nominated **Robert Bork**, a brilliant lawyer and right-wing ideologue to replace him. The Senate, led by **Joe Biden** in the Judiciary Committee, failed to confirm Bork by 58 to 42. Reagan, chastened by the rebuke of Bork and encouraged by chief of staff **Howard Baker**, an astute observer of the political winds, to pick a moderate for the Court, selected **Anthony Kennedy**.

There have been three major decisions that have advanced gay rights since Justice Kennedy was appointed. They were in 1996, in 2003, and just recently in the ruling striking down the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). In all three cases vindicating the rights of gay Americans, Justice Kennedy, Reagan's compromise second choice to replace Bork, voted in the majority and wrote all three opinions.

**Tribal Oyster Feast Brings Families Home** – On Sept. 29, as part of the Gathering and the annual Oyster Festival held in Galway, there will be a reunion of the Tribes of Galway.

The sponsors are reaching out to the tribal families and their relatives to join the party in late September for the Oyster Olympics, to be a part of the famed Oyster Festival parade and enjoy meeting with other descendants of the original historic families.

Members of the Galway Tribal families or their relatives would include anyone with the following names or their descendants: *Athy, Blake, Bodkin, Browne, D'Arcy, Deane, Ffont, Ffrench, Joyce, Kirwan, Lynch, Martin, Morris or Skerritt*. All are invited to attend and to compete, free of charge for non-Irish residents over 18. For more details or to register, contact by e-mail [info@galwayoysterfest.com](mailto:info@galwayoysterfest.com)

## NOTABLE QUOTE

*"There are very few African-American men in this country who haven't had the experience of being followed when they were shopping in a department store. That includes me. There are very few African-American men who haven't had the experience of walking across the street and hearing the locks click on the doors of cars. That happened to me – at least before I was a senator."*

*There are very few African-Americans who haven't had the experience of getting on an elevator and a woman clutching her purse nervously and holding her breath until she had a chance to get off. That happens often."*

**President Barack Obama** speaking unscripted following the Zimmerman verdict, July 19, 2013

**Ireland's Prescriptions Are Over The Top** – A recent research project conducted by the Economic and Social Research Institute, and published in part in the *Irish Times*, has made the case in spades that the Republic of Ireland charges too much – way too much – for commonly used scripts. For instance, Ireland had the highest prices for 9 of 13 popular generic medicines compared to other European countries. People in Dundalk are routinely charged 300 percent more than people buying the same medicines over the border in Newry.

The ESRI Findings clearly illustrate the chronic higher prices people in the Republic pay in contrast to pharmacies in the North for the same medicine. A customer of a Northern pharmacy was able to save \$1,700 a year on the cost of four generic drugs by traveling a few miles out of Ireland. Another patient saved \$650 a year by buying drugs for high blood pressure and reflux in Newry in the North instead of in Dublin, despite the fact the drugs were manufactured in Cork.

The largest price gap between expensive Ireland and cut rate Northern Ireland and many European pharmacies is found in the pricing of generics. There has been little light shed on this disparity but drug-pricing legislation is on the way. That should answer some questions and make Ireland – a home to many big pharma companies – a more consumer-friendly locale.

**Irish News Plays 'President' With King** – The *Irish News* is the favored paper of nationalists living in the North and in border counties. It generally gets the news early and gets it right.

Having said that, I must confess that I had difficulty keeping a straight face when the *News* carried some remarks from US Congressman **Peter King** (admittedly not a favorite here) about his stealth campaign for president of the United States. You haven't heard?

After outlining King's Irish bona-fides, his friendship with **Gerry Adams**, his regular visits to Ireland, and

his "high profile...and being well known in media circles" status, the **News** got into the

business of King being a serious Republican candidate, or any kind of candidate for president next year.

The *News* and Rep. King continue: "Mr. King last night confirmed he is not ruling out a run for the White House. " "It's a great honor. I'm looking at it. I'm not ruling it out," said King.

"I will be listening to people and it's certainly an opportunity to speak out on different things"

The *News* piece closed out with this editorial comment on King's chances: "As well as an appeal to Irish Americans, his staunch profile and right wing views could also win him support in traditionally conservative southern states." Tell that to fellow New Yorker **Rudy Giuliani**, who tried the same losing strategy in Florida in his inept, failed presidential campaign a few years ago.

**What's The Matter With Derry** – Recent figures demanded of the Stormont government by the SDLP MLA representing Derry disclosed a sorry picture of the scant visits to Derry by international investors, as compared to foreign business people who regularly visit Belfast. The North's Enterprise Minister, **Arlene Foster**, admitted that Belfast was the focus of most of the visits to look at local opportunities. During the 2012-13 period, Belfast hosted 171 international investor visits, yet only four (yes!) investor delegations during the same period were hosted by the city of Derry. That's about a seven to one ratio. Surely Ms. Foster and her department can do better for the people of Derry. Let's get on that, Martin.

This is Derry's "City of Culture" high-profile time, but the city, as I well remember from my Boston Ireland Ventures days, is a vibrant, can-do city and county and has the entrepreneurial skills and talent to be attracting potential investors and corporations to that historic region. It would seem that next year Derry should focus on drawing in more economic visits along with the culture.

**Bon Voyage**, and a hearty 'well done' to departing Irish Consul General **Michael Lonergan**. His four, fruitful years here in Boston have seemed to fly by far too quickly. The Limerick-born Lonergan has served his country and his post with distinction. He will be missed, but for the consul general there is a world of opportunity, adventure, and service beyond Boston, and we wish him well in all his endeavors and future postings.

## RANDOM CLIPPINGS

Vans operating in London are announcing in the areas that attract illegal immigrants, "Go home or face arrest" There are no cuffs, apparently, if you self deport. ... More than a half of Ireland's honeybee population has been wiped out since winter; an utter meltdown keepers are saying. ... Although most of the assaults and damage during the Belfast riots are unionist-inspired, there are still nationalist blockheads who love to paint or torch Orange Halls. ... Belfast Harbor is looking to become a cruise facility welcoming ships that can carry 4,500 passengers. ... Fox News Czar **Rupert Murdoch** had a lot of unkind things to say about the investigations of his phone tapping. Well covered by the media but nothing from his employees at Fox. Typical. ... They are running free concerts at the Kennedy Greenway every Friday at North End Park at 6 p.m.

Inishbofin Island, about 7 miles off Galway, had a dig going from Notre Dame in the states. The diggers found a lost village, vacated years ago.... Ireland was voted the country with the "highest client satisfaction" in a survey done by US tourist agencies. ... Last month Dublin became the first Euro country to offer electric taxis, with charging stations in the capital city.... Riverdance had some fun a couple of weeks ago when almost 1,700 dancers from 40 countries, led by the super Jean Butler, set a record for the longest Riverdance line. ... World Cup's Real

Madrid is Forbes's most valuable sports team. The Pats are sixth, the Red Sox 11th. ... Rhode Island's CVS Caremark is hiring help at their new Information Systems Center in Belfast, NI. ... Season Four of HBO's *Game of Thrones* (filmed in NI) is coming to a TV set near you. ... Belfast's new Lord Mayor, **Martin O'Muilleoir**, is talking with the Brits about Remembrance Day events and his office will have a copy of the 1916 proclamation alongside photos of Queen Liz and the Duke. ... **Michael McLaughlin**, former high priest of the Chelsea Housing Authority, got three ears in the crossbar Hotel for misusing \$700,000 in authority funds for his R & R and falsifying his pay to increase his pension by another \$700,000. Just three years? ... Aer Lingus wants someone to watch over slick Ryanair when A/L shares go on the market. Aer Lingus says ABO'L. ... The best news out of the Vatican since **Benedict** and his red shoes sashayed off center stage: **Pope John XXIII** will be elevated to sainthood along with **John Paul II** later this year. Yes, a deal, but John is long overdue.

Speaking of the Church, New York's **Cardinal Timothy Dolan** could become the face on the milk carton if the files from his time in Wisconsin are as harmful as most observers believe. I won't miss him. ... Massachusetts, and especially Rhode Island, are looking to revenue from new casinos to slice the deficits. Latest reports out of Connecticut show sharp declines in income for both Foxwood and Mohegan Sun. Maybe the naifs are getting smart and spending their money not tossing it into a deep hole. And while I'm at it, what happened to the sucker play scratch tickets? Worst bet yet, except possibly Peter King for the 2014 GOP nomination. ...

•••

Finally, the Gathering may be a trifle juiced up and oversold, but Ireland never is. Visit the folks back home – and give the economy a jolt.



Publisher’s Notebook

# Remembering O’Brien’s ‘Classic’ in Dublin in ‘88

By Ed Forry

Last Labor Day weekend, we were passing through Dublin Airport for a connecting flight to Paris. It was early on that Sunday morning, yet the concourse was crowded with travelers.

It was the kick-off weekend of the Irish government’s year-long tourism campaign called the Gathering, and it seemed there were an unusually large number of Americans in the airport’s departure for such an early hour.



Then, as we rounded a corner, we came across a bevy of American football players and their supporters. It was the Notre Dame team, heading back to Indiana after opening the season the evening before with a game against the Naval Academy. Playing before some 48,000 spectators at Dublin’s Aviva Stadium on Lansdowne

Road, the ND team won big, 50-10.

It marked the beginning of an impressive season for the Irish of South Bend. The game was a success, both as an athletic contest and as a tourism attraction, as Tourism Ireland estimated some 35,000 Americans were in Dublin for the event. It was just the seventh regular season NCAA game ever to be played in Ireland, and just last month, Penn State announced it will open its season next year in Dublin, playing the team from the University of Central Florida (UCF.) That game has been named the Croke Park Classic and is scheduled to be played on Sat., Aug. 30, at 8:30 p.m. Dublin time, with live television coverage back to the states on ESPN.

Locals in New England will remember that it was Boston’s own Jim O’Brien, a Boston College football player from the early 1960’s, who more than a quarter century ago first conceived the idea of playing an American college football game in Ireland. O’Brien called it the “Emerald Isle Classic,” and he persuaded officials at his alma mater to decamp to Ireland to meet the football team from West Point in the first NCAA-sanctioned college football game ever to be played in Europe.



Jim O’Brien  
25th reunion on tap

That Nov. 19, 1988, game was played on the Lansdowne Road pitch before a crowd of 45,000 fans, and BC was a distinct underdog. But led by quarterback Mark Kamphaus, the Eagles won in a big upset, beating Army 38-24. O’Brien had a hand in promoting two other games in Ireland, featuring Pittsburgh in 1989 and Holy Cross in 1991, but the ground-breaker took place that first year.

Today, O’Brien is excitedly making plans for the silver anniversary of that historic game. This year there will be a 25th reunion for those 1988 players from both teams when BC hosts Army at Alumni Stadium on October 5. All members of BC’s ‘88 squad have been invited to return to the Heights that day, along with members of the Black Knights team that went 10-2 that year, and lost by one point in the Sun Bowl to the Crimson Tide of Alabama.

O’Brien says he is looking forward to seeing all the players, and he points out that several members of that Army team have had high profile careers as Army officers, and become heroes on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan.



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Commentary

# Split between Catholic Church and Irish government worsens

By Joe Leary  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The divide between the Irish Government and the Catholic Church in Ireland became more profound last month with the Irish Parliament’s approval of new laws liberalizing abortion restrictions. The aggressive moves by the Fine Gael/ Labor coalition government, which included forced resignations if party members did not vote their leaders’ wishes, embittered many.

But Prime Minister Enda Kenny’s drive to lead the Irish Parliament to approval of relaxed abortion laws was only the latest in a list of serious problems between the Government and the Catholic Church that grew worse when his administration took power in March of 2011.

First came the infamous “Cloyne Report,” which was produced by a government investigation, centering on a Cork diocese and its leader, Bishop John McGee, for blatantly covering up and lying about allegations of sexual abuse by eleven diocesan priests. The report was a follow to the Elliott Report, initiated by the Catholic Church, which also indicated a lack of full reporting by Church authorities



Joe Leary

The Cloyne report found that a majority of the abuse cases were not reported to the Garda as required by Church guidelines of 1996.

Furthermore, the Cloyne report claimed, the Vatican refused to cooperate with report investigators, saying that the 1996 guidelines were not really binding, offering as evidence a letter written years ago by the then papal nuncio to Ireland, the late Archbishop Luciano Storero. This has been strongly denied as a convenient misinterpretation by Church spokesmen.

But the Government was ready for a fight. Kenny condemned the Vatican’s role in obstructing the investigation as a serious “infringement of the sovereignty of Ireland.” He also assailed the Vatican, claiming that evidence of “dysfunction, disconnection, elitism, and narcissism dominate the culture of the Vatican to this day.” Very tough words.

