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# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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## A GATHERING IN DONEGAL



Kerryman Mark Lyons, the bus driver assigned to Cardinal O'Malley's pilgrimage tour to Knock last month, made this photo in Donegal at Grainan of Aileach ring fort overlooking Lough Swilly. Waving hello are pilgrims from New England who traveled through the Great Atlantic Way in Ireland's northwest while on the island for the services at Knock. Story, Page 3.

## JOE DERRANE DIES AT 86 Dance hall legend, master accordionist

BY SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR  
Accordionist Joe Derrane, a beloved figure from the golden age of Boston's Irish dance halls whose musical career experienced a revival during the 1990s, died on July 22. He was 86.

Derrane's improbable "rediscovery" while in his 60s earned him a National Heritage Fellowship in 2004 from the National Endowment for the Arts, and brought his music to a new generation of admirers.

Born of Irish immigrant parents – both musicians themselves – Derrane started playing button accordion at age 10, and was a senior at Roxbury Mission High School when he began recording a series of 78 RPM records that would become legendary in Irish-American music. These 78s showcased Derrane's distinctive style, marked by a masterful combination of ornamentation and rhythm as well as skillful chord progressions and substitutions.

By then, Derrane was a mainstay in Boston's storied Irish dance halls – notably those in Roxbury's Dudley Street neighborhood – that were an integral part of the Irish-American community



Joe Derrane relaxing at his home in Randolph in 2010. Sean Smith photo

for decades. As an adult, Derrane would play a regular assortment of gigs, whether in Boston or even farther afield, all the while working for what is now the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority.

But as the dance hall era came to an end in the 1960s, Derrane – by now with a family of his own – found he had to adapt to the new musical

landscape: Reluctantly, he traded in his button accordion (he later switched to keyboards), and turned to other styles and genres of music. The recordings he'd made earlier still cropped up from time to time, on radio shows or in private collections, but most listeners assumed Derrane was too infirm to play, or that he'd died. By

1990, he had essentially retired from music.

By that time, however, the Irish traditional music revival was in full swing, and when Rego Records reissued Derrane's recordings in album form in 1993, he found himself back in the spotlight. In 1994, he was invited to play at the prestigious Wolf Trap Festival in

(Continued on page 12)

## Irish border controls an issue as British confront Brexit effect

BY JILL LAWLESS  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON – Britain wants to find a "practical solution" to ensure there will be no new border controls between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland when the UK leaves the European Union, Prime Minister Theresa May said on July 25 in Belfast.

Northern Ireland is the only part of the United Kingdom to share a land border with another EU member. Residents and businesses on both sides of the frontier fear a return to customs and immigration controls along the unmarked border.

The UK and Ireland had shared a common travel area since "many years before either country was a member of the European Union. "Nobody wants to return to the borders of the past," May said after talks with Northern Ireland First Minister Arlene Foster and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness that focused on the potential consequences of a British EU exit.

The referendum result also raises questions about the future of Northern Ireland, which experienced decades of violence between Irish nationalists and British unionists that have eased following a 1998 peace settlement.

The leaders of Northern Ireland's power-sharing administration took opposite sides during the referendum campaign. Foster's Democratic Unionist Party backed the "leave" side, while McGuinness's Irish nationalist Sinn Féin campaigned to "remain," arguing that a British exit would force authorities to revive trade barriers and renew physical security measures on hundreds of cross-border roads.

## Meet Boston's Rose of Tralee

Grace Schiller of Holliston, a student at Fairfield University, where she is studying English and Communication with a minor in theater, has been named Boston's 2016 Rose of Tralee. A ranked Irish step dancer, Ms. Schiller will compete with other young women of Irish descent later this month (Aug. 13-24) at this year's International Rose of Tralee Festival in Co. Kerry. See Page 3.



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

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BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett

Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

The GAA games are played every weekend at the Irish Cultural Center of New England in Canton. The matches always draw a strong group of spectators and Harry Brett was there one Sunday in July and captured these images.

Pictured are: 1.) Sinead Woods, Leanne McCrystal, Emer Fleming, Maura Doherty, all of Dorchester; 2.) John Farrell, Braintree; 3.) John McManus, Dorchester; Zoe Lapierre, Randolph; Cormac Moran; 4.) Siblings Dean and Marie Kelly, Dor.; 5.) Joanne McDonell, Quincy; Irene Greene, Somerville; 6.) Anne Byrne, Dorchester; James Kirk, Louth, Ireland; 7.) Deirdre Gormley, Quincy; Mark McKee, Westwood; 8.) Darrach Murphy, Willie Murphy, Dorchester; 9.) Ruairi Lavelle, Danny Neville, Dorchester; 10.) 3 yr. old Emma Rose and her Mom Aileen McGrath, Dor; 11.) Kevin and his dad Kevin McGrath, Milton; 12.) Vacationers From Ireland- James Minogue, Mayo; Donal McCann, Down; Conn O'Hanlon, Monahan; Rob Leonard, Sligo.

## Cardinal leads tour, joins in rededication of the Shrine at Knock

*The following is taken from Boston's Cardinal O'Malley's online blog, which is also published in The Pilot, the archdiocese's weekly newspaper.*

The Knock airport was established 30 years ago by the rector of the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock, and is now one of the most important airports in Ireland serving the Western part of the country.

"With us on the trip was Ambassador Raymond Flynn and his wife Kathy representing the city of Boston, since Mayor Marty Walsh was unable to be with us. With us as well was the "Lord Mayor of West Roxbury," Richie Gormley.

"When we arrived in Knock, we were met by the very impressive delegation of the Archbishop of Tuam, Michael Neary; Sir Joseph Kennedy, the chairperson of the board of directors of the airport who is a Knight Commander of the Papal Order of St. Gregory and was in full uniform with plumes and sword; Father Richard Gibbons, the rec-

tor of the Knock Shrine; and Al McDonnell, the Cathaoirleach of the Mayo County Council.

"From the airport we went to the shrine, where the next day I had an interview with Irish television followed by the Mass of rededication of the shrine. The crowd was most impressive. The shrine, which I believe holds about 5,000 people, was completely filled. On top of that, it was just a beautiful day for the celebration ... clear, bright and sunny.

"Practically every bishop in Ireland was there, along with the papal nuncio, Archbishop Charles Brown, US Ambassador to Ireland Kevin O'Malley, Taoiseach Enda Kenny, as well as representatives of the different Catholic associations and organizations.

"It was a very beautiful ceremony of rededication of the basilica, in which we consecrated the altar and the walls. The shrine has undergone extensive renovations, including a beautiful mosaic which is one of the largest in



Europe. It depicts the apparition of the Blessed Mother with St. Joseph, St. John, and the lamb with a cross on the altar.

"The apparition took place in August 1879. 15 witnesses saw the apparition and, a few months later, they all gave sworn testimonies to a commission of inquiry. At the end of the Mass 15 people dressed in period clothes representing those witnesses carried candles and processed to the altar.

"Of course, we concluded with the singing

of the beautiful hymn to Our Lady of Knock, which is so popular with Irish Americans. (We sang it at my father's funeral and we sing it every year on St. Patrick's Day at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross)."