Several seemingly retaliatory moves then occurred on both sides with no apparent effort made to discuss

the problems. These were very angry men on both sides. The Cloyne Report became public on July 13, 2011, Kenny’s remarks were released July 20, and the Vatican recalled its nuncio on July 25. That’s a lot of heat in such a short time.

The Government then shocked the world by closing its Vatican embassy on Nov. 4, 2011. There are 175 countries with embassies in the Vatican, and today Ireland, supposedly a Catholic country, is no longer among them. Eamon Gilmore, head of Ireland’s Labor party, which is part of the coalition government currently in power, also serves as Tanaiste and Foreign Affairs minister. It was he who announced the embassy closing, saying it was an economy move. The closing of an embassy after such extraordinary criticism is considered a major insult not only by informed diplomats but also by serious governments everywhere.

After a report by the BBC news in May 2012, Gilmore, a self-described agnostic, called for the resignation of Cardinal Sean Brady, who from Armagh in Northern Ireland leads the Roman Catholic Church throughout Ireland. Some 37 years earlier, in his early time as a priest, Brady had acted as a secretary to a Church tribunal that was investigating sexual abuse charges by a particularly notorious priest. Gilmore felt that the young Brady should have gone to the police over the heads of his superiors and filed charges against the guilty priest. It was seen as another criticism of the Church by the Irish government in power.

In May of this year Boston College honored Taoiseach Kenny with an honorary degree. Usually Boston’s cardinal-archbishop attends the university’s graduation exercises, but this year Cardinal Sean O’Malley decided not to attend. In reviewing all the has happened during this Irish Government’s short time in power – especially the closing of Ireland’s embassy at the Vatican – it should not have come as a surprise that a Catholic cardinal would refuse to participate in honoring Ireland’s leader.

There is no doubt that the Catholic Church has and will suffer greatly from the priestly abuse crisis and the lack of action on its part to punish the perpetrators and correct the larger situation. I suppose that we, and the angry Irish Government, should remember that the vast majority of priests were not involved in sexual abuse and hope that the new pope, elected by a new group of cardinals that have suffered greatly over recent years, will calm things down and bring fresh sensibilities to the situation.

Off the Bench

# Public discourse plays loose with the real meaning of words

By James W. Dolan  
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Words are sometimes used to inflate, demean, soften, distort, or distract us from reality. In our celebrity culture, what we say or do is often defined by those who have an interest in either protecting or promoting themselves.



James W. Dolan

Take, for example, the word “inappropriate.” Have you noticed how often people use that term to describe wrong, even reprehensible, behavior? The offender can usually be found before a microphone apologizing for acting inappropriately, asking for forgiveness, and promising never to do it again.

Never do you hear words like “evil” ... “sinful” ... “outrageous” ... “unforgivable.” Defined as unsuitable or improper, “inappropriate” is a much softer term meant to connote an error more of oversight than conscious act.

“Misspoke” is a word used to cover mistakes, false information, or downright lies. The word implies that the accurate information was in the mind but somehow was lost on the way to the mouth, a translation error and not intended to deceive.

We sometimes use words to inflate the importance of people or activities. An example is “artist.” I remember when celebrities of another day were content to be called “entertainers.”

I may be old fashioned but it seems today that every songwriter, hip-hopper, or rapper refers to himself as an artist. A word that once referred to extraordinary talent and creativity has been diluted by overuse.

Frank Sinatra, Perry Como, and Tony Bennett were content to be singers, entertainers, or performers. Sinatra referred to himself as a “saloon singer.” Many actors today prefer to be considered artists practicing their craft. Imagine John Wayne, Gary Cooper, or Henry

Fonda strutting about calling themselves artists. They were content to be movie stars or performers.

Shall we start making “artists” of surgeons, athletes, scientists, or lawyers? What about teachers, nurses, politicians, accountants, and plumbers, who are every bit as talented and often more productive than entertainers? Do you think Mayor Menino, sometimes referred to as the “urban mechanic,” would prefer “urban artist” or “political Picasso?”

Being just a “celebrity” or “entertainer” does not satisfy the oversized egos of many performers. They understandably want to attach their popularity to something far more grandiose than their performances. To call it art, and themselves artists, elevates them beyond their talent, which often consists of jumping up and down and yelling unintelligible lyrics accompanied by overpowering music, klieg lights, and fireworks.

Entertainers of my generation were a softer and gentler kind whose songs told a story. They didn’t try to beat you into submission or whip you into hysteria.

“Hero” is another word that has been diluted by widespread use. It describes behavior above and beyond the call of duty, an exceptional act of courage or sacrifice. Now it is used to describe persons doing their duty. By performing their sometimes dangerous tasks, first responders are doing what is expected of them. They are doing those jobs they agreed to undertake and for which the rest of us should be both grateful and respectful. But that alone does not make them heroes.

Those in the military also engage in public service that from time to time is hazardous. Persons who perform those tasks honorably are entitled to respect and admiration. But not everyone who has served in the military, or even in combat, is a hero. Most simply did what was expected of them.

Veterans have earned our respect and gratitude for their service. Those who have served with distinction by performing extraordinary acts of bravery have earned the right to be called heroes. Their exceptional acts sets them apart from those who behaved honorably and did what was expected of them under hazardous circumstances.

Words should be used carefully. Their misuse can be a form of hubris.

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



## Point of View

# Of ‘Hoodies’ and Historical Amnesia

## A great many Irish Americans have forgotten that their ancestors’ brogans and workers’ caps were the ‘hoodies’ of their day

By PETER F. STEVENS  
BIR STAFF

No matter where one comes down of the verdict in the George Zimmerman-Trayvon Martin case, ignoring the issue of profiling is morally and historically myopic. What brought this to my mind, at least, was hearing well-known local attorney and cable network talking-head legal expert Wendy Murphy pontificate that Zimmerman was justified in shooting and killing Trayvon Martin because Zimmerman feared for his own life. That Zimmerman undeniably left his vehicle with his handgun – legally licensed – and “encountered” the teen matters not a whit in the world of Murphy and too many other pundits to list here, many bearing Irish surnames.

I’m not a lawyer, but I believe every person is familiar with profiling, with knee-jerk reactions to certain fears, though few will ever admit it. The reason for delving into all this is that Ms. Murphy and numerous others whose people hail from the old sod either ignore or don’t grasp the fact that at one time, it was their own ancestors who were profiled – for their brogues, their brogans, their worker caps, their religion, their very existence in a place where the majority loathed them, feared them, and viewed them as dangerous and criminal.

The sad case of Zimmerman and Martin evokes some echoes to one in Massachusetts of 1845, one in which profiling and fear of the “other” fueled tragedy. What should be truly disturbing to all Americans in 2013 is that a 1845 jury composed solely of white Protestant men rose above their own prejudices to their own profiling of Irish Catholics to focus solely on the law and render a verdict that was controversial for exactly the opposite reason than that of George Zimmerman’s jury.

On St. Patrick’s Day 1845, an Irish workman slipped and stumbled up a South Hanover, Massachusetts, sand bank. Just below him, a local named Perry paused, leveled his gun, and squeezed the trigger just as the Irishman lurched to the crest of the hill. The round tore into the Irishman, and he toppled lifelessly to the sand. In a local “watering hole” nearby, two of the man’s companions, fellow Irish laborers, lay sprawled on the floor, also slain by the gunman. What had started as a St. Patrick’s Day 1845 celebration for the three Irishmen, who were workmen on the Boston to Plymouth

railway project, had ended in an explosion of violence.

A Hanover Historical Society Calendar featured an old photo showing a house and shed and bearing the inscription: “Three Irishmen Shot Here By Seth Perry in 1845.” Broadway, the road outside the dwelling, has been razed since 1845, but the sand bank where the third Irishman was gunned down is still there.

A question, however, lingers about the identity of the killer, “Seth Perry.” The *Hanover Mariner* relates that while one of the Perrys did murder the trio of Irishmen, the assailant may have been Perez Perry. Local chronicler Charles Gleason’s version of the crime was told in a July 19, 2000 Mariner article by Barbara Barker: “The Perry family were among the first in the Old Colony, and their progeny are wide-spread. Some of the early families were very prolific. For instance, Cephas (Perry) was the father of 14 children, some of whom settled in South Hanover or nearby. When the Boston to Plymouth railway was being built, around 1845, several Irishmen celebrated St. Patrick’s Day by coming to a certain house in South Hanover to buy liquid refreshments.”

Likely fueled to a boisterous pitch by those “refreshments,” the trio of Irish workmen passed from mellow to belligerent, by some accounts. Perez Perry, not Seth, says Gleason, may have perceived that the laborers posed a grave threat – so grave that the local dashed home, grabbed his gun, strode back to “the certain house,” and blasted away at two of the Irishmen. As the pair crumpled to the floor, the third railroad worker fled the house, ran to the sand bank, and lurched up its face. Perry pursued him and pumped a bullet into his quarry’s back.

Local constables soon arrested Perry. Although antipathy toward Irish immigrants ran high in Massachusetts in 1845, swollen by the anti-Catholic, anti-foreigner rancor of Nativists (native-born American Protestants), the jury at Perry’s trial faced both a legal and moral dilemma. They could accept the defense’s contention that Perry cut down the first two Irishmen, raucous and “menacing,” in “self-defense.” However, chasing an unarmed man and blasting a hole in his back reeked of cold-blooded murder. No matter the probable Nativist leanings of at least several jurors, they returned a guilty verdict. According to Gleason, the convicted killer died in prison.

Still, the question lingers: Which Perry pulled the trigger? The History of Hanover (1910) refers to Perez and Seth Perry, but a reading of the material makes the identity of the murderer even murkier. Perez Perry, born in 1803, died in 1855, had a son named Perez, who died a bachelor in 1855. Seth Perry’s birthdate was 1793, and he died in 1874. Which one did the violent deed remains uncertain. But the sad saga of three Irish railway workers, as Barbara Barker writes, “still stands.”

In 1930, a man named Joseph P. Hennessey wrote a letter to the *Rockland Standard* needling Hanover for the less than red-carpet treatment locals accorded the Irish in the 1840s: “About 1840...the laborers employed on the job (now it would be called a project) were immigrants from Ireland, who were at that time such a rarity to the inhabitants of our sister town of Hanover that three boys from there walked six miles over to South Hanson to get a look at an Irishman.”

The disdain that many New Englanders heaped upon the “ragged Irish” of the era was rife with brutal stereotypes of “drunken Paddies” and nativist newspapers and magazines clotted with other ethnic caricatures of “Paddy and Bridget.” In Hanover, the combination of brogues and too much St. Patrick’s Day revelry ignited something murderous in a man named Perry, something so dark that even his Yankee neighbors could not ignore one savage fact: He had shot a man in the back. Irish though that man was, the deed was murder, plain and simple.

Today, the actual site of the “certain house,” where locals could toss down “liquid refreshment” despite the temperance movement gaining steam in the era, is long forgotten. The South Hanover sand bank where the third Irish worker met his terrifying end on St. Patrick’s Day of 1845 still rises in mute testimony to the crime.

Then and now, no two trials are ever completely alike. Still, Ms. Murphy and the legion of legal and political pundits (NBC’s David Gregory wondered if anyone could really deny that the Zimmerman trial was fair) might do well to look back at cases of old when profiling proved a key component. It especially holds true for Irish Americans too willing to assign the same instant menace to an African American in a hoodie as Irish immigrants once were deemed menacing for wearing battered workman’s caps and brogans.

## Why Irish genealogists should travel in packs

By MARY E. CHOPPA  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

First the disclaimer: I am the current president of The Irish Ancestral Research Association (TIARA). If you haven’t heard of us, we’re a group of like-minded Irish genealogists who try to help each other find our Irish origins. We have an international membership, but our home is in Boston. We hold monthly meetings and participate in festivals and conferences as much as possible for an all-volunteer organization. We also run research trips, sometimes locally or to other locations in the United States. But we almost always run a trip to Dublin every year and trips to Belfast every other year for the benefit of our members.

I never considered myself a “joiner,” as far as travel was concerned. I’ve always felt I can enjoy a trip much more as an independent traveler. Group trips were just not my style. However, that was before I went on my first TIARA trip. I’ve been hooked ever since. For a touring vacation, I’ll still stick with independent travel. But as family researchers, we need to travel in packs.

Why? Four reasons come to mind:

**Sunny days spent indoors:** Let’s face it: Your non-genealogist family members or traveling companions think you’re fairly normal until you talk about spending a day or more of your vacation in a library or an archive. If those repositories did not have regular operating hours, they would be like casinos to a family researcher. I remember working at the National Library of Ireland straight through dinner and wishing they did not have to close at 8 p.m. I had just come across a mystery in the microfilm and I cursed the flashing light signaling the library’s closing. I couldn’t wait to return the next morning and continue my search. If you’re not a genealogist, you’re questioning my sanity right now. If you are a genealogist, you know exactly what I’m talking about.

**Did you try this?** We can learn so much from each other. A simple suggestion from a fellow researcher may open a door you had not even seen. TIARA provides tour leaders who are experienced in researching in Ireland and in the USA. We also have “on the ground” researchers who consult with our participants. Valerie Adams in Belfast spent three evenings meeting with our folks and making phone calls to find where certain records were kept and who



A visiting Tiara team gathers for an impromptu consultation at Jury’s in Belfast in 2011.

Mary Choppa photo

in the town would be helpful. Eileen O’Duill in Dublin has spent countless hours with our TIARA members navigating them through the General Registers Office. I’m personally grateful for the trip she helped me with in Waterford.

**Ah...been there:** Camaraderie is one of the best reasons to go on a group research tour. Only a fellow genealogist can understand the joys and sorrows you encounter as you dig for those roots. Breakfasts, teas, and dinners spent talking about what you found or what you didn’t find can be mind-opening. I’ve observed fellow TIARA members helping each other and also helping strangers in reading rooms. Sometimes it’s nice to be able to lean over and ask, “Can you read what this says?” when the Latin scribbles of a baptismal record seem to run together.

**The real deal:** Lastly, this is more of a reason to go to Ireland to research instead of doing it all online. To hold an actual piece of history in your hands is a unique

experience. I was fortunate enough to visit the Waterford County Archives in Dungarven this past October. I was able to read through a Tenant Application Book, in which my ancestor, along with so many others, had requested assistance from the Lismore Castle Estate. In Dublin, I saw a payment receipt from the 1820s for gardening work done by my g-g-g-grandfather, John Sullivan, on the Lismore Castle Estate. In Belfast, I was able to trace the property of my Keeley family in Armagh from Griffith’s through the 1970s in Cancellation Books, where the property transfers were done by a stroke of different colored pens. In the digitized records of the Belfast General Register’s Office, with help from their friendly staff, I found the birth record of one long-lost relative and the death record of her father.

So yes, I believe history is alive, if you get out there and look for it. Check out future trips on our website ([tiara.ie](http://tiara.ie)) if you’re ready for a research adventure.

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# IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER



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## IIIC's J-1 summer group enjoys day at Fenway Park

It was the bottom of the seventh, bases loaded, tie ballgame as Jonny Gomes stepped to the plate. Tension was running high throughout the faithful Fenway bleachers, as one and all sat on the edge of their seats in antagonizing anticipation of the next pitch. A single voice broke the tension: "Oh wait, this *is* just like rounders!" exclaimed Niamh Hegarty, a Chinese language and culture student at University College Cork.

The usual bleacher creatures sitting out in section 38 were joined that night by a contingent of J-1 Irish summer students, led by the IIIC's Sean Hansen, a Learning Exchange Programs intern. These and many other J-1 students have been coming to the Center in the past few months to seek assistance in finding jobs, housing, and other counsel. Sometimes, they even leave with Red Sox tickets! Overall, it was a great time, as the Sox pulled out a classic 7-5 victory over the Blue Jays and won over some new fans in the process!

**Celebrate summer with citizenship!**—The IIIC encourages all eligible immigrants to become US citizens and our experienced, dedicated staff can make the process go smoothly for you by providing assistance through the entire process including exam preparation, application completion, and voter registration. Join us this summer to work with our attorneys, citizenship specialists, and class instructors. Contact us at 617-542-7654 for additional information on our citizenship services.

There are several benefits to a U.S. citizenship including no restrictions on travel outside the United States, the right to vote, the chance to sponsor family members to come to the US, and the opportunity to run for po-



An enjoyable night at Fenway Park for J-1 summer students and the IIIC's Sean Hansen.

litical office. The naturalization process gives immigrants full rights to enact change in their communities, benefiting fellow immigrants and our country as a whole.

**Citizenship Class** – Next class begins soon!

**Summer Legal Clinics** – Aug. 6, Aug. 20: IIIC, 100 Franklin St., Downtown Boston; Aug. 12: Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington St., Brighton; Aug. 27: South Boston Labour Center, 275 West Broadway, South Boston.

**Citizenship Clinics**—Every Thursday afternoon at 2 p.m. at the IIIC offices, 100 Franklin St., Downtown Boston

Please call ahead (617-542-7654) to talk with a citizenship specialist to discuss documents needed for this clinic consult. The IIIC is delighted to be part of

the Greater Boston Citizenship Initiative (GBCI), a collaborative project funded by the Fish Family Foundation that helps immigrants along the path to citizenship. This year the collaborative is helping 2,000 people become US citizens in the greater Boston area. GBCI partners provide a range of support services including legal services, citizenship preparation classes and guidance on the application process.

The Center thanks the Fish Family Foundation and our GBCI partners: Centro Latino, the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, Jewish Vocational Services, Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, and Mass Alliance of Portuguese Speakers.

**IIIC counseling service a lifeline to uninsured**

The U.S Senate's passing of the immigration reform bill offers reason for hope for Boston's undocumented, among them many Irish. While they wait for the bill to advance in the House, however, some undocumented immigrants continue to face immediate personal challenges that are made worse by lack of access to healthcare and to professional counseling services. In the past, these people might have fallen through the cracks, but thanks to a unique partnership between the Irish Government and the Irish International Immigrant Center, they now have free access to a culturally responsive professional counselor right here in Boston.

A Dublin-born woman, Danielle Owen, will seem instantly familiar to anyone from Ireland. Warm and unfussy, the IIIC's

resident counselor is the kind of person who always seems to have time for a bit of chat. Behind her easy manner, however, lies a wealth of professional experience that includes work with underprivileged young people in Artane, with struggling families in Lusaka, Zambia, and with those battling addiction in Tallaght. As she says, "I've seen everything and I've heard everything."

Danielle came to the U.S. in 2004 expressly to work with and offer counseling to vulnerable Irish immigrants. She loves her job: "People take a leap of faith in letting me into their lives and giving me the honor of being on a path with them, of helping them on their journey." A majority of her clients at the IIIC are undocumented. They come to her for help in dealing with depression, with adjustment to life in America, with relationships, with managing grief, or because they are ready to address an addiction. Often, she says, the first contact comes from a concerned relative or friend anxious to find help for a struggling loved one.

Funding for the IIIC's counseling service comes from the Irish Government as a measure of practical assistance to the many thousands of undocumented and uninsured Irish living in Boston. The service is free and entirely confidential. Most of her clients see Danielle once a week, but ultimately people can come as often as it takes to make a positive difference in their life. Many times it helps to simply have the opportunity to talk with someone from home, someone familiar, someone whose accent says "pull up a chair, I'll put the kettle on."

*Danielle Owen is a licensed alcohol and drug counselor at the Irish International Immigrant Center and a graduate of the Hazelden School of Addiction Studies.*

## Matters Of Substance

### Break the Silence on Alcohol & Sexual Assault

#### By DANIELLE OWEN IIIC DIRECTOR OF WELLNESS AND EDUCATION SERVICES

Earlier this summer, tennis player Serena Williams spoke about a case involving the sexual assault of a 16-year-old girl by high school football players commenting that "She shouldn't have put herself in that position". Ms. Williams later apologized for what she referred to as "my insensitive and

misinformed comments". Her comments, however, echo what I hear assault survivors say after their ordeal "I shouldn't have been there", "It's my fault, I was drunk", "I must have lead him on but I was high and I can't remember."

Rape is defined as sexual intercourse forced on a person without his or her permission. Irish research has found that 1 in 5 adult women and 1 in 10 adult men experience sexual violence (SAVI Report).

According to the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), 25 % of American women have experienced sexual assault, including rape. Approximately one-half of those cases involve alcohol consumption by the perpetrator, victim, or both. The NIAAA in their recent article "Alcohol and Sexual Assault" notes "sexual assault of adolescent and adult women has been called a silent epidemic, because it occurs at high rates yet is rarely reported to the authorities (Koss 1988)." The piece notes several reasons for this underreporting including:

1. Many victims do not

tell others about the assault, because they fear that they will not be believed or will be derogated.

2. Other victims may not realize that they have actually experienced legally defined rape or sexual assault, because the incident does not fit the prototypic scenario of "stranger rape."

• For example; "For years I believed it was my fault for being too drunk. I never called it 'rape' until much more recently, even though I repeatedly told him 'no'."

There are so many myths about rape and sexual assault but let me be clear: a victim of sexual

violence is never to blame even if they are drunk or have taken drugs. Rape is a very traumatic event and the survivor may or may not be able to say that she was actually raped, or she may seek medical attention for a different reason. Emotional reactions differ greatly and may include: confusion, social withdrawal, tearfulness, nervousness or seemingly inappropriate laughter, numbness, hostility, and fear.

The Rape Crisis Network of Ireland has some wonderful resources on their website, including a very helpful publication "The Facts of Rape" that includes:

- A victim of sexual violence is never to blame even if they are drunk or have taken drugs.
- People are usually subjected to sexual violence by someone they know.
- Not resisting the sexual violence does not mean that the survivor is responsible in any way.
- False accusations of rape are not common.
- Men are victims of



sexual violence too.

If you know anyone who believes they have been assaulted or raped but are afraid to get help or report it because they believe they were at fault, please encourage them to access some of the resources below. It occurs much more often than we hear about in the news and we agree it is a "Silent Epidemic". Call Danielle for a chat, in confidence and without judgment. No one has to suffer alone or in silence. 617-542-7654 ext.14 or email [dowen@iiicenter.org](mailto:dowen@iiicenter.org)  
<http://www.barcc.org/>  
<http://www.rcni.ie/facts.aspx> <http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/arh25-1/43-51.htm>  
<http://health.nytimes.com/health/guides/specialtopic/rape>



IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER  
**LEGAL IMMIGRATION ASSISTANCE**

The Irish International Immigrant Center provides free legal support and representation to the Irish immigrant community. Weekly legal clinics are held throughout the Greater Boston area, where you can receive a free and confidential consultation with our staff and volunteer pro bono attorneys.

For support or information, call us at (617) 542-7654.

**Upcoming Clinic Schedule**

**Tuesday, August 6th**  
IIIC, 100 Franklin St., Downtown Boston

**Monday, August 12th at 6:30pm**  
The Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington St., Brighton

**Tuesday, August 20th**  
IIIC, 100 Franklin St., Downtown Boston

**Tuesday, August 27th at 6:00pm**  
South Boston Labour Center, 275 West Broadway, Boston

Phone: 617.542.7654 | Fax: 617.542.7655 | [www.iiicenter.org](http://www.iiicenter.org)



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## OUT OF IRELAND



## A keystone world: Connecting with the old sod

By ED FORRY  
BIR PUBLISHER

Once there was a time when finding information about the island of Ireland seemed so far away. The little flow of information came mostly through the postal mail – letters from home, magazines like “Ireland of the Welcomes,” or the occasional, and very expensive, five minute phone call.

A few local shops arranged to receive copies of county newspapers, the *Kerryman*, *Connacht Tribune*, and the like, and locals would line up at stores like Gerard’s Adams Corner and Slyne’s in West Roxbury to purchase their home county newspaper. But even those were a few days old and quite costly.

The internet has changed all that: Where once some people would wait for the afternoon Dublin plane to arrive at Logan with a few copies of the *Irish Times* or the *Independent*, now those newspapers are available live and online, to be read in their entirety in the comfort of your home or office, even on a smart phone or tablet during the morning subway commute.

Galway folks can tune-in live before their breakfast here in Boston and listen to Galway Bay FM read the daily death notices; the national TV network RTE has an “app” for the iPhone and iPad that shows the morning, mid-day and evening 6:01 newscast live, and repeats



**Last month, Lieutenant Commander Erika Downing handed over command of L.E. Aoife to Lieutenant Commander Marie Gleeson in the ship’s adopted port of Waterford City. This event was highly significant in the Naval Service as it marked the first ever handover of command between two female captains. Currently one in four of serving Naval Officers are female and earlier this year the Naval Service promoted two female Non Commissioned Officers (NCOs) to the senior enlisted rank of Petty Officer.**

them through the day. For years, the *Irish Times* has embedded a live shot of

Dublin on its website, and current Irish weather conditions and forecasts are

ready for anyone to see with a simple keystroke.