**Above, Boston's Cardinal Sean O'Malley blessed the gathering at the Knock Shrine above as numerous prelates joined in the rededication rites last month.**



## Meet Boston's Rose of Tralee

Grace Schiller of Holliston, a student at Fairfield University, where she is studying English and Communication with a minor in theater, has been named Boston's 2016 Rose of Tralee. A ranked Irish step dancer, Ms. Schiller will compete with other young women of Irish descent later this month (Aug. 13-24) at this year's International Rose of Tralee Festival in Co. Kerry.

Schiller describes her road to the Rose of Tralee as the culmination of a lifelong dream of her grandfather.

"Ever since my first Irish Step Dance class, Papa has sung the Rose of Tralee song, patiently awaiting the day I was old enough to apply. Filling the role of eldest grandchild, Papa and I have a special bond. He is my biggest supporter, having attended all of my Irish Dance competitions from weekend feises to weeklong Nationals. He wanted to see me honored as the Rose to acknowledge the work I have completed and to more deeply connect to our Irish heritage.

"I look forward to the Rose of Tralee Festival in Ireland and hope to make Boston and New England as proud as I have made my papa!"



**Grace Schiller**

## Brett named to National Council on Disability

New England Council President & CEO Jim Brett has been appointed to the National Council on Disability, an independent federal agency that recommends disability policy to the president, Congress and other federal agencies.



**Jim Brett**

Brett was named to the council by US House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi. Appointments are made by the president, the Senate majority leader, the Senate minority leader, the speaker of the House, and the House minority leader pursuant to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act signed into law by President Obama in July 2014.

Brett been a lifelong advocate for people with disabilities. He currently serves in Massachusetts as the chairman of the Governor's Commission on Intellectual Disability, and is also a Commissioner of the Massachusetts Disabled Persons Protection Commission. He recently served as chairman of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities and continues to serve as a member of the committee.

## J-1 intern takes on the Big Apple, cites assistance he received from IIIC as vital

Michael Geraghty, who hails from the small village of Kilsheelan, on the Tipperary/Waterford border, obtained his bachelor degree in structural engineering at Cork Institute of Technology. He first learned about the J-1 Intern Work & Travel (J-1 IWT) visa in 2012, and decided it fit in with his aspiration to travel the world combined with a desire to gain the best experience possible in his field of study.

"Emigrating to a foreign country so far away from home can be exciting but at the same time overwhelming," he reports. "The application process requires you to gather numerous documents and the Irish International Immigration Center staff were on hand to ensure what I was submitting was sufficient. IIIC also sent me a step-by-step guide to obtaining a visa and were extremely accommodating with any questions I had. They are still providing advice and information to me seven months into my internship."

Geraghty arrived in New York armed with a list of organizations provided by the IIIC that could assist him once he landed. As to his job search, he said, "I work with a general contracting construction company. I researched the company's background and set up an interview with them. I went into the interview with as much confidence as possible, after having prepared



educated answers to typical interview questions."

Geraghty was expecting New York to be a bustling city with loads to do and he wasn't disappointed. "There is literally always something new and exciting to do here at any time of the day or night. Many in the working community of New York are not originally from the city, so you immediately have something in common with most of the people you meet. The biggest cultural difference is definitely the work ethic. New Yorkers are so driven, it is as if everybody is trying to outdo one another. The old saying, 'You snooze - you lose,' must have originated in NYC."

When asked if he has any advice for recent graduates interested in the J-1 IWT program, Geraghty responded, "Don't even think about it, just do it! You will uncover aspects of your personality you never knew existed. Travelling abroad, wherever you go, should not be all about work. The life experience is what's more important in my opinion!"

*The IIIC helps Irish graduates find paid, one-year, internships in the United States. If you have any openings, please contact Paul Pelan at ppelan@iiccenter.org*

**"The biggest cultural difference in New York is the work ethic."**

**— Michael Geraghty**

## Movement in Cork-Boston flights impasse

**By ED FORRY  
BIR PUBLISHER**

There is some movement in the impasse over plans to begin low-cost flights between Cork airport and Boston, according to published reports. A new budget airline, Norwegian Air International (NAI), has filed for approval from the American government to begin the regular service under terms of the EU-US "Open Skies" agreement.

It is understood that NAI also plans to offer new competition to Aer Lingus by offering additional flights to Boston from

Shannon, and additional flights from Cork to New York.

The *Irish Times* is reporting that civic leaders in Cork are cheering a decision by the European Commission to begin an arbitration procedure to settle a delay in approving a Cork-to-Boston air service.

The newspaper reported that Cork Chamber chief executive Conor Healy said reports that the Commission is to begin arbitration to resolve the impasse after consulting with EU States was a move in the

right direction to get the service up and running after over two years of stalemate.

"Everybody had been very frustrated by the lack of progress and the position adopted in the US and it's disappointing and unfortunate that it has got to the point where the EU has been forced into a position where it appears about to commence arbitration proceedings," said Healy.

"Certainly the reports from Brussels suggest it is imminent and I would welcome that very much as

I would expect arbitration will find that Norwegian should be granted their license in line with EU-US open skies agreement, which of course would be good news for Cork and for Ireland."

Trade unions in the US and in Ireland have expressed concern that NAI intend to operate the service with crews hired on non-EU and non-US contracts on cheaper rates of pay which will damage overall working conditions and labour protections in European and US aviation.

Publisher's Notebook

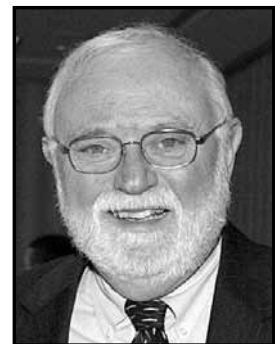
# Kaine is draped in Irish heritage

By Ed Forry

As the 2016 election season heats, the new media global village has captured the imagination of our ethnic cousins throughout the island of Ireland, and TV news is the messenger.

Recent Boston tourists in Ireland were surprised to discover Irish viewers glued to their tellys, watching the GOP convention on satellite channels CNN, SKY-TV, and BBC. Even Irish national broadcaster RTE had news crews in Cleveland, and later in Philadelphia, reporting the latest convention news. The major speeches were viewed in real time in living rooms all across the Emerald Isle.

And when the Trump crew finished its business in Ohio, and Hillary Clinton readied to reveal her choice for a VP running mate, the Irish media went over the top in reporting the nomination of Virginia's US Senator Tim Kaine:



"Clinton picks Irish-American senator Tim Kaine as running mate," was the headline in the *Irish Times*; "Clinton chooses Irish-American with Longford links as her vice-president," said the *Irish Independent*; "Potential US Vice-President Tim Kaine is 'honorary' Cork man who 'adopted' Courtmacsherry as his own," headlined the *Evening Echo*, adding, "The most likely candidate to become Vice-President of the United States has extensive Cork connections and is often spotted holidaying in Courtmacsherry."

The *Echo* reported that "Fianna Fáil leader, Micheál Martin, told the paper that it would be the 'dream ticket for Ireland' if the Clinton-Kaine duo won the vote for the White House in November... Family friend, Pádraig Fleming, from Courtmacsherry, was travelling to Philadelphia to see Mr. Kaine officially confirmed as Clinton's running mate, saying there wouldn't be a prouder Corkman in the world on the night. The vice presidential candidate has been a frequent visitor to Courtmacsherry in recent years, the West Cork haven that he calls his 'adopted Irish village.'"



Tim Kaine

Tim Kaine and his wife, Anne Holton, since they first visited Ireland in 2006."