There’s a plethora of current information from the island available to everyone, and part of the fun of surfing the internet is to discover new sources of Irish information. Beginning with this issue, the BIR will report on some of the online resources we have found.

**Facebook:** FB members – and we’re a billion strong and growing – will enjoy a visit to the Irish Naval Service page (Facebook/IrishNavalService.) Here in recent days, we found some fascinating photos of two Irish naval vessels, L.E. Niamh & L.E. Eithne, transiting between Skellig mhoir and skellig beag, and items about the Irish Navy rescuing the crew of the tall ship Astrid, which sank off Kinsale. The visitor will learn a lot about the Irish Navy, to wit:

- “The Naval Service is the State’s Principal Seagoing Agency with a general responsibility to meet contingent and actual maritime defence requirements.

- “The NS is based on Haulbowline Island, Co Cork. It has an authorised maximum strength of 1,094 personnel and comprises a fleet of eight ships. The key characteristics of the NS Fleet are those of a rapid reaction, flexible and multi-capable force able to sustain the maximum number of patrol days within the constraints of the resources available.”



**The Irish Naval Service main base in Haulbowline, Co. Cork.**

## S&P raises its outlook on Ireland, citing debt control

By SHAWN POGATNIK  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BELFAST, Northern Ireland – Standard and Poor’s raised its outlook on Ireland on mid-July, and forecast that the bailed-out country’s debt levels could improve more quickly than expected as the export-focused economy recovers and government income grows.

The ratings agency kept its risk grade on Irish debt securities at BBB+ but improved its outlook from stable to positive, suggesting a possible rating hike that would drive down Irish borrowing

costs. S&P cited Ireland’s commitment to austerity as a key reason for the decision.

S&P often has been the most optimistic among the big three ratings agencies on Ireland’s prospects to recover from a crippling bank-bailout program that forced the country to negotiate a 2010 emergency loan package from European partners and the International Monetary Fund.

Moody’s, in stark contrast, has graded Ireland’s debt securities as Ba1 junk bonds and kept the country on negative outlook.

Fitch, like S&P, gives Ireland an investment-worthy BBB+ grade but retains its stable outlook.

S&P said it expects Ireland’s cumulative government debt to peak this year at 122 percent of gross domestic product and decline to 112 percent by 2016, reflecting hopes of modest GDP growth and strengthening government revenues amid continued budget cuts. It noted that unemployment has already declined to 13.6 percent from a 2012 peak of 15.1 percent.

And it cited the possibility that Ireland’s state-

run “bad bank,” which is responsible for handling the toxic debt of six rescued Irish banks, could prove unexpectedly successful in selling off its mammoth portfolio of half-built housing developments, shopping malls and derelict development land. The National Asset Management Agency has sold off assets conservatively over the past three years due to Ireland’s shell-shocked property market, where prices are stabilizing at roughly half of their peak 2007 levels.

The S&P report offered Ireland a boost after

government figures last month revealed that the country in the first quarter of 2013 had slipped back into recession, albeit by a narrow margin, for the first time since 2010.

Ireland had been the only bailout recipient, alongside Portugal and Greece, to achieve growth despite an aggressive four-year austerity program that has cut the average paycheck by more than 15 percent. Economists credit Ireland’s performance chiefly to its use of low tax rates to attract foreign multinationals, including 700 U.S. companies

that employ around seven percent of the labor force and generate around a quarter of Ireland’s entire economic output.

Ireland plans a further 3.1 billion euros (\$4 billion) in tax hikes and cuts as it seeks to resume normal borrowing this year, when it is scheduled to become the first of the original three bailout countries to exit its bailout program.

The Irish treasury already has resumed limited successful debt auctions, including 10-year bonds, in anticipation of the EU-IMF funds drying up this year.





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# Aer Lingus adding more US service in '14; daily Shannon trips for Boston

Aer Lingus has announced plans to expand round trip transatlantic service from Ireland to the US next year, including the addition of daily Boston flights to Shannon beginning on March 9, 2014.

The airline announced the 2014 commencement of direct service from San Francisco and Toronto to Dublin, and an increase in frequency to Shannon from Boston and New York.

The expansion is “a testament to the Irish airline’s efforts in building a successful and competitive transatlantic business,” the carrier said in a statement. “Aer Lingus is profitable, financially strong and is indeed in ‘growth mode’ No longer just a point-to-point carrier, the airline combines their North American-based partnerships with its extensive European network, providing access from over 70 North American cities to over 35 destinations across Ireland, the United Kingdom, and Continental Europe.

“This revised network strategy, “Aer Lingus said, “has brought major increases in connecting passengers, particularly at Dublin Airport. On the transatlantic front, 2014 will see a 24 percent increase on Aer Lingus’s 2013 capacity (2013 had already brought a 13 percent increase versus 2012) with its long haul summer schedule peaking at 10 daily transatlantic services connecting North America with Ireland and Europe.

Aer Lingus will also expand Boston/Dublin service next year to two flights daily, E134 and E136, seven days a week, effective March 9. Beginning on March 30, flight E138 which operates 4 days per week from Boston to Dublin will operate 7 days per week. Currently the Boston/Shannon schedule is Mon/Wed/Fri/Sun through Jan. 5, 2014, with a brief no-service hiatus Jan 6-19; the four weekly Shannon flights resume Jan. 20 through March 8, and daily service begins the next day.

# 61 tons of silver retrieved from a WWII-era shipwreck

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
TAMPA, Fla. – A Florida-based deep-sea exploration company said Monday that it has recovered more than 61 tons of silver bullion from a World War II shipwreck off the coast of Ireland.

Odyssey Marine Exploration, which is based in Tampa, said it recovered the silver this month from the SS Gairsoppa, a 412-foot, steel-hulled British cargo ship that sank in February 1941.

“This was an extremely complex recovery which was complicated by the sheer size and structure of the SS Gairsoppa as well as its depth nearly three miles below the surface of the North Atlantic,” Greg Stemm, Odyssey’s chief executive officer, wrote in a news release. “To add to the complications, the remaining insured silver was stored in a small compartment that was very difficult to access.”

According to the Tampa Tribune, with the price of silver at more than \$19 per ounce, the haul is worth more than \$34 million, 80 percent of which Odyssey will retain under the terms of the company’s contract with the United Kingdom Department of Transport.

In 2012, Odyssey recovered nearly 48 tons of silver from the same wreck, bringing the total haul to 110 tons, or nearly 99 percent of the insured silver reported to be aboard the Gairsoppa when it sank.



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**“Dancing With The Stars” pro Tristan MacManus tours New England this month in “Ballroom With A Twist.” Photo courtesy ABC/Craig Sjodin**

## Tristan MacManus brings dancer’s sizzle to sparkling version of ‘Ballroom With A Twist’

**BY R. J. DONOVAN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR**

Dust off your dancing shoes, because several of the professionals from “Dancing With The Stars” are hitting the road and bringing the sizzle straight to New England. From the Samba to the Waltz, Foxtrot, Quickstep, Jive and more, the evening promises a frenzy for the eyes and ears.

“Ballroom With A Twist,” starring Tristan MacManus, Peta Murgatroyd, and Anna Trebunskaya with an international company of dancers including finalists from “So You Think You Can Dance,” is coming to North Shore Music Theatre in Beverly on August 8 and 9. “DWTS” 2013 Champ Derek Hough will also be making an exclusive appearance in Beverly along with “American Idol” finalist Melinda Doolittle. (“Ballroom” also plays Cape Cod Playhouse through August 3 and The Ogunquit Playhouse from August 27 through 31, although some casting is subject to change.)

As loyal BIR readers know, championship dancer Tristan MacManus spent time in Boston several years ago teaching at SuperShag Dance Studios in Charlestown. When we last spoke in 2011, he was on the verge of becoming one of the “DWTS” pros, having already spent a season as a member of the show’s Troupe.

Since then, he has been paired with celebrities ranging from Gladys Knight and Nancy Grace to Pamela Anderson and Dorothy Hamill. At the same time, he has become one of the show’s most endearing talents.

A native of Bray, Tristan started dancing when he was nine years old. He danced extensively in Ireland before moving on to Europe to participate in, and eventually win, a variety of championships. He later performed in musical theater productions throughout Europe, in a highly successful tour of “Simply Ballroom” in London and Las Vegas, and in the stage version of “Dirty Dancing.” Tours of the dance spectacular “Burn The Floor” followed, including a run in Boston.

I caught up with Tristan on the road a few weeks ago to talk about both “Ballroom With A Twist” and the most recent season of “DWTS.” Here’s a condensed look at our long distance conversation.

**BIR:** You’re got a full touring schedule this summer. What can audiences expect with “Ballroom With A Twist.”

**TM:** “Ballroom With A Twist” is a show choreographed by Louis Van Amstel (from “Dancing With The Stars”). I’ve been a part of it, on and off, for the last couple of seasons. It’s a great, fun show made up of different dancers from “DWTS,” previous contestants from “So You Think You Can Dance,” and great singers

(Continued on page 15)

## Concertina players are coming to fore; instrument’s versatility is called a key

**BY SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR**

**Q.** How do you make a concertina?

**A.** Cross an accordion with a stop sign.

It’s not as if the concertina has never gotten respect in the traditional Irish music world—maybe it’s just overlooked, in comparison with, say, the fiddle, uilleann pipes, flute, whistle, and accordion.

But what with the emergence over the past few decades of eminent concertina players like Noel Hill, Mary MacNamara, Jackie Daly, John Williams, Mícheál Ó Raghallaigh, and Niamh Ni Charra (not to mention New England’s own Christian Stevens), perhaps the squeezebox’s moment has arrived.

That is certainly the view of two other leading Irish concertina players who will be visiting Boston in the next several weeks, Niall Vallely and Edel Fox, appearing as part of The Burren’s “Backroom” series in Somerville. Fox will perform on Aug. 7, with fiddler Neill Byrne—the two have just released a CD, “The Sunny Banks”—and New York City area fiddler Dylan Foley, who on this occasion will be showing his skills as a guitarist; opening will be the New York City-based duo The Murphy Beds, Eamon O’Leary, and Jefferson Hamer. Vallely will hit The Burren along with his uilleann pipes-playing brother Cillian on September 4.

Fox and Vallely may not have statistics at the ready, but they do claim a lot of anecdotal evidence suggesting that the concertina is gaining in popularity. At last month’s Willie Clancy Festival in her native Miltown Malbay, for example, Fox counted upwards of 16 different classes for concertina—definitely a change from past years when she attended.

“It’s not just numbers, it’s also the amount of talent and interest you see among younger musicians,” says Fox. “You see kids 11 to 14 years old playing concertina, and they just blow you away. Of course, you know there are some who are kind of



**Boston will have a chance to hear two of the premier Irish concertina players over the next month, with concerts at The Burren featuring Edel Fox (above) and Niall Vallely.**

just going through the motions, but then you find the ones who really like playing traditional music, and they are great to hear.”

Vallely, for his part, finds “there aren’t enough hours” to accommodate all those who want to take his concertina classes at University College Cork. What’s more, he adds, “If you look at the list of commercial recordings before the 1990s that feature the concertina, the number is in the single digits. Since the 1990s, there’ve been loads.”

So, what is it about the concertina that makes it so ideal for Irish traditional music? While there are obvious similarities with the accordion, Vallely and Fox say the concertina’s unique qualities serve it well.

“I think it’s a tremendously versatile instrument,” says Vallely. “Like its harmonic nature, and its scope for playing different music in different situations.”

“The tone of the concertina is so special, and matches up well with a number of different



instruments, particularly the fiddle,” says Fox. “While playing solo is all well and good for your confidence, Irish music is

about duos and trios—or more—and so it’s important to have an instrument that blends in and

(Continued on page 13)

## Family ties distinguish two bands who will play at the Irish Cultural Centre this month

Two family-based bands with different approaches to Irish music will make appearances this month at the Irish Cultural Centre of New England in Canton.

On Aug. 3, the ICCNE will feature Michigan quartet Finvarra’s Wren as part of the center’s Tiny Cottage Series. And on Aug. 23, the Makem and Spain Brothers will

perform an outdoor concert. Both events begin at 8 p.m.

Finvarra’s Wren is guitarist Jim Perkins, his wife Cheryl Burns, who plays Appalachian dulcimer and bodhran and shares vocals with her husband—both of them are regarded as stalwarts of the Detroit folk scene and widely praised for their singing—along with

son Asher Perkins (concertina, accordion) and daughter Alison Perkins (fiddle, whistles); the two younger Perkins have been regular top finishers in the Midwest Fleadh Cheoil.

Although its sound may be associated with the west coast of Ireland, the band draws on other Celtic and folk traditions, and also contemporary

sources. Their repertoire is full of hornpipes, jigs and reels, and well-known Irish songs like “How Can I Live at the Top of a Mountain,” “Cold Blow and the Rainy Night” and “Sullivan’s John,” but they also might belt out the popular British traditional song “Country Life” *a cappella*, or do a cover of Michael Smith’s “Sister

(Continued on page 13)



# Family ties distinguish bands who'll play at ICC this month

(Continued from page 12) Clarissa." The group has performed extensively in the US and Canada, including at the venerable Ark in Ann Arbor, Mich., the Baltimore Irish Festival, and the Dayton Celtic Festival. They have three recordings to their credit, their most recent being "Haven't Yet Lost My Ears," and a live album, "Dancing Mad in the Midnight Air," is in the pipeline.

With more than two decades of performing experience under their collective belt, and strong roots in New England, The Makem and Spain Brothers have become a tradition unto themselves, proudly carrying on a musical legacy cherished and nurtured by their families for generations. Conor and Rory Makem are the sons of the late Tommy Makem, one of the major figures of the 20th-century folk music revival – and

himself the son of another legendary singer, Sarah Makem. A similar love of old songs runs strong in the family of Liam and Mickey Spain, who along with the Makems have recast the tradition for the 21st century.

The Makem and Spain Brothers' performances combine folk songs of Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and New England with original material, all delivered with a rousing, engaging style that has delighted audiences the world over. Since the two sets of brothers officially joined forces 10 years ago, they have released four CDs, and were featured as part of the soundtrack for the movie "The Kennedys: America's Emerald Kings."

For more information on these concerts, see the Irish Cultural Centre of New England website at [www.irishculture.org](http://www.irishculture.org).

— SEAN SMITH



This month will see appearances by family bands Finvarra's Wren and The Makem and Spain Brothers at the Irish Cultural Centre of New England.



# The versatile concertina is coming to the fore

(Continued from page 12) complements the others."

The concertina first surfaced in Irish music in the 1870s and 1880s, according to Valley, but after an initial period of popularity was superseded by the accordion when recordings of Irish music were first made in the 1920s. William Mullaly was a pioneer in the early recording era, and is, in fact, thought to be the only concertina player to be recorded commercially in the first half of the 20th century; his successors were notables like Packie Russell, Paddy Murphy, Elizabeth Crotty, Fr. Charlie Coen, and John Kelly, who all helped bring the concertina a greater degree of prominence through the middle part of the 20th century and into the Irish folk revival of the 1960s and '70s, when Noel Hill came of age.

"Some of the concertina players from that era weren't necessarily brilliant technically, but there is a wildness about their playing that I like," says Valley. "Paddy Murphy was an important influence on Noel Hill, who went on to create techniques that have become standard for many players today – Noel was certainly an influence on me."

Yet when he first began playing concertina at age 7, Valley, who grew up in Antrim, didn't have much in the way of immediate influences – well, not conventional ones, anyway.

"There weren't exactly loads of concertina players in Antrim," he explains. "The guy who originally inspired me to take it up was an Englishman named Paul Davis, who

was a dealer and repairman of concertinas and accordions. He was just a real character: a big fella with a heavy beard and a limp, and he would busk around and play all kinds of tunes, not all of them Irish."

"I stuck with it, I guess, partly because the concertina was different than what my parents and brother played, the fiddle or the pipes – although I also spent several years learning the pipes. But growing up, my music was influenced by lots of other kinds of instruments, because the concertina simply wasn't popular where I was."

Valley also explored other musical influences, such as classical – he learned piano and trumpet in secondary school – and jazz, through a partnership with composer/pianist Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin. In 1990, he co-founded the band Nomos, which released two well-received albums and toured throughout Europe, North America, Australia, and Hong Kong before breaking up in 2000. Since then, he has formed a new band, Buille, and toured and recorded with his wife, singer Karan Casey, and been involved in projects with, among others, Grammy-winning singer/songwriter Tim O'Brien. Besides playing together in Buille, he and Cillian – who has fashioned a pretty good career himself, as a member of the Irish supergroup Lunasa and solo performer – have recorded an album as a duo and, when they can, they get out on the road.

"With all we have going



on, we're lucky if we can play maybe once a year," says Niall. "I know I certainly enjoy playing with Cillian; it's different repertoire than what I might do normally. And in fact, The Burren is one of our favorite places to play as a duo."

Fox started on the concertina at about the same age as Valley and, much like him, was inspired by watching someone else play it – in this case, a complete stranger. "My father took me into town one day, and I happened to see a girl playing one," she recalls. "I was completely fascinated by it, and I kept annoying my dad until I got a chance to hold it in my hands. I just became obsessed with the instrument, not even so much the music."

Noel Hill was an important figure in Fox's musical development, too: When her father saw a newspaper ad from Hill offering music lessons, he bought young Edel a Wheatstone – considered one of the leading brands of concertina – and she was off and playing. Fox would later come under the tutelage of Dymphna O'Sullivan, Tim Collins, Tony O'Connell, and, in particular, Jackie Daly. But while she may have

like I said, it blends so well with the fiddle, or the pipes, or the accordion, and so on."

Fox, who has a TG4 "Gradam Ceoltóir Óg na Bliana (Young Musician of the Year)" award to her credit, released her first album in 2006 with fiddler Ronan O'Flaherty, and four years later recorded "Chords and Beryls." She spent some time studying in the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at the University of Limerick, where she received a bachelor of arts degree in 2007, and recently earned a graduate degree in music therapy.

"The Sunny Banks," which took her and Byrne about two years to complete, includes compositions by traditional musicians like Charlie Lennon and Frank McCallum.

"The idea was to bring the work of these people into the greater realm of traditional music," says Fox. "It was a great experience to put it together, and we're quite excited to have the CD all set to go."

Fox is particularly pleased to have the Boston area, and The Burren in particular, as one of the launch sites for "The Sunny Banks."

"[Burren owners] Tommy and Louise McCarthy are from Clare, and they are good friends," she says. "Of all the cities I've toured, Boston is my biggest love. I always enjoy a night at The Burren, or a session at The Druid. Boston is just so vibrant, and the most authentically Irish place in the US."

For more on the "Backroom" series, see The Burren website at [burren.com](http://burren.com)



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CD Reviews

By SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Moya Brennan & Cormac De Barra, “Affinity”

• The title of the second album by this duo serves as a reference to the quality of their partnership, which has been fortified through their annual “Voices and Harps” workshop in Ireland. Brennan is best known as a member of Clannad, the genre-breaking Grammy-winning band from Donegal, while De Barra, like Brennan, comes from a distinguished Irish musical family and has pursued a produc-

tive career of his own. In their 2011 release, “Voices & Harps,” they located Ireland’s iconic instrument, and the distinctive Irish vocal style, in a contemporary context, with jazz, pop, and soft rock influences reminiscent of Clannad.

“Affinity” affirms the strength and scope of Brennan and De Barra’s collaboration. To be sure, the album

retains the delicately moody, occasionally somber, even mystical ambience of the first CD, and there is, not surprisingly, an ample amount of Gaelic throughout. And as before, Brennan and De Barra are assisted by a fine coterie of musicians, including Brennan’s daughter Aisling Jarvis (who musters guitar, bouzouki, uilleann pipes, keyboards, and percussion), De Barra’s brother Eammon on flute, whistles, and bodhran, and fiddler/violist/string arranger Máire Breatnach.

But where “Voices & Harps” had its share of tried-and-true folkie material – “She Moves Through the Fair,” “The Streets of Derry,” “Carolan’s Concerto” – here they venture a step or two farther in the musical territory they have laid out for themselves. Four of the tracks are joint Brennan/De Barra compositions, a fifth by Brennan; five others are traditional songs or tunes, three of them co-arranged. Highlights include “Lass of Aughrim,” a shorter version of the ghost-lover traditional ballad “Lord Gregory,” in which Brennan unapologetically conveys the song’s full-on sense of loss and regret; “Worlds Collide,” one of the Brennan-De Barra originals, driven by a Gaelic chorus and dynamic percussion; the upbeat “Crúiscín Lán,” aided by Una Ní Chanainn’s cello and a festive instrumental break, and the similarly structured Brennan/De Barra song “Stóirín Rua”; the lament “Captain O’Kane,” which puts Brennan and De Barra’s harp-playing definitively front and center; and “Seoithín Seó,” De Barra taking the lead vocal this time.

Most likely to garner attention, for better or worse, is the rendition of “Sailing,” the 1980 hit song by Christopher Cross. Its presence on the album is not out of left field: Brennan has long had a penchant for crossing

Worldwide at [www.bostonirish.com](http://www.bostonirish.com)

over to pop, as far back as early Clannad, with a cover of Bonnie Robson’s “Morning Dew,” and including her take on Joni Mitchell’s “Big Yellow Taxi,” released as a single in 1993. Ignoring one’s individual opinion on the merits of “Sailing” (there are those who view the song as heralding the death of FM radio as a valid alternative to the AM/Top 40 format), the fact is that the duo makes it their own: Their harps subtly evoke that trademark electric guitar riff, and Brennan, using the middle register of her voice, convincingly conjures up a day spent out on some remote loch – she is from Donegal, after all, where they know a thing or two about boats and water.

While not exactly an outlier, “Sailing” isn’t necessarily representative of “Affinity,” either. Since it’s only the second track, though, there is plenty of opportunity to fully appreciate the artistry and rapport Brennan and De Barra bring to their unique brand of music.

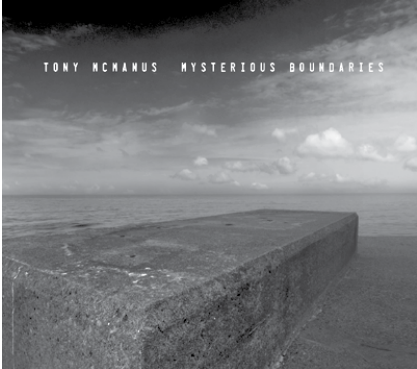
**Tony McManus, “Mysterious Boundaries”**• So, this is what happens when one musician gives another a dare.

The backstory here is that McManus, one of the finest finger-style Celtic guitarists, was challenged by mandolinist Mike Marshall to learn a Bach piece for solo violin on guitar (was this a double-dog dare? a triple-dog dare?). In doing so, McManus developed a bona-fide yen for classical guitar, so much so that he learned enough pieces to produce a CD.

McManus has interpolated other genres and traditions into his albums, notably including his last release, “The Maker’s Mark: The Dream Guitar Sessions” (2009), which included tunes from African and Eastern European sources. But this a full-scale immersion into classical; there is no crossover – no set of jigs or reels played in classical style, no DADGAD setting of a Chopin etude.

Those familiar with classical guitar technique and method can judge for themselves how well McManus measures up, but certainly there is plenty to reaffirm that this fella is a grand talent on the fretboard, whatever he may try. Further to his credit, McManus doesn’t go for “classical-lite” or overly familiar material; there are four Bach pieces, but the other selections cover a wider range of styles and sources, from late-19th century works like Erik Satie’s “Gnossienes” and Enrique Granados’ “Spanish Dance #4” to Monteverdi’s “Nigra Sum” to “Pange Língua,” a medieval hymn by Thomas Aquinas set to a Gregorian chant with a melody used as a theme for a Mass by Renaissance composer Josquin des Prez, as well as the title piece (or the Anglicized title), written for harpsichord by Francois Couperin.

It will be fascinating to see what McManus does next, given the penchant for exploration and experimentation he has shown on this album and “Maker’s Mark.” Now that he’s pushed beyond the barricades, so to speak, perhaps on his return to the recording studio he’ll opt to revisit the music by which most of us have come to know, and admire, him.



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# Tristan MacManus brings dancer's sizzle to 'Ballroom With A Twist'



Tristan MacManus, touring this summer in "Ballroom With A Twist," was partnered with Gold Medalist and Olympic Hall of Famer Dorothy Hamill on this past season's "Dancing With The Stars."

Photo courtesy ABC/Adam Taylor

That had to be a little tough to take when the live studio response was so phenomenal.

**TM:** I loved performing that dance with Kellie and Derek, yeah, but I wasn't disappointed with the comments. I think if you take the praise you have to take the criticism, so I choose to do neither. I didn't agree with some of the comments. And it's not a discussion, it's an opinion. So that's what I take it as and know that I don't need to convince someone to like it or not. . . We did what we needed to do to entertain the audience, so that's all that matters. . . I think more people liked it than not, so I'm happy with that.