The nominations at the two conventions virtually ensure that Joe Biden's successor will be another Irish American. While Kaine is well known for his Catholic faith and ancestry in Longford and Kilkenny, less well-known is the fact that Michael Pence, a lapsed Catholic, was an altar boy whose grandfather emigrated from Sligo.

In a speech last year at the annual American Irish Fund banquet in Washington, Kaine said, "I am about as stone Irish as you can get for somebody whose family has been in the country for about 150 years. All four of my grandparents were born to Irish immigrants, three to families where both the mom and dad were from Ireland and one where the mom was Irish and the dad was Scottish born but moved to Northern Ireland before emigrating to the US.

"I am pure black-Irish. There is not a redheaded Norseman anywhere in our family but that makes this very special. Until I was 48 years old, Ireland played a huge and important part in my life, sort of in the dreams of my life, but I had never been to Ireland. So it was photos, and it was genealogy, and it was family stories, and Roman Catholicism, music and St Patrick's Day - that is what being Irish meant to me, but I felt the deep connection to it."

Kaine's nomination was met with enthusiasm among Boston's Irish. John Cullinane, a supporter of Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley's unsuccessful bid last year, said the choice was "outstanding. The irony," added Cullinane, "is that he's as close to Martin O'Malley as you can possibly get. The only difference that I can tell is that Tim Kaine speaks Spanish and plays the harmonica while Martin O'Malley plays the guitar.

"As you know, Diddy and I were strong supporters of Martin O'Malley, but we are equally enthusiastic about Tim Kaine. I am sure others will feel this way as they get to know him better. In a few words, he's very smart, very experienced, very well educated, and a nice guy with a record of integrity.

"I think Hillary Clinton has definitely enhanced the strength of the ticket and the future of the country with this selection," said Cullinane.

Commentary

# About Brexit and a United Ireland

By Joe Leary  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The surprising vote by the British people to leave the European Union has and will cause many unforeseen difficulties and opportunities, one of which may be the impact on the question of a United Ireland.

There are many who dream about what it would be like to live in a single nation of Ireland with no border and no factional bickering, an Ireland that would be free of religious intolerance and far stronger economically.

Talk about a United Ireland is admittedly a tough subject. Rejected almost violently by those in opposition, rarely spoken about by Dublin leadership, and only carefully mentioned by its adherents, the concept can only become a reality if the people of the North voted to approve the change.



Joe Leary

Approval would require what is referred to as a "Border Poll" as specified by the Good Friday agreement that brought peace to Northern Ireland. Under the terms of the agreement, such a poll can only be held if, in the opinion of the British Northern Ireland Secretary of State, there is definitive evidence that it would succeed. That is a very subjective standard. All secretaries of state since the agreement have refused to call for a poll.

But the situation has changed somewhat. Although the British people as a whole barely voted to leave the EU (51.8-48.1), several parts of Britain voted to remain in the EU, most notably Scotland (62-38) and the people of Northern Ireland (55.8-44.2).

The case is being made in Ireland and Scotland that since the people of Northern Ireland and Scotland voted to remain in the EU, why force them to give up the benefits of staying in Europe.

In Ireland both major party leaders, Prime Minister Enda Kenny and the leader of the Fianna Fáil, Michael Martin, are suggesting that it may be time to call a Border Poll in the early future. In the North the leadership of the two Nationalist parties, the Sinn Féin and the SDLP, Martin McGuinness and Colum Eastwood, have suggested in much stronger terms their support for a Border Poll.

Sinn Féin's McGuinness, Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland, was quoted in the *Irish Times* as say-

Off the Bench

# Evolution won't let us turn back the clock to those 'good old days'

By James W. Dolan  
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

The global economy is inevitable. Efforts to block or derail it may succeed for a while but an evolving world is destined by demographics, technology, travel, and the aspirations of humanity to eventually function as a gigantic partnership. The amalgamations so evident in the 20th century will be dwarfed in the 21st; better to accommodate and manage them than try to resist.

Nationalism as it was practiced in the last century gave us two world wars, the Cold War and numerous lesser conflicts. The process of globalization offers at least the hope of avoiding or controlling future conflicts. It is, after all, nothing more than an acknowledgment of the need to co-operate to resolve issues peacefully for the benefit of all. Trade policy must balance the interests of all sides; the haves and have-nots. Protectionist measures must be considered in light of their impact elsewhere not just at home.

Evolution is the irresistible force. As attractive as it may appear to some to turn back the clock, it can't happen. Like a slow-moving river, evolution will sweep away those settlements that try to stem the tide. We see in ISIS a version of Islam that has failed to evolve. Being on the wrong side of history, it can cause much pain and



James W. Dolan

ing the British Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, James Brokenshire, needs to realize that the people in the North see their future in Europe. "The referendum clearly showed," said McGuinness, "that unionists, nationalists and republicans voted together, 56 per cent, because we see our future in Europe."

The changes in Northern Ireland since partition in 1922 have been profound. The six counties were less than 30 percent Catholic at that time, with violence on both sides a regular occurrence. Many thousands of people have died both protesting and defending the decision to partition and attach six of the nine Ulster counties to Britain.

Today there is peace in Northern Ireland. The Catholic population is 45 percent, the Protestant population 48 percent. Peace agreements have been signed and approved by vote of the 71.2 percent of the people of Northern Ireland. A working government including all sides has been established. In all, conditions are quite different from those of 94 years ago.

Last month, on July 20, the unionist-leaning *Belfast Telegraph* conducted a survey among its readers, asking, "Should Northern Ireland have a poll on the question of a united Ireland?" Some 73 percent of its readers said yes. On a second question, 70 percent said they would also vote for a United Ireland. Polls like these are not reliably scientific and can be manipulated, but it was an unusual result for Belfast's leading newspaper. The result may also have been influenced by a reluctance to leave the European Union.

Still, make no mistake: The opposition to a United Ireland is fierce. One look at all the enthusiastic Orange Order parades and huge bonfires in the last few weeks shows a serious intensity of purpose against a union.

Arlene Foster, the recently elected head of the DUP, Theresa May, Britain's new prime minister and newly appointed, Northern Ireland Secretary of State James Brokenshire have all expressed a firm desire to keep the United Kingdom together, dismissing the prospects of a people's poll to decide otherwise.

As Britain leaves the European Union, there will be many difficult negotiations to determine how exactly business will continue between European countries and the UK and what border restrictions will be instituted. Relationships between Britain and Ireland will be much discussed and the question of a United Ireland will be on peoples' minds.

suffering, but it will not prevail. The river will eventually reach the backwater it occupies and submerge it.

Pope Francis acts as a change agent within a church that has long resisted evolution, a church that is gradually coming to grips with the need to adapt some of its teachings to an evolving reality that is, after all, a reflection of God's will. Tradition, while important, must not stand in the way of our improving capacity to know and understand.

Those misguided voices that preach isolation, protectionism, and a return to simpler and allegedly more prosperous times are blowing in the wind. Sure, somebody who is 70 would like to be 30 again, but it just ain't happening. One must adapt to the times and new policies must be formulated within the context of a changing reality. The naysayers are destined for extinction, but in the meantime they can do a lot of damage.

Conflict avoidance in an age of nuclear weapons demands cooperation, compromise, and the realization that deep, consistent, and mutually beneficial relationships are necessary not just for prosperity but also for survival. Trans-national issues such as human rights, terrorism, migration, health, trade, global warming, and space exploration must all be addressed.