**BIR:** This past season, when you were partnered with Dorothy Hamill, I think a lot of viewers really thought the two of you had a solid shot because the athletes seem to do pretty well on the show. It must have been disappointing to you both when Dorothy had to withdraw because of her spinal injury.

**TM:** It's always disappointing when somebody has to withdraw through injury. To me that's the only important thing – if you can't dance you shouldn't. If you're injured in anything, you should take the time to heal. . . the competition isn't important when something like that happens.

**BIR:** When you're

beginning to work with a new partner, and sometimes it's someone who has very little dance experience, what are the challenges?

**TM:** I think the basics to every dance are easy to teach to people once they want to learn them. If you're prepared to make mistakes and keep going you'll be fine. It's only negative thinking that holds people back from learning. Granted it gets more difficult when the choreography comes into the equation, because then you're using more interpretations and different rhythms and timings.

But the basic [steps] are either forward-backward or side-to-side. . . Waltz and Cha Cha are usually the first you learn. Or Swing. . . It could be that they're the most recognizable to people.

**BIR:** So when this summer tour ends for you, can fans expect to see you back for another season with Boston's own Tom Bergeron on "Dancing With The Stars?"

**TM:** Unfortunately we don't know if we're involved or not until the day or so before the cast is revealed. It's not an ideal situation, but we have to

wait like everyone else and hope that the producers want to use us. Or not. So I'll have to get back to you in late August!

*R. J. Donovan is Editor and Publisher of [onstageboston.com](http://onstageboston.com).*

\*\*\*

"Ballroom With A Twist," North Shore Music Theatre in Beverly, August 8, 9, nsmt.org. (Also Cape Cod Playhouse in Dennis, through August 3, [capeplayhouse.com](http://capeplayhouse.com); and Ogunquit Playhouse in Ogunquit, ME, August 27 - 31, [ogunquit-playhouse.org](http://ogunquit-playhouse.org).)

(Continued from page 12) **TM:** My favorite dances are always the slow ones. I love the Waltz and Rumba. . . I'm pretty laid back and I enjoy taking my time and moving around to the more emotional dances, more so than the action packed ones. Although I just love to perform whatever my partners get the most enjoyment out of.

**BIR:** But there's no scoring involved, correct?

**TM:** There's no competition here – we're just all coming together to put on a great show and entertain. There's something for everyone whether its ballroom, contemporary, break dancing, vocals – it's got it all. Myself and Anna host the show together, which is fun for me, and there's a short audience Q & A involved as well.

**BIR:** With so many choices on "DWTS," do you have a favorite dance to present?

**BIR:** Speaking of your partners, you joined Derek Hough and Kellie Pickler near the end of the "DWTS" season this past spring for a spectacular trio Paso Doble. The audience went insane over it. Carrie Ann and Bruno both loved it, but Len Goodman was pretty pointed in his criticism.

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7:30 P.M.

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## Direct From Ireland: Susan McCann



Susan McCann, also known as Ireland's First Lady hales from Co. Armagh in the North of Ireland, will make a visit to Boston this month with her band. With album sales of over million units, Susan is one of the most sought after artists on the Irish circuit today.

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7:30 PM

Irish Social Club, West Roxbury  
Dance/ also playing – The Silver Spears

Sunday, September 1  
7:30 PM

Florian Hall, Dorchester  
Dance/ also playing – The Silver Spears



Tickets \$25.00  
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Boston-area musicians Flynn Cohen (right) and Kathleen Parks joined up with accordion legend John Whelan at last month's New Bedford Folk Festival. *Sean Smith photo*

## Colm Toibin, Jim Crace among Booker contenders

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON – Jim Crace, Tash Aw, and Colm Toibin are among 13 authors competing for the prestigious Booker Prize for fiction in a field that's heavy with new writing talent.

“Harvest” by Britain's Crace, “Five Star Billionaire” by Malaysia's Aw, and Irish writer Toibin's “The Testament of Mary” are among nominated books from Ireland, Britain, Zimbabwe, New Zealand, Canada, Australia, and Malaysia.

Americans are ineligible for the prize, which is open to writers from Britain, *Ireland* and the Commonwealth. But several of the books are by US-based writers, including “The Lowland” by Jhumpa Lahiri – born in Britain to Indian parents – and “TransAtlantic” by *Ireland*-born Colum McCann.

Also on the list are “We

Need New Names” by NoViolet Bulawayo; “The Luminaries” by Eleanor Catton; “The Marrying of Chani Kaufman” by Eve Harris; “The Kills” by Richard House; Alison MacLeod's “Unexploded”; “Almost English” by Charlotte Mendelson; “A Tale for the Time Being” by Ruth Ozeki; and Donal Ryan's “The Spinning Heart.”

Judging panel chair Robert Macfarlane said the list was the most diverse in prize history, “wonderfully various in terms of geography, form, length and subject.”

Seven of the books are by women, three are first novels, and only two of the writers, Crace and Toibin, are previous Booker finalists.

A shortlist will be announced Sept. 10 and the winner of the 50,000 pound (\$75,000 prize) will be revealed on Oct. 15.

## Devri: fetching blend of personalities and temperaments

(Continued from page 1)

by keyboards, flute, whistles and sax – and even by the pipes and drums of the Boston Police Gaelic Column.

They are, as they put it, “a band for all occasions,” as capable of rocking out the house as they are speeding through a Kerry polka – sometimes doing those things simultaneously – or following up a Johnny Cash number with, say, an old sentimental favorite like “Lovely Irish Rose” and then a hard-charging Pogues song.

Most of all, though, Devri seems to be a near-perfect blend of personalities and temperaments, where there's always somebody who can say the right thing to deflate anyone's bout of over-seriousness. Simply put, they're four quite experienced musicians who like playing together.

“I've been in loads of bands, but this one is special,” says Houton, a north Donegal native who's been in the US for 12 years and became a citizen last year; O'Callaghan, from Kerry, is the band's other native Irishman; Parrish hails from Grove City, Pa., and Flint spent the first 13 years of his life in Ventura, Calif., before moving to Arlington. “It's not one guy with three helpers. We all have an equal share of the spotlight. And we all get along great.”

Parrish agrees: “We're not a bunch of wild young things; we're older guys, some of us with kids at home. This is just a way for us to play some music, have some fun – maybe help people a little – and for me, it works perfectly. I really look forward to our gigs.”

The intersection of Houton and O'Callaghan, who both grew up with Irish music, with Flint and Parrish is another unlikely but important aspect of Devri. Flint was part of the groundbreaking band John Lincoln Wright & The Sour Mash Boys, which was part of the trend in the late 1970s/early '80s that saw country music find popularity in more urban settings (he calls it “the urban cowboy era”), and continued to perform and write songs in the country scene.

Parrish, meanwhile, found his métier in country rock through listening to The Byrds and Clarence White, among others, and like Flint – with whom he played as part of the Sour Mash Boys – cultivated a career as a touring and studio musician

(he appeared on the highly acclaimed 1998 album “Cry Cry Cry” by Richard Shindell, Lucy Kaplansky, and Dar Williams).

Houton and Flint met through the local Irish band Inchicore, and ultimately decided to strike out on their own, pulling in other musicians – like O'Callaghan and Parrish, as well as fiddler Kevin Doherty – they had come to know over the years. Playing Irish music was perfectly natural to Houton and O'Callaghan, and Flint (who also played with Derek Warfield) and Parrish found it a smooth transition.

“American country music came out of the hills of Ireland,” says Flint, “so it felt very familiar to me.”

Adds Parrish, “I always thought Irish music was ‘toora-loora-loora,’ but when I heard them rip through those jigs and reels, it reminded me of the hillbilly sound, albeit with a few differences, that I heard long ago. It fit me just fine.”

And Devri has fit just fine at venues like the Boston pubs Mr. Dooley's and The Black Rose, and events such as the Boston Irish Festival at the Irish Cultural Centre of New England. But the band has made a point of appearing in concerts benefiting such organizations as Lucy's Love Bus [[lucyslovebus.org](http://lucyslovebus.org)], which aids children with cancer, and Cops for Kids with Cancer. One of their more memorable gigs was teaming up with Pauline Wells – the Cambridge police lieutenant known for, among other things, her stirring rendition of “The Star Spangled Banner” at numerous Boston-area events – at a performance in New York City for family members of police officers killed in 9/11.

Parrish says, “If we can contribute our musical services and help someone in the process, it's an honor.”

“When someone comes to us for a charity function, we will do it if we possibly can,” says Houton. “We don't boast about it; we're not trying to be white knights or anything. We just do what we can. And the thing is, when you take part in these kinds of benefits, you learn so much about what families have to go through. Then you realize how lucky you are.”

Devri has now captured its sound on its debut CD, “Broad Street,” the title referring to the location of Mr. Dooley's, one of their regular gigs. And, as elsewhere, the genesis of the



Photo courtesy [inishowennews.com](http://inishowennews.com)

recording project was somewhat unorthodox.

“It was more out of shame and embarrassment,” quips Houton. “When I do bookings, of course, the venues will always ask, ‘Do you have a CD I can listen to?’ But even more importantly, it was people at our gigs: We went on a music cruise last year with about a thousand on board, and it seemed like everyone said to us, ‘I want to buy your CD!’ And we didn't have one to sell. So we just said, ‘I guess we have to record one.’”

So they did, booking a couple of days at Belltower Studios in Stoneham and recording 20 tracks, 12 of which wound up in the final mix, that “represent a good cross-section of what we do,” says Houton. The Irish tradition is represented by “The Lakes of Pontchatrain,” “Lovely Irish Rose,” “Tell Me Ma” and an instrumental set that concludes the album, as well as Percy French's “Mountains of Mourne,” while Dominic Behan's “Black and Tans” recalls the ballad/rebel song era. Barry Moore's “City of Chicago,” Liam Reilly's “Flight of Earls,” and Jimmy McCarthy's “Ride On” characterize the more contemporary end of the Devri repertoire.

Joining the four at various points are flute and whistle player Caroline O'Shea (part of the dynamic trad-band The Ivy Leaf) and keyboardist Martin McPhillimy. Wells teams up with Houton on “Ride On,” arguably the album's most compelling track.

“Broad Street” also has a few special features. For starters, literally, is the opening track, Bruce Springsteen's “American Land,” which Devri doesn't actually play in concert, says

Houton: “We just wanted to make a statement about being Americans, though we're from different places. I know that Steve and I, as much as we love Ireland, are proud of the US and are glad that we're here.”

In a similar vein is the next track, Houton's original “Leaving Ireland,” which he says is his first real attempt at songwriting.

“I didn't even think about having a song of mine on the album,” he says, “but as we were playing with the Boston Police Gaelic Column, we needed something in B-flat, that would go with the pipes. So Larry – who's always good with the advice – just said, ‘Why don't you write one?’ And I have to say, it came pretty quickly.”

“Leaving Ireland” is a modern-day take on the Irish legacy of immigration to America, and Boston in particular, with an intercontinental jet plane and boarding pass standing in for the packet ship of old. Houton evokes the conflicting emotion common to many Irish ex-pats (and immigrants from other countries, for that matter), relishing life in America but still feeling ties to the homeland, especially through music and dance.

In one verse, Houton remarks on another timeless, yet no less poignant and sometimes difficult, facet of immigrant life:

While our kids don't have our accents, they dance our jigs and reels

America is in their tongues, Ireland's in their heels

“My own kids sometimes get on me about my accent – though not in a cruel way – so that came from the heart,” says Houton.

The last verse pulls together the past and present, and various threads of the Irish-American experience, and segues into the Boston Police Gaelic Column's rendition of a classic Irish song:

Now I'm a mason, I'm a lawyer, I'm a doctor, I'm a nurse

I'm a waitress, I'm a nanny, I'm a bollix, I'm a curse

A Sunday morning front seat, a Monday morning thief

A picture in Paddy Barry's, a union labor chief

And I'm a heart that beats with so much pride and a tear that fills an eye

When in March I stand on Broadway and watch the parade pass by

I'm a piper in the police force, Boston's finest band

And when the pipes and drums play ‘The Minstrel Boy,’ I miss old Ireland

“When I heard what Declan came up with,” says Parrish, “I told him, ‘Man, you had enough for *four* songs, not just one.’”