Those who say they can bend the arc of history and return to simpler and more prosperous times are either charlatans or oblivious to the problems that beset each generation. What may have been a good time for some was devastating for others. I was young in the 1950s and early 1960s, often considered the best of times. But not if you were in Korea or Vietnam, were black or gay, or living in Europe, Russia, the Philippines, China or Japan, all recovering from a catastrophic war.

Globalization is the embodiment of our mutual dependency. With all its stresses and complexities, it fosters a spirit of cooperation within an all-encompassing perspective that takes into account the interests of all parties. You might think this too idealistic, particularly in light of the inability of our own national government to function effectively.

If we can't function efficiently as a country, how can we expect the nations of the world to cooperate? How can we globalize if we can't even nationalize? If for no other reason than national or global survival, the slow, inexorable force that is evolution will compel changes in our governance. As we develop through science and technology the means to do more, we shall develop the capacity to better understand our responsibility to one another.

That seems a long way off, given Brexit and this presidential campaign. I agree, but hopefully evolution will one day replace perceived self-interest with wisdom, a far broader and more comprehensive of knowledge.



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Letter to the Editor

# Retire to Ireland? New rules make it very hard to do

**To the Editor:**  
I am writing on behalf of many Irish Americans who wish to retire to Ireland. Unfortunately, the Irish Ministry of Justice has created new rules that make it extremely difficult for retirees (otherwise known as “persons of independent means”) to qualify to live in Ireland. In addition to income and cash reserve requirements that are well above the costs of retirement living in Ireland, retirees no longer qualify for long-term residency or citizenship.

Ireland has much to gain from retirees, in particular those of the global Irish diaspora, who make a positive contribution to the Irish State, its economy, and its culture. A typical American retiree will purchase a house, arrange for their Social Security income to be deposited directly into an Irish bank account, pay Irish income and VAT taxes, and spend much of their retirement income in Ireland on goods and services.

They also agree not to work or to receive any state benefits and to obtain full comprehensive private health insurance. Such retirees often own their Irish homes and cars debt-free. They support their local businesses and participate in their local communities. Retirees do not qualify for any form of government assistance.

A 2014 survey conducted by Amárach Research of over 1,000 Irish Americans indicated that one in three Irish Americans were considering retiring to Ireland; one in three have considered buying a house in Ireland at some point over the last ten years; and one in three are currently considering purchasing a house in Ireland between now and 2019.

The survey also revealed that more than half of Irish American retirees say they would consider splitting their time between the US and Ireland. Some 55 percent of those considering purchasing a house in Ireland say they prefer to own a property in a rural location over an urban location. Currently, only 3 percent of Irish Americans living in the US own property in Ireland.

These statistics are very revealing when compared to the fact that rural counties in Ireland continue to lose population and exhibit flat or declining housing prices. It is now feared that Brexit will further exacerbate this problem. The new immigration rules for retirees are likely to put a chill on investment in Ireland’s rural countryside at a time when Ireland can least afford it.

According to Article 2 of the Irish Constitution: “The Irish nation cherishes its special affinity with people of Irish ancestry living abroad who share its cultural identity and heritage.”

This official publication of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, “Global Irish, Ireland’s Diaspora Policy,” goes even further in its recognition of this “special affinity” by stating, “The first and principal reason for engaging with our diaspora is a simple one – because our Constitution requires it. The Constitution in effect declares that the Irish at home and the Irish abroad are one community.”

Sadly, Ireland’s immigration policy for Irish American retirees fails to reflect this positive message to the global Irish, to the detriment of both Ireland and its overseas diaspora.

Ireland should embrace Irish American retirees, not reject them! A few simple and reasonable changes to immigration rules could help Ireland’s fragile economy, especially its rural areas, which have remained in recession for nearly 10 years. Can anyone say they know of a self-sufficient Irish American retiree who became a ward of the Irish State? Aren’t these new rules simply a solution in need of a problem?

Kevin Callaghan  
New York, NY

Point of View

# THE DEMAGOGUE AT THE DOOR A con man could triumph in tough times

**By PETER F. STEVENS  
BIR STAFF**

A week or so ago I had dinner with an erudite and sophisticated Dubliner, and during the meal he posed a straightforward question with an uncharacteristic expletive: “What the [deleted] is going on with America and Donald Trump?” Before I could muster an answer, he tossed out another question: “Can he actually *win*?” I blurted out, “Yes...”

The prospect does seem unbelievable, but – sickeningly to this scribe – not inconceivable. For America, a demagogue is at the door of the White House and on the verge of kicking it in.

Before any Trumpites, Trumpists, or whatever term they go by, bellow that I must be some mindless follower of Hillary Clinton, the jibes belie the facts – as they so often do with the birther-in-chief, a.k.a. Donald J. Trump. Any readers of this space over the years know that it has never been friendly turf for either Bill or Hill. In large part due to her own murky foothold with facts, and in part due to critics who have bombarded her for more than 25 years with crackpot conspiracy theories and blind hate, Hillary Rodham Clinton is a deeply flawed candidate. A word here to the “Bernie or Bust” crowd: Americans of 2016 would never have elected a Socialist whose party Trump and his minions would have gleefully renamed “Communist.”

Donald Trump has slithered like some antediluvian reptile into some of the darkest chambers of American life. He has capitalized on one undeniably legitimate segment of voters – those who have been left struggling since the economic meltdown of 2008. Of course, Trump boasted about how the collapse was great for him because he could snap up real estate at rock-bottom prices.

A historical fog envelops followers of Trump and his hateful rhetoric. Voters shout that they want change, a dissolution of the status quo, and that Trump is the true agent of change. To borrow a description from John McCain in his slam at the Religious Right years back – yup, the very same McCain whom Field Marshal von Trump declared was not a war hero because Trump likes guys who weren’t captured: Donald J. Trump is “an agent of intolerance.”

None of Trump’s rhetoric and bluster is new. America has endured it before. Still, the lessons of the past evaporate in Trump’s obsessive barrage of tweets, his sorry blend of simplistic bromides, cultural, racial and ethnic epithets, and distortion of the past. In the bloated, blustering, combed-over person of Trump, the Nativist and Know-Nothing cant of the

1840s and 1850s has roared back to life in 2016.

What’s old is new. We must erect literal and figurative walls to ban the outsiders, our own history be damned. For anyone with Irish bloodlines, our ancestors who first left behind the old sod in search of something better would recognize and recoil from today’s version of the Nativists, Trump and his crowd. In all likelihood, our Irish forebears would let us have a piece of their mind when it comes to “The Donald.” In the 1840s and 1850s, the Nativists – “real Americans” – wanted to take their country back from the “hordes” of Irish and German immigrants.

Perhaps our ancestors would remind us of the coffin ships that carried them from famine-wracked Ireland, of the “Irish Need Not Apply” signs they encountered, and of worse. In our ancestors’ day, the Nativists loathed anything Irish, anything Catholic, any immigrant, anything they deemed “un-American.” They proclaimed that they needed to save the nation from going broke to pay for “foreigners” who were arriving in unprecedented waves. Sound familiar? Today, Trump paints Hispanics in the same way.