Flint, meanwhile, contributed a song of his own to the album, on which he sings lead. With echoes of Ralph McTell's “Streets of London,” “Junior” speaks to the all-too-frequent propensity to find amusement in, or to simply ignore, those who seem eccentric or “different” – without any thought as to how they may have gotten that way:

As he sings to himself in the shadows

And argues with things that he hears

Better next time you cry for a loved one who's gone

Remember that Junior's still here

“It's self-explanatory,” says Flint. “It's a very personal song – a very Irish song, if you think about some of what the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem used to do. I had recorded it on an album on my own a few years ago, and hadn't really thought about doing it with Devri, but Declan insisted we put it on the CD.”

Houton feels pretty fortunate for having made the acquaintance of so many friends through Devri and other musical activities.

“My father used to say, ‘The people you meet through music are usually some of the best people you'll know.’ He was right.”



# Ireland’s great outdoors: cornucopia for the active set

By JUDY ENRIGHT  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

There was a time not so long ago in Ireland when bicycles and feet were the primary modes of transportation, especially out in the rural areas.

Of course, there were motorized vehicles then, too, but certainly not the numbers that there are today. And, bicycles were mostly useful, old-fashioned and clunky—not sleek racing machines.

But a lot has changed in Ireland over the years and that includes the somewhat recent focus on active recreation and having outdoor fun. You can find all kinds of independent or group active sports all over the country now as well as any number of adventure centers. It’s not uncommon these days to pass joggers or bicyclists on the main roads where once you only saw the renegade horse or sheep.

If you’re a walker or a cyclist, there’s so much for you to see and do in Ireland in every season. There are many groups and individuals that lead walking and cycling tours and there are numerous cycling races and cross-country events to sign up for as well.

### TOURS

Walkers can brush up on their history and get some exercise by taking guided heritage and historical tours offered in many cities and some of the smaller towns. Dublin, for instance, has a two-hour guided walking tour to see landmarks from the Easter Rising of 1916. See [1916rising.com](http://1916rising.com) for more.

Several years ago, we took a fascinating guided walking tour to the many historic spots in Youghal, Co. Cork. And, that’s just one small town, so imagine how many other towns and cities all over Ireland offer such tours. See [heritageisland.com](http://heritageisland.com) or [discoverireland.com](http://discoverireland.com) for more details.

The best way to find out what’s available wherever you are in Ireland is to stop in at the local tourist board office (Bord Fáilte) where you see the big green shamrock or, if you know in advance what areas you’ll be visiting, check out Tourism Ireland’s website ([discoverireland.com](http://discoverireland.com)) for activities, events, festivals, accommodations, and so much more.

### WALKING

If you are looking for great places to walk, be sure to include Connemara (Co. Galway), the Burren (Co. Clare), and the Great Western Greenway (Co. Mayo) on your list.

In Connemara, you can stroll the many marked walking trails and enjoy the sea, shore, and mountains. Down the coast, in Clare, is the magical Burren, a hauntingly beautiful limestone moonscape bordered by the sea and by some wonderful coastal towns like Doolin, Lahinch, Ballyvaughan, and Liscannor. Guided and self-guided tours are offered in both Connemara and the Burren that focus on various aspects of the region, including ecology and history.



Luxury accommodation awaits at Gregan’s Castle Hotel in Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare.



Shown here is one of 21 lovely bedrooms and suites at Gregan’s Castle Hotel in Ballyvaughan. Some bedrooms even have their own private gardens. The owners (Simon Haden and his wife Frederieke McMurray) say that each room has spectacular views and that windows are really just frames to showcase nature’s art.

The Great Western Greenway, Ireland’s longest off-road walking and cycling trail, connects Westport to Achill Island in Co. Mayo. You can walk the route or hire a bike from one of many locations along the way. There are many places to stay and numerous spots for an enjoyable lunch in the area, such as the Granuaile Pub in Newport and the Mulranny Park Hotel that overlooks lovely Clew Bay. See [greenway.ie](http://greenway.ie) for more details.

### THE BURREN

Recognized by UNESCO in 2011 with Global and European Geopark status, the Burren and Cliffs of Moher region not only has the geological importance required of a Geopark, but also a network of organizations that oversees tourism, education, and conservation.

With land mass measuring more than 530 kilometers, the region offers a diversity second to none, according to the Irish website [burrenconnect.ie](http://burrenconnect.ie). “There is the natural beauty of the 200 meter high Cliffs with its eight kilometers of rugged coastline, and there is beauty in the vast array of flora, including Arctic and Alpine flowers that bloom alongside Mediterranean species. There is also a staggering amount of history in the Burren region with more than 2,700 recorded monuments, some dating back more than 6,000 years. This has led to the Burren being described as ‘one vast memorial to bygone

cultures.’”

The Burren is “an upside-down world of contradictions where rivers run underground through a honeycomb of caves carved by nature through low-resistance limestone; year-round pasture flourishes at rocky heights. Burren roads that vary in age from 200 to 1,000 years lead back through 7,000 years of habitation marked by 120 ancient stone tombs, 500 stone forts plus castles and churches from every century of the Christian era,” according to Burren Connect.

When you and I look across the limestone landscape in the Burren, though, it’s tempting to say we see only a sea of dull, grey rocks. However, when you get out of your car, walk across the uneven plates, and look down into the crevices, you’ll see (during growing season) the most fascinating plants and flowers. Sea pinks flourish by the water and inland are blue gentians and orchids and so many more species.

A number of companies offer guided walking and bike tours of the area. We thought Burren Wild sounded especially interesting because the founder, John Connolly, is reportedly the only walking guide in Ireland to give tours on his own land. John has a degree in Irish heritage and his day tours or weekend hikes cover such subjects as history, archaeology, mythology, botany, story telling, folklore and traditions, Poteen



The dining room tables are ready for diners at Gregan’s Castle Hotel. Head Chef David Hurley creates modern dishes with locally sourced ingredients including organic Burren lamb and game, fresh Atlantic fish and shellfish. Gregan’s has won numerous awards for the excellence of the food.

Judy Enright photos

distilling, and more. For details, contact John at [info@burrenwalks.com](mailto:info@burrenwalks.com) or visit the website [burrenwalks.com](http://burrenwalks.com)

Keep an eye out in the Burren too for a wonderful magazine, Burren Insight, published by the Burrenbeo Trust in Kinvara. For more about Burrenbeo, send an e-mail to [trust@burrenbeo.com](mailto:trust@burrenbeo.com) or visit the website at [burrenbeo.com](http://burrenbeo.com). We usually find Insight at the tourist office in Ballyvaughan.

### BOGHILL CENTRE

Here’s an idea for an interesting holiday adventure. Be a participant in classes, tours, or workshops through the Boghill Centre, a residential holistic Eco venue in Kilfenora, Co. Clare.

There are workshops, courses, meetings, events, retreats, weddings, and more at Boghill, a sustainable complex in 50 acres at the base of the Burren that

is open all year as a B&B and hostel and also offers group accommodation.

At Boghill, you can visit organic vegetable and fruit gardens, walk a nature trail, see a stone circle, wildlife pond, reed labyrinth, chicken coop and pigpen, orchard, and several recently planted native woodland areas. The gourmet menu is renowned for vegetarian fare, sourced primarily from an organic garden and orchard. The Centre caters to specific diets, too, such as wheat, dairy, or gluten free.

At the nearby Burren Perfumery in Carran, you can also enjoy a walk through an outstanding garden and stop for a delicious organic lunch. And don’t forget to take home some of their wonderful perfumery products – soaps, balms, creams, and more.

When you talk about

small world, we were in Doolin recently and met Brockton, MA, native Mary Sheehan. A professional chef, Mary moved to Co. Clare some years ago and has since written a cookbook called, “Coming Home To Cook – Vegetarian Recipes Inspired by the Organic Gardens of Ireland.” For more information on the book and Mary, visit her website at [marysheehan.com](http://marysheehan.com).

### CONNEMARA

Here’s a fun way to learn about the heritage of Connemara and get some exercise, too. Take a Heritage Walk with renowned local archaeologist Michael Gibbons, the author of numerous books about the area. There are currently three guided walks in the area of Connemara – on Inishbofin Island, Diamond Hill, and the Roundstone bog. Each of the three walks has been designed with the casual walker in mind. Further walks are being planned for the summer season. For more information, send an e-mail to [Michael@connemarawalks.com](mailto:Michael@connemarawalks.com) or visit the website, [connemarawalks.com](http://connemarawalks.com)

You can also enjoy a five-day walking tour of Clifden, Killary, Inishbofin, Inishturk, and Clare Island with archaeologist Gerry McCloskey. The tour includes breakfast, gourmet picnics by day, dinner each evening and accommodation. For more, send an e-mail to [info@abbeyglen.ie](mailto:info@abbeyglen.ie) or visit the website, [walkingconnemara.com](http://walkingconnemara.com)

### GARDENS

This is a bit of a departure from the wilds of Connemara, but the gardeners in your group would no doubt tremendously enjoy a guided tour with Head Gardener Michael Byrne through the 10,000 beautiful tulips in Powerscourt Gardens on April 12. For details, contact [aoife.odriscoll@powerscourt.net](mailto:aoife.odriscoll@powerscourt.net) or visit the website at [powerscourt.ie/events](http://powerscourt.ie/events). Visit [discoverireland.com](http://discoverireland.com) to see what counties list gardens that are open to the public during the time you’re in Ireland. Kylemore Abbey in Connemara has magnificent, restored gardens that are definitely well worth a visit.

Most of all, be sure to check with your favorite travel agent or jump on the internet to search for the best air and ground deals, and then enjoy your trip to Ireland whenever and wherever you go.



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The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

For the past months we have been both reviewing the **comparisons** and introducing some new material. One thing that was new was the “Equative”, where two things or people were “equal”. Another was how to say, “Its mine”, “yours”, “his”, and so on. Here are some examples of all of these:

- Statement: **Tá an aimsir go breá.**  
“The weather is fine.”
- Equative: **Tá an aimsir inniu chomh breá le inné.**  
“The weather today is as fine as yesterday.”
- Comparative: **Bhí an aimsir innu níos breá.** Or ...  
**Bhí an aimsir innu níos breácha.**  
(Galway)  
“The weather yesterday was finer.”
- Superlative: **Bhí an aimsir inniu is breá.** Or ...  
**Bhí an aimsir inniu is breácha.** (Galway)  
“The weather yesterday was finest.”

In Galway Irish **adjectives** of one syllable that end in a final **vowel sounds** or **diphthongs** make the comparative ( *-er* ) and superlative ( *-est* ) by adding **-(o)cha**. Notice that I said “**vowel sound**” because some of these end in an “historic consonant combination” such as **liath**, /LEE-uh/ “grey”.

Diphthongs are two-vowel sign combinations made with **–u-** and **–i-** and count as one sound. Traditionally these are made with “strong vowels” – **a, e, o** – and “weak vowels”, **-u** and **–i**. The easy way to remember these are the phrase, “You and I are weak.”

Here are some examples:

<b>breá</b>	“fine”	<b>breácha</b>	“finer, finest”
<b>crua</b>	“hard”	<b>cruacha</b>	“harder, hardest”
<b>rua</b>	“reddish brown”	<b>ruacha</b>	“redder, reddest”
<b>luath</b>	“early”	<b>luathcha</b>	“earlier, earliest”
<b>liath</b>	“grey”	<b>liathcha</b>	“greyer, greyest”

Of course, there are more in this category but these will serve as illustrations and are among the most common. Learn these.  
Sometimes the “silent” letters at the end of a word are omitted. An example is **réidh**, “ready”, **réacha** “readier, readiest”.

You do remember how to say “mine”? It is **mo cheannsa**. The base word is **ceannsa** but **mo, do**, and **a** “his” *lenite*, **a** “hers” does not. The plurals, “our, your-plural”, and “their” *eclipse* the following **c-, a gceannsa** “theirs”.

<b>mo cheannsa</b>	“mine”
<b>ar gceannsa</b>	“ours”
<b>do cheannsa</b>	“yours”
<b>‘ur gceannsa</b>	“yours-plural”
<b>a cheannsa</b>	“his”
<b>a gceannsa</b>	“theirs”
<b>a ceannsa</b>	“hers”

It is time to keep my promise and give you the opportunity to practice. See if you can translate the following sentences or phrases into Irish. There is one new word here – **gruaig** “hair on the head”. There are other words for hair elsewhere.