I know, Trump’s defenders will point out that today things are “different.” Unquestionably, we face a terrorist threat – yes, Radical Islamic Extremism – unlike any in our annals. ISIS must be crushed. Still, if Trump wins and charts a course that tramples all semblance of the American character, of America as the place of opportunity and dreams, we will need to change the message on the Statue of Liberty to “Stay Off Our Shores.”

Senator Ted Cruz, no paragon of the truth himself, did have a moment of utter clarity after Trump, a.k.a. the Conspiracy Theorist-in-Chief, mocked Cruz’s wife, Heidi, and linked Cruz’s father to the assassination of JFK. Cruz denounced Trump for the narcissist and pathological con man that he is. All to no avail, of course, as Von Trump’s Express rumbled over “Lying Ted” as it had previously mowed down “Little Marco,” “Low-Energy Jeb,” and the rest of the Republican primary field.

There is simply not enough space here or anywhere else to run the full litany of Trump’s lies, invective, lack of an ethical or moral core, and jaw-dropping lack of any qualifications to be Leader of the Free World. Despite that, next January 20, it might well be Trump who will be taking the oath of office. It’s a safe bet that at the time he will not have released his taxes as he becomes the Con Man-in-Chief. If so, don’t blame me: “I’m with Her.”





## Save the Date!

### 7th Annual

# Boston Irish Honors Luncheon

The Boston Irish Reporter will observe our 26th anniversary at a Celebratory Luncheon on

**Friday, October 28, 2015**

**Plaza Ballroom**

**Boston Seaport Hotel/World Trade Center**

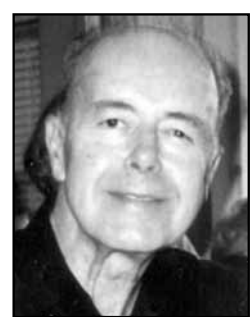
With an expected attendance of some 400 top Boston business, civic and political leaders, the luncheon event will present the 2016 Boston Irish Honors. The Boston Irish Reporter is one of the region’s few remaining family-owned and-operated publications and, in keeping with our own heritage, the newspaper tells the story of Boston Irish individuals and families for special achievements in public service and business, and exemplary Irish families who share our common roots in Boston and Ireland.

A luncheon committee is currently in formation and soliciting nominations for potential honorees.

To suggest a person or family for nomination, or to join the committee, please contact Ed Forry at [honors@bostonirish.com](mailto:honors@bostonirish.com) 617-436-1222.

# Boston Irish Reporter’s Here & There

BY BILL O'DONNELL  
**What’s With Maureen & Hillary? Maureen Dowd** is the daughter of a cop and a *New York Times* columnist who writes hard-edged columns that inform and entertain her readers. Entertain, however, is not a word that jumps out at you when Dowd’s subject is **Hillary Clinton**. For the past 21 years Dowd has waged an obsessive campaign to ruin the Democratic Party’s presidential candidate’s credibility and assassinate the reputation of the former First Lady, US senator and secretary of state. During more than two decades



of punishing attacks, Dowd has devoted 72 percent of her work attacking both Clintons while portraying Hillary as an unlikeable, power-hungry phony. In one stretch of columns, Dowd wrote 17 negative pieces about Hillary, with Bill as a throw-in. Additionally, Dowd regularly employs sexist tropes to insult Hillary, perhaps as multi-talented and experienced as any presidential candidate in US history outside of the founding fathers.

It has been the Republican Party’s chief goal in recent years to mortally wound or permanently disable Hillary Clinton as the Democratic presidential candidate. The GOP could not pass a comprehensive immigration bill; it sought the repeal of Obamacare more than 50 times; and it shut down the government in silly temper tantrums against two sitting presidents. But the key target has always been Hillary. We know that the Republicans have long wanted to remove Hillary as a viable candidate for the White House. But what motivates the hate campaign in print orchestrated over these many years by Maureen Dowd?

The drumbeat of anti-Hillary invective from Dowd even has **Norman Ornstein**, a scholar of the conservative American Enterprise Institute, mocking her columns. Ornstein’s tweet on the subject last month read: “Congratulations! This is the 7,673rd time Maureen Dowd has written this column! What a gig!”

A final point or two on Benghazi and Hillary’s State Department emails: Benghazi, labeled by many now as a long-running hoax, with Hillary having been cleared by at least two Republican-led committees that found her blameless in that tragedy, is yesterday’s news that is intentionally being manipulated by right wing media who want to bring her down. They never found the meat!

And in the announcement of a State Dept. investigation, ABC News reported that “past secretaries of state, including **Colin Powell** and **Condoleezza Rice**, and staff handled classified material on unclassified email systems. The FBI called Hillary’s email usage “careless” but found no grounds for charges to be brought.

Poof! In essence, there go the two political issues that have energized and nourished the anti-Hillary attacks from the far right. If the GOP is looking for an unqualified, dangerous, ethically challenged presidential candidate, they might glance across the aisle to the founder of the bogus university who has scammed thousands of working-class students, among other sins.

(I thank Media Matters for the research, numbers, and monitoring help in the above segment.)

**Is Enda Kenny On A Short Leash?** There is a strong possibility that temporary Taoiseach **Enda Kenny** has departed before or as you’re reading this newspaper. There is some heavy flak surrounding the Fine Gael Leader, and much of it is originating from within his own party. The thrust from the Fine Gael front benches is, as always, the next election and survival of FG members. There is a handful of candidates for the leadership looking for the nudge to shove; They include Taniste **Frances Fitzgerald**, **Simon Coveney**, and **Leo Varadkar**, who would have support.

Kenny has been plagued by missteps, poor appointments, and the water charges, ans that’s just for openers. There would be no joy at pushing Kenny out the door, but many feel that the future of Fine Gael rests with fresh, new leadership. As **Dan McConnell** said in the *Irish Examiner* at the outset of the summer recess: “The knives appear to be out for Enda Kenny, even though his has been the most successful reign of a Fine Gael Taoiseach. It may come down to a graceful retreat or a much less dignified shove out the door.”

**O'Donnell Family Researches Irish Links** – My younger brother, Boston attorney **Jim O'Donnell**, and his wife **Carol** flew out to Ireland in June, Dublin specifically, to check out the O'Donnell family and their beginnings in the old country. Their first point of contact was Kilkenny City, south of the capital. A friend of Jim and Carol has genealogical experience and he had told them that Kilkenny was the home site of the O'Donnells, our O'Donnells, my father’s family.

In the 1980s, I checked out the roots of the Flahertys (my mother’s family) who had lived in Castlemaine in Kerry and with whom we had visited and established a continuing connection. The other shoe to drop was to find more information on the O'Donnell side of the family and, if possible, locate a homestead or similar site where earlier (and current, maybe) family members lived or had lived.

Jim and Carol began by attending Mass at St. Canice’s Parish Church where an earlier, direct ancestor William was baptized in 1809. At that point, Jim had gotten the Kilkenny O'Donnells as far back at least to the early 1800s, a 200-year track to build on. The next

day the couple located Commonhall Lane, the street listed as William’s home at the time of his baptism. The next stop was Carrick-On-Suir, 25 miles southwest of Kilkenny, and the place where William’s parents, **Peter** and his wife, **Sarah Danks**, were married in 1792.

Jim and Carol discovered Chapel Lane, which sat a short distance from the major Catholic Church, St. Nicholas. Peter and William O'Donnell were weavers and Carrick was a prominent part of the weaving industry. Later, members of the family migrated to Leeds, England, an even larger weaving center. Like so many other Irish men and women, the O'Donnells moved for the work.

William and his wife Mary made the jump across the Atlantic, emigrating to Boston in 1847 in the midst of the Famine. Later, William’s brothers Patrick and John, came to the US, Patrick to Montreal and John to Boston as a grocer. From there he moved to the Winoski, Vermont, area, then back to Somerville, Mass.

This is a short version of what the Flahertys from Kerry and the O'Donnells from Kilkenny and so many other immigrant families experienced – the spreading of wings and hope as they strengthened the backbone of America!

**Irish Women Meet, Celebrate the Countess** A stunning congregation of political leaders and former Irish government Ministers – all women---came together in an historic dinner party at the former home of **Countess Constance Markievicz**, a patriot and Ireland’s first Minister of State. The names were familiar, veterans all of the political maw, including former Taniste **Mary Harney**, **Gemma Hussey**, **Mary O'Rourke**, **Nora Owen**, **Sile deValera**, **Maire Geoghegan-Quinn**, and current Taniste Frances Fitzgerald.

The occasion was the 89th anniversary of the death of the countess, and the event was held in Lissadell House in Sligo, where she and her sister entertained **William Butler Yeats** on numerous occasions. Those attending lamented the fact that modern Irish history records the names of just 17 women who have served as ministers. And, of course, amidst today’s heated politics, that array of accomplished women spoke wistfully of the possibility that Ireland might some day have a woman as Taoiseach.

**Brexit Brings New Questions, Concerns** – From questions about hard and soft borders, impact on Irish unity efforts, the financial fallout and the economic winners and losers, the concerns for Northern Ireland and Scotland (both supported staying in the European Union) are all on the table now. Given the political woes of Enda Kenny and those concerns about the future of so many caught up in the Brexit dilemma, the period following the summer political recess could prove to be the most challenging time of the still young millennium.

One of the more intriguing aspects of the post-Brexit era will be the political future of Sinn Fein’s **Gerry Adams**. Will he stay or will he go and will it take a whisper or a push to effectively retire the Republican icon. Adams spoke early and often of the historic linking of the 1916 Rising and the realization of Irish Unity. They were as one to republicans.

The events associated with marking the centennial of the Easter Rising are winding down and until Brexit very little street chat or political movement was afoot. But all that has changed. In mid-July, Reuters ran a story that said, “Eighteen years after a peace deal ended decades of fighting between mainly Catholic nationalists... and mainly Protestant unionists, Britain’s Brexit vote is making people on both sides of the divide think the unthinkable.” And the unthinkable is Irish Unity! Reuters noted that “a new center ground could form of people from both faith communities who fear the economic uncertainty of leaving the EU.”

The momentum for Irish unity will take more than the dissatisfaction of people on both sides of the border to close the gap between the unhappy unionist and the passionate nationalist while actually moving with purpose and a plan to a real-life version of “the island of Ireland.”

**Island Of Ireland Population Numbers** – The latest Irish head count, north and south, is now 6.6 million people. The split is 4.75 million in the Republic and 1.81 million in Northern Ireland. At its lowest point in the mid-20th century, the population of the Republic was 2.9 million, and the north’s was put at 1.4 million. The new census figures reflect that the number of people on the island has edged back to the population high point of 8 million in 1840 before the Famine took its toll.

The fastest growing area in this latest census were Greater Dublin, Meath, Kildare, and Laois, and the cities of Galway and Cork. The areas bearing the brunt of outward emigration were Donegal, Mayo, Co. Galway, Limerick and South Dublin.

A sidebar note from the census should bring some joy to the political crowd. The number of people for the 158 Dail deputies districts is now past the limit, with at least 25 constituencies over the constitutional limit of 30,000. New seats, new TDs, and a vibrant Members Bar just steps off the Parliament chamber appear to be in the future.

**Latest Irish Growth Estimates “Worse Than Forecast”** – The latest wrinkle in what was thought with Brexit to be moderate economic growth for the Republic has turned into a more threatening forecast, says Europe’s largest bank. Deutsche Bank is forecasting that Ireland’s economic growth will slow down at a faster pace than predicted, to 2.9 percent next year. Bloomberg News, in a similar story, strongly suggests that Ireland, far from “business as usual,”

is suffering the Brexit fallout to a far greater extent than first thought. It was originally believed that any Brexit impact on Ireland would be minimal. The new numbers could present new belt-tightening suggestions for government and perhaps a fresh look at ways to stimulate the economy in Ireland as it moves forcefully toward a responsible recession debt resolution.

**Maura Healey Joins in Volkswagen Lawsuit** – As the *Boston Globe* reported on July 21, Massachusetts Attorney General **Maura Healey** “opened a new front” that cites top executives of the German automaker who “knew of emission problems with its diesel cars for years.” The scope of the AG’s investigation is still unfolding but it’s encouraging that the naming and possible indictments mean that top company players are slowly but surely becoming essential defendants in lawsuits brought by state and federal law enforcement. It’s a long overdue shift in strategy; it used to be that only middle management saw the inside of a courtroom. Go get ‘em, Maura!

**From Belfast to the National Geographic** – It was over six years ago that **Iris Robinson**, a Northern Ireland council member and wife of **Peter Robinson**, leader of the DUP and First Minister (succeeding **Ian Paisley** in both offices) was outed as the girl friend and sponsor of a 19-year-old would-be restaurant entrepreneur. That relationship, a touch ribald for the spouse of the top political leader in the North, also involved Iris procuring a \$75,000 loan or grant to get her young paramour into the hospitality business. Well, it seems that what happens in Belfast doesn’t always stay in Belfast, The National Geographic TV channel is running a six-part documentary series on emerging sexual mores and Iris and her husband are included. It’s pretty steamy stuff for the staid National Geographic, a far cry from the superb, well-written articles its magazine runs on climate control and space travel.

Iris and Peter have taken a political back seat and the teenaged “friend” of Iris, **Kirk McCambley**, is believed to be living in Australia while his restaurant, The Lock Keeper’s Inn on the Lagan, is under new management. Iris has left politics to seek help for some health issues. The television series was scheduled to begin July 10, so if you want a close-up view of life around Stormont, check the National Geographic Channel.

**Catholic Donors Help Replace Co. Down Memorial** – It was an obelisk-shaped war memorial erected in 1934 to honor the dead of World War I in Ballynahinch, Co. Down. The names on it were mostly British soldiers who had fought in the Great War. The sole problem with the original monument was that the 80-year-old obelisk was starting to crack and crumble. There wasn’t a great deal of money for the new memorial but there was strong emotional and neighborly support for the project and the men it honored. Initially, the County Down District Council appropriated \$80,000, but more was needed. A second request from the Ballynahinch cizitzenry collected a further \$40,000, all together some 85,000 British pounds. The money came from townspeople, and chief among those were the churches, mostly Protestant, but three Catholic chapels, who joined in re-building the memorial.

It was the Somme dead that the town was honoring but local Catholics pitched in as friends and neighbors to help erect a proud new memorial and recognize those who gave their lives regardless of church affiliation.