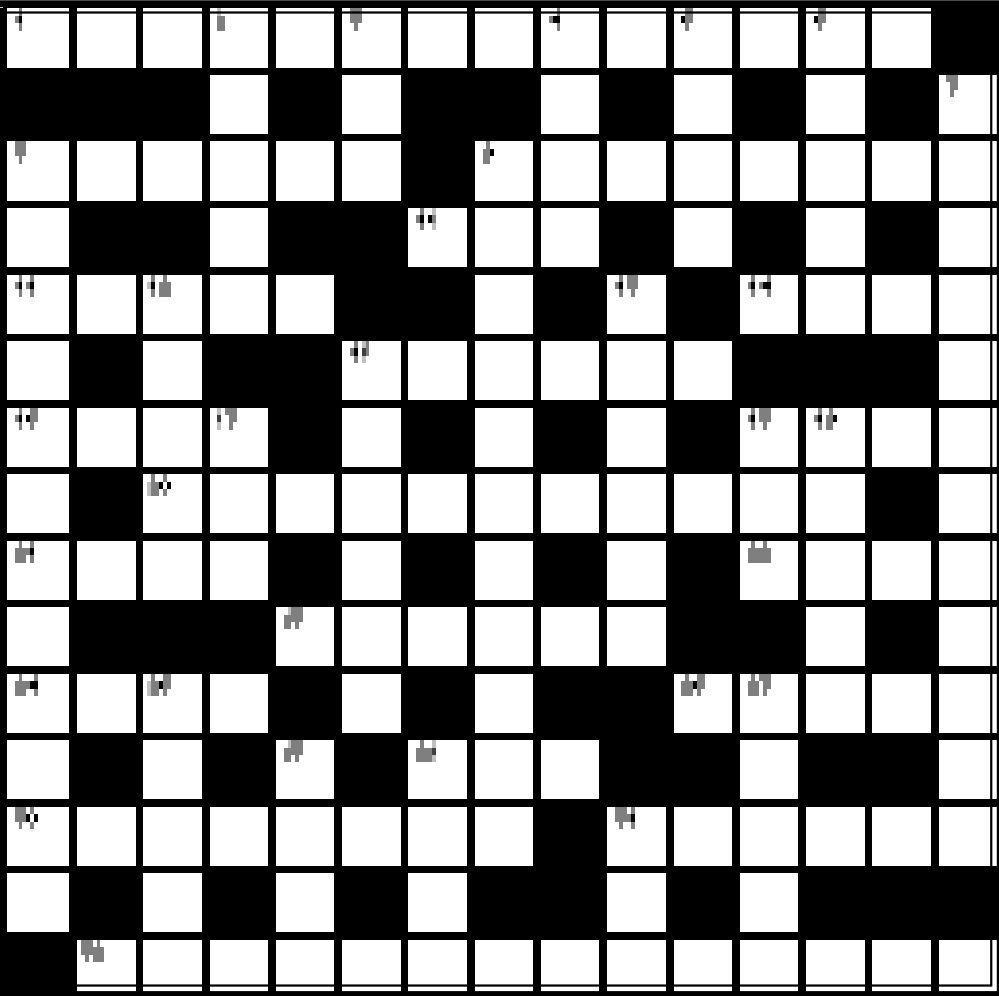
“Is this cup of coffee yours?” 2.) “No, it’s hers.” 3.) “Wasn’t that girl very beautiful”. 4.) “Yes. I like red hair.” 5.) “My daughter is sick”. 6.) “I sorry. I didn’t know.” 7.) “Do you speak Irish?” 8.) “Yes. I speak a little.” 9.) “But my little sister is better.” 10.) “Little sister? You are the smallest.” 11.) “It’s not very cold outside. I will wear a sweater.” 12.) “My wife is as tall as your son.” 13.) “How old is he?” 14.) “He is twelve. 15.) Is she the smallest of your family?” 16.) “This is the worst weather.” 17.) “This priest is the tallest”

Answers: 1.) **A bhfuil an cupa caife seo do cheannsa?** 2.) **Níl. Tá a ceannsa.**  
3.) **Nach raibh an callín seo go hálainn?** 4.) **Beidh. Is maith liom an gruaig rua.** 5.) **Tá mo híníon tine.** 6.) **Gabh mo leithscéall. Níl fhios agam.** 7.) **A bhfuil Gaelge agat?** 8.) **Tá. Tá beagan Gaelge agam. Ach tá mo deifiúr bheag níos fearr.** 9.) **Deifiúr bheag? Tá tù an lù.** 10.) **Níl go fhuar amuigh. Bhí geansaí orm.** 12.) **Is mo bhean chomh airde le mo mhac.** 13.) **Cén aois sé?** 14.) **Tá sé dha mbliana deag.** 15.) **An bhfuil sí an lù do’n theaghlach?** 16.) **Tá aimsir an measa.** 17. **Tá an t-sagart is airde.**

Comments: In 3.) and 5.) you must remember to prefix an **h** to words that begin with a vowel. In 4.) and the part of 6.) you have idioms. You have “knowledge”, **fios**, as well as languages. **Ag** plus a **noun/pronoun** is used to show possession.  
In 10.) the sweater is “on me”. In 14.) you have to put the word “year” between “two” and “ten/teen”. A noun here is always singular no matter how many there are. Remember that **fios** and **nios** are pronounced /fees/ and /nees/. The **–o-** is there to show you that the **–s** is not pronounced as /sh/. After a **negative** the next word is **lenited**.

CELTIC CROSS WORDS

The Irish crosswords are a service of an Ireland-based website which provides Irish Family Coats of Arms by email. You are invited to visit\_ [www. bigwood.com/ heraldry](http://www.bigwood.com/heraldry)



IRELAND IN CROSSWORDS ©-bigwood.com

- ACROSS**
1. A land isn’t alive. (anag.) In offshore Kerry 7 miles by 2 miles, one of the most westerly in Europe. (8,6)  
8. Tram comes over before nine for the surrounding rock in which gems are embedded. (6)  
9. Had dock been cut down when summoned by gesture? (8)  
10. Glengarriff axiomatically includes a means of communication shortly. (3)  
11. Drives forward as seen in Clonbur gestures. (5)  
14. Up the ante very high in Sicily. (4)  
15. C.O. right to take all back in by the throat! (6)  
16. Reptile to date. (4)  
18. Discover in Corofin diversion. (4)  
20. Will lurches about in the heights of north west Roscommon between Boyle and Sligo. (6,5)  
21. Regretted rude disorder. (4)  
22. Human bone discovered in Anascaul natural environment. (4)  
23. A lot of money to be made from the law? (6)  
24. Not quite dark, but it’s close. (4)  
26. Clotho, Lachesis and Atropos turn the seat over after a loud start. (5)  
29. “When I makes —, I makes —, as old mother Grogan said. And when I makes water I makes water.” Joyce. (3)  
30. Verse Rob cut out and sent to English newspaper. (8)  
31. Rig not assembled in Tyrone village in the Owen-killew River valley not far from Omagh. (6)  
32. Mercury to crash. (anag.) Pleasant Cork seaside resort in a sylvan setting near Timoleague Abbey. (14)

- DOWN**
2. Poetic as ever, that is strange, back in Eire, even (5)  
3. Give little thanks to ten for deducting this from your wages. (3)  
4. Genus of holly seen in O’Neil example. (4)  
5. “Take care of what you — —, or you will be forced to — — what you get.” Shaw. (4)  
6. Mortice partner returns for the musical group, having one over the eight. (5)  
7. Draws one card and shuffles for the 1910 northern leader of no surrender, born in Dublin and educated in T.C.D. (6,6)

8. Round Bann, Tom. (anag.) Kerry height of 3,127 feet near Dingle. (5,6)  
9. Later by wall up in Down village in the Ards peninsula, with fine sandy beaches. (11)  
12. Note, running competition is not a sin! (5)  
13. Give generously to whip six inside. (6)  
15. Not so hot when century is not so young. (6)  
17. It’s counterfeit, whichever way you look at it. (3)  
18. Recuperating from this short illness in Glengarriff luxury? (3)  
19. Small offshore piece of land is rented out. (5)  
25. Enthusiasm shown by sudden blow over nothing. (5)  
27. “Our Garrick’s a salad for in him we see oil, vinegar, sugar and saltiness — —.” Goldsmith. (5)  
28. The brother of Joel Chandler Harris’s Uncle Remus. (4)  
29. Name used in school time? (4)  
31. But this American fuel is liquid! (3)

(Puzzle solution on page 19)

Irish Sayings ...

“A friends eye is a good mirror.”  
“It is the good horse that draws its own cart.”  
“A lock is better than suspicion.”  
“Two thirds of the work is the semblance.”  
“He who gets a name for early rising can stay in bed until midday.”  
“If you do not sow in the spring you will not reap in the autumn.”  
“Put silk on a goat, and it’s still a goat.”  
“Listen to the sound of the river and you will get a trout.”  
“A persons heart is in his feet.”  
“It is a long road that has no turning.”  
“Necessity knows no law.”  
“The wearer best knows where the shoe pinches.”  
“There is no luck except where there is discipline.”  
“The man with the boots does not mind where he places his foot.”  
“The light heart lives long.”  
True greatness knows gentleness.

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# Justice minister: Ireland must widen abortion law

(Continued from page 1)

Higgins received the bill Wednesday and had until July 31 to decide whether to sign it into law or refer it to the Supreme Court, the ultimate arbiter of the constitutionality of Ireland's laws.

Shatter said he sided with those liberal lawmakers who would have liked the bill to legalize abortion also in cases where the pregnancy was caused by rape or incest, or when DNA tests or scans confirm that the fetus cannot survive following birth because of missing organs or other deadly defects.

Ireland's constitutional ban on abortion means that women in those circumstances either must bear the child to full term or travel to another European nation, chiefly neighboring Britain, for a termination.

"Clearly many women who find themselves in these circumstances ad-

dress this issue by taking the plane or the boat to England," Shatter said, calling this "a British solution to an Irish problem."

"I believe it is a great cruelty that our law creates a barrier to a woman in circumstances where she has a fatal fetal abnormality being able to have a pregnancy terminated ... knowing it has no real prospect of survival following birth," he said.

Shatter was speaking at Ireland's Rape Crisis Center, where he also called for a future referendum to amend the law to permit abortion to end unwanted pregnancies caused by sexual assaults and incest. He said requiring women to carry these fetuses to full term also involved "unacceptable cruelty."

A series of Irish opinion polls this year have registered strong public support for Shatter's view, with more than 80 percent favoring the legalization of

abortion in cases of rape, incest, and fatal fetal defects.

Ireland is one of only two European Union members, alongside Malta, that outlaws abortion except in life-threatening cases.

The bill principally would close a decades-old confusion in Ireland's law dating to 1992, when the Supreme Court ruled that abortions deemed necessary to save a woman's life must be legal, given her own constitutional right to life.

Six straight Irish governments since then have refused to pass supporting legislation, principally because Ireland's highest court cited a woman's threat to commit suicide as one legally acceptable ground for permitting an abortion.

The bill would allow abortions for suicidal women only if a panel of three doctors, including

two psychiatrists, unanimously agrees that the woman's threat is serious and can be alleviated only by granting her demand for a termination.

Anti-abortion activists warn that this rule will be exploited by suicide-fakers and biased doctors. Those seeking wider abortion rights in Ireland counter that pregnant women in mental-health crises will remain far more likely to travel to England — where abortion was legalized in 1967 and where around 4,000 Irish residents receive abortions annually — rather than subject themselves to awkward, uncertain psychiatric scrutiny on home soil.

## Jerry Brown, spouse dig for roots in Europe

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Gov. Jerry Brown and his wife, Anne Gust Brown, spent two weeks last month visiting their ancestral countries of Ireland and Germany where they planned to get in touch with their family roots.

The Browns had a five-day stop in Ireland, followed by nine days in Germany, according to

Brown's spokesman Evan Westrup. The pair expected to return to California by month's end.

The governor visited relatives and sites connected to his great-grandfathers. One emigrated from Germany in 1848, and another fled Ireland during the po-

tato famine. The couple has stops scheduled in Dublin and Tipperary along with Soest, Wüsten, Bremen, Berlin, and Munich in Germany.

"We like to go back and connect the dots," Brown told The Sacramento Bee before leaving on his trip.

## Penn State, Central Florida '14 opener at Croke Park

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
DUBLIN — Penn State will open its 2014 football season against the University of Central Florida in Ireland, the first international game for either team. Officials from both schools along with the Gaelic Athletic Association announced last month that the game will be played at Croke Park on Aug. 30, 2014, and will air on ESPN2.

Penn State athletic director Dave Joyner and George O'Leary, the Central Florida coach, gave details of the game during halftime of the Leinster Senior Football Championship Final between Dublin and Meath.

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PUZZLE SOLUTION FROM PAGE 18

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