## RANDOM CLIPPINGS

With all the focus on the Boston waterfront, from restaurants to new businesses, it’s bright and right that the heavyweights in the city get behind a modern, expanded water taxi services network to move tourists and business folk around more easily. ... Gov. **Charlie Baker** seems to be the flavor of the month, but why is he killing a proposed early voting program. Leave that to the southern governors, mostly Republicans, who want to keep voter turnout low. ... Former Congressman **Marty Meehan** is operating with a strong hand at UMass, and he did the right thing donating his \$4.35 campaign fund balance to support state education. Good stuff. ... Charitable Irish Silver key Awards are set for the Marine Corps birthday, Nov. 10, at Boston’s Copley Plaza. Honorees include **Billy Higgins**, **Gerard** and **Marilynn Doherty**, and **Sister Maryadele Robinson**. ... The new Secretary of State for NI is **James Brokenshire**, who succeeds **Theresa Villiers**. ... Cameras on PSNI cops is the latest good move with a six-month trial of cameras for Boston police next. ... American **Greg Burke** succeeds papal spokesman **Father Federico Lombardi** as head of Vatican press office. ... Consensus after Brexit: Irish & British agree: No return to a hard border. ... Banks can do well and do good if they reach out to Payday Loan customers by opening small outlets to cater to those who need financial services.

Nuf said about the sorry spectacle in Cleveland. It looked to this viewer like a rehearsal for a circular firing team waiting for a delivery of bullets. As for that ignorant New Hampshire legislator who wanted to put Hillary before a firing squad: His rant of imagined Benghazi actions, none of which would have escaped a “pants on fire” liar tag, is right in line with the Boss, who can’t be as bad as those who know him say he is. Can he? ... Leaving small ball, the really big problem for we Red Sox devotees is how do we get someone to accept **Pablo Sandoval** and his \$68 million owed in a trade?

Enjoy the Summer. This, too, shall pass.

# IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER



An agency accredited by US Department of Justice

100 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110  
Telephone (617) 542-7654 Fax (617) 542-7655  
Website: [iiicenter.org](http://iiicenter.org) Email: [immigration@iiicenter.org](mailto:immigration@iiicenter.org)

## TOGETHER FOR HOPE 2016 September 25:

Suicide has become a disturbing trend in our community, and we are passionate about preventing it. With this issue close to our hearts, The Irish International Immigrant Center invites you to join us or sponsor a friend to raise awareness about suicide and how it can be prevented.

**Why is suicide prevention and awareness so needed now?** Sixty thousand people are admitted to hospital emergency departments in Ireland each year with self-harming injuries and the majority of these are women.

Within the United States, suicide claims more than 38,000 lives each year, with a rate of someone dying by suicide every 13.7 minutes. As the fourth leading cause of death in the United States among adults ages 18-65 it is important to realize that this is a public health issue that does not discriminate by way of age, gender, ethnicity or socio-economic factors or status.

**The IIIC believes that suicide can be prevented and that you can help.** Our Wellness & Education Services here at the IIIC have worked diligently in the last decade to prevent suicide and we are so grateful you can join us in walking towards a world without suicide.

**How you can get involved?** We ask you to make a donation of \$30 to participate in the walk and all proceeds will go to the IIIC's Wellness & Education Services suicide prevention work, locally offered in the Greater Boston area and within the state of Massachusetts; including free counseling for those considering suicide and for survivors, crisis case management and suicide prevention workshops.

When: Sun., Sept. 25, 9 a.m.

Where: Carson Beach, South Boston.

Click on this link to register for the walk on our Crowdrise Page: [crowdrise.com/TogetherForHope2016](http://crowdrise.com/TogetherForHope2016). You can also register on the event day at 9 a.m. at our registration desk. Donations can also be accepted offline. Please contact Deirdre at [dmccann@iiicenter.org](mailto:dmccann@iiicenter.org) for details. We walk to honor loved ones and to save lives. Please plan to join us!

### Legal Clinics

**Tues., Aug. 2, Tues., Aug 16** – IIIC, 100 Franklin St. Lower Level, Downtown Boston. (Entrance is at 201 Devonshire Street); **Mon., Aug. 8** – The Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington Street, Brighton Center; **Tues., Aug. 30** – South Boston Labouré Center, 275 West Broadway, South Boston.

*For additional information about the clinics, call the IIIC at 617-542-7654.*

## An Bhfuil Gaeilge Agat? (Do You Speak Irish?)

"There is no language like the Irish for soothing and quieting" said John Millington Synge. So how about it - would you like to learn the language of your ancestors?

The IIIC and Cumann na Gaeilge i mBoston (CnaG) are pleased to offer a new Irish language course as part of IIIC Education Services. It's a great way to engage in and celebrate your Irish roots and cultural heritage! The eight-week course will be on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. beginning in late September. The level of the class is aimed at beginners and advanced beginners.

The course fee is \$112 for CnaG members and \$128 for non-members. For further details or to register, contact Deirdre McCann at 617-542-7654, Ext. 32 or by email at [dmccann@iiicenter.org](mailto:dmccann@iiicenter.org).

Join us and we'll have you speaking some Irish by Halloween!

## An Evening with "Bressie"

Niall Breslin, aka "Bressie," is a former professional rugby and football player, a multi-platinum selling songwriter and music producer, public speaker, and documentary filmmaker who comes from the midlands town of Mullingar in Co. Westmeath. He is currently a coach on The Voice of Ireland TV Show and an active and extremely passionate mental health advocate. His recent best-seller book, "Me and My Mate Jeffery" is an account of journey with mental illness. He is currently filming a number of documentaries regarding the subject of mental health and emotional wellness in Ireland.

The Irish International Immigrant Center invites you to "An Evening with Bressie" on Sept. 8 at the Somerville Theater, 55 Davis Square, Somerville, MA 02144

Come and hear him talk about how he was challenged by depression and anxiety. We will follow this with an expert panel discussion and a Q&A session on issues of mental health and emotional wellbeing and how being an immigrant away from home can greatly affect mental health.

Doors will open at 6.30 p.m., the event, at a cost of \$20, will start at 7 p.m. sharp, and conclude at 9 p.m. All proceeds from this event will benefit IIIC's Wellness Services, which include counseling, crisis case management and suicide prevention workshops.

For further information, contact Deirdre McCann at 617-542-7654, Ext. 32. To make a reservation for "An Evening with Bressie" go to the IIIC website, [iiicenter.org](http://iiicenter.org).



Niall Breslin

## Immigration Q&A

# Beware scams targeting driving permits, licenses

**Q.** Are people with driver's licenses from countries outside the United States allowed to drive in Massachusetts?

**A.** A foreign visitor at least 18 years old with a valid driver's license from one of the 130 countries listed in Appendix A of the Massachusetts Drivers Manual (available at [mass.gov/rmv](http://mass.gov/rmv)) is allowed to drive for one year from the date of arrival. Thus, law enforcement authorities would ask to see both the license and the driver's record of arrival from US Customs and Border Protection showing the relevant date.

Those who are staying longer than one year in the US (legal permanent residents, students, employment visa holders, et al.) would need to convert their foreign license to a Massachusetts license. This entails passing a written test on the rules of the road, a driving test, and a vision test. The requirements for people from Canada and Mexico are somewhat less onerous and generally would not involve a driving test. The Massachusetts licensing authority, the Registry of Motor Vehicles, also can be expected to check an applicant's immigration status. Undocumented immigrants currently are not able to obtain Massachusetts driver's licenses. There is legislation pending that would change this, however. IIIC supports the legislation and will keep readers posted on its progress.

(Note: those who receive Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals [DACA] status will be able to obtain a Massachusetts driver's license once they have a Social Security number.)

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles stresses that it recognizes only licenses issued by the relevant government agency in the holder's home country. There are scams on the Internet selling documents called "International Driving Permits" or "International Licenses," often purporting to be issued by the United Nations or some other authority. These are worthless pieces of paper, and anyone caught driving with one of them instead of a valid foreign license could be charged with operating a motor vehicle without a license.

The website of the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles contains further information on this topic, as well as all the procedural requirements for obtaining driver's licenses, registering vehicles, etc.

Keep in mind that the regulation of motor vehicles and drivers is primarily a state law issue in the US, not a federal one, so the laws and regulations covering driver's licenses in other US states and territories may differ in various respects from those in Massachusetts. Those interested in jurisdictions other than Massachusetts should consult the websites of the relevant state motor vehicle licensing authorities.

**Disclaimer:** These articles are published to inform generally, not to advise in individual cases. Areas of immigration law are subject to change. US Citizenship and Immigration Services and the US Department of State frequently amend regulations and alter processing and filing procedures. For legal advice seek the assistance of IIIC legal services staff.

## Matters of Substance

# Overcoming barriers to ask for help

By GINA KELLEHER  
IIIC WELLNESS DIRECTOR

When it comes to broken transmitters or medical conditions like diabetes, we typically don't hesitate to ask for help. So why is it so difficult when it comes to alcohol or substance use disorders, gambling, grief or mental health conditions? Unfortunately, in our world, there's still a significant amount of stigma around these issues which can cause fear and embarrassment for the individual or families who are affected. Other barriers to reaching out for help include:

A self-sufficient person feeling that it's a sign of weakness; thinking that they don't deserve help; waiting for someone to make the first move; giving up too easily; discomfort with receiving help; letting pride stand in the way; feeling hopeless

The fact is that no one can do it alone all the time. Divorce, parenting children with special needs, caring for a parent with Alzheimer's, coping with teens who are acting out – these are life situations that occur all too regularly. It takes courage to acknowledge that there's a problem and that we need to lean on others to help us get through some rough



Gina Kelleher

times. But the payoff is huge. So how does someone overcome the hurdle of fear to reach out for support? Here are some facts to keep in mind:

Most of us need help at some point in our lives,

Asking for help takes courage and is a sign of strength rather than weakness,

People can't read minds, especially if you're putting a good face on things. Speak up.

It may take multiple attempts to get the most appropriate help - don't give up on therapy just because you're not connecting with your counselor. Keep trying to find the right person and give it time.

Even if you feel that you've burned all your bridges and destroyed lives and/or relationships due to an addiction, you still need others to help

you learn new, healthier behavior.

In the case of depression, feeling hopeless can be one of the symptoms that leads to isolation and clamming up. Try to talk to just one person, even if it's to say that life has been tough and that you're feeling overwhelmed. Taking that first step can make it a lot easier to ask for help

It's important to find the right person. Someone who takes the time to listen non-judgmentally, is caring, and likely to agree to help. This could be a family member, close friend, clergy member, doctor or counselor. A hotline can be a great first step if you are not sure who to reach out to. There are hotlines for mental health support, domestic violence, substance use disorders, gambling and numerous other challenging life situations. Joining a support group can be very healing, learning that you are not alone in experiencing a certain challenge and sharing tips and strategies with others in the group.

It's never too late to ask for help. The more support a person has for the challenge they are going through, the better their chances of recovery, of maintaining their physi-

cal, emotional and spiritual health. So please, take that first step. You have so much to gain. Please call or e-mail Gina or Deirdre in confidence if you need to talk at 617-542-7654, Ext. 14 or Ext 32. [gkelleher@iiicenter.org](mailto:gkelleher@iiicenter.org) or [dmccann@iiicenter.org](mailto:dmccann@iiicenter.org)



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If your parent or grandparent was born in Ireland, you are eligible to become an Irish citizen. Our attorneys will help locate your documents and file your application. Contact Foley Law Offices to begin your citizenship application at (617) 973-6448.



## IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER IMMIGRATION LEGAL ASSISTANCE

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

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

### Upcoming Clinic Schedule

**Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday, August 16**

IIIC, 100 Franklin St. Lower Level, Downtown Boston Entrance is at 201 Devonshire Street

**Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup>**

The Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington Street, Brighton Center

**Tuesday, August 30**

South Boston Labouré Center, 275 West Broadway, South Boston

Our Downtown Boston location is fully accessible by public transportation.

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EATING AND EMOTION

Dr. Bernadette Rock

Summer time  
imperfection

Summer time often brings special occasions, a friend's wedding, reunions, a family get together, backyard barbecues, relaxation at the beach, times to be savoured and enjoyed. Yet I've spoken to four women this week who all say they have a special occasion coming up this summer, and are dreading it because of their weight! Their response is similar, "I can't go, I'm too fat", "I haven't seen my friends in years and I don't want to be seen looking like this."

Many of my clients who struggle with weight tend to be perfectionists, or "all-or-nothing" eaters. Perfectionism can interfere with a healthy relationship with food. For example, you might eat to let go of the stress and anxiety of constantly striving for perfection. You might reach for the biscuit tin to comfort yourself when you feel bad or frustrated about failing to meet expectations.

Here are some messages straight out of Heyday's online weight management program to help you make the transition from 'too perfect' to 'good enough.'

Perfection isn't possible, and fortunately, it isn't necessary. You're only

human after all.

Let go of the need to get it right and, instead, approach eating with flexibility.

Be willing to make mistakes since they are an opportunity for learning and growth.

Think direction, not perfection.

Many of us can relate to having a special event coming up, wanting to shift those extra pounds, but not quite managing it. So the day comes and now you've got to try to find something to wear that makes you feel half decent, and you have to hold in your stomach.

Here a couple of tips for overcoming a fat attack. You can use this time as an opportunity to understand your relationship with food:

Are you concerned about what others will think of you, or are you comparing yourself to other people who might be there? Can you tease out what so upsetting about this? Be curious about it. Writing this down on paper would help you to start seeing it differently.

Can you take a step back from the inner dialogue and that self-criticism and negativity. Can you disengage from your inner critic and start to watch your thoughts and feelings. So



Dr. Bernadette Rock


instead of feeding them, step back and observe them. In this way, you are separating yourself from this inner voice "again telling me I look awful." You can begin to see how nasty that voice is.

Can you start responding to that awful message you are giving yourself, and start to tell yourself, "This is where I am right now. I have made small changes over the last few weeks!" It might feel a bit false at the start, but it is so important that you challenge your inner critic and start to lift yourself out of that nasty dialogue.


What if you were to invest time in self-care rather than perfectionism? When you give up perfectionism, you'll also be able to let go of the stress associated with eating habits. Each of us is inherently perfect. Sometimes we just need to learn how to get out of our own way!

Email your comments or questions to Bernadette at [hello@heydayworld.com](mailto:hello@heydayworld.com) and check out [heyday-world.com](http://heyday-world.com) for details of the online weight management programme.

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# Thomas MacDonagh remembered – on CD

**BY SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR**  
If you grew up in the County Tipperary town of Cloughjordan, like Boston-area resident Martin Butler did, you couldn't help but know about Thomas MacDonagh.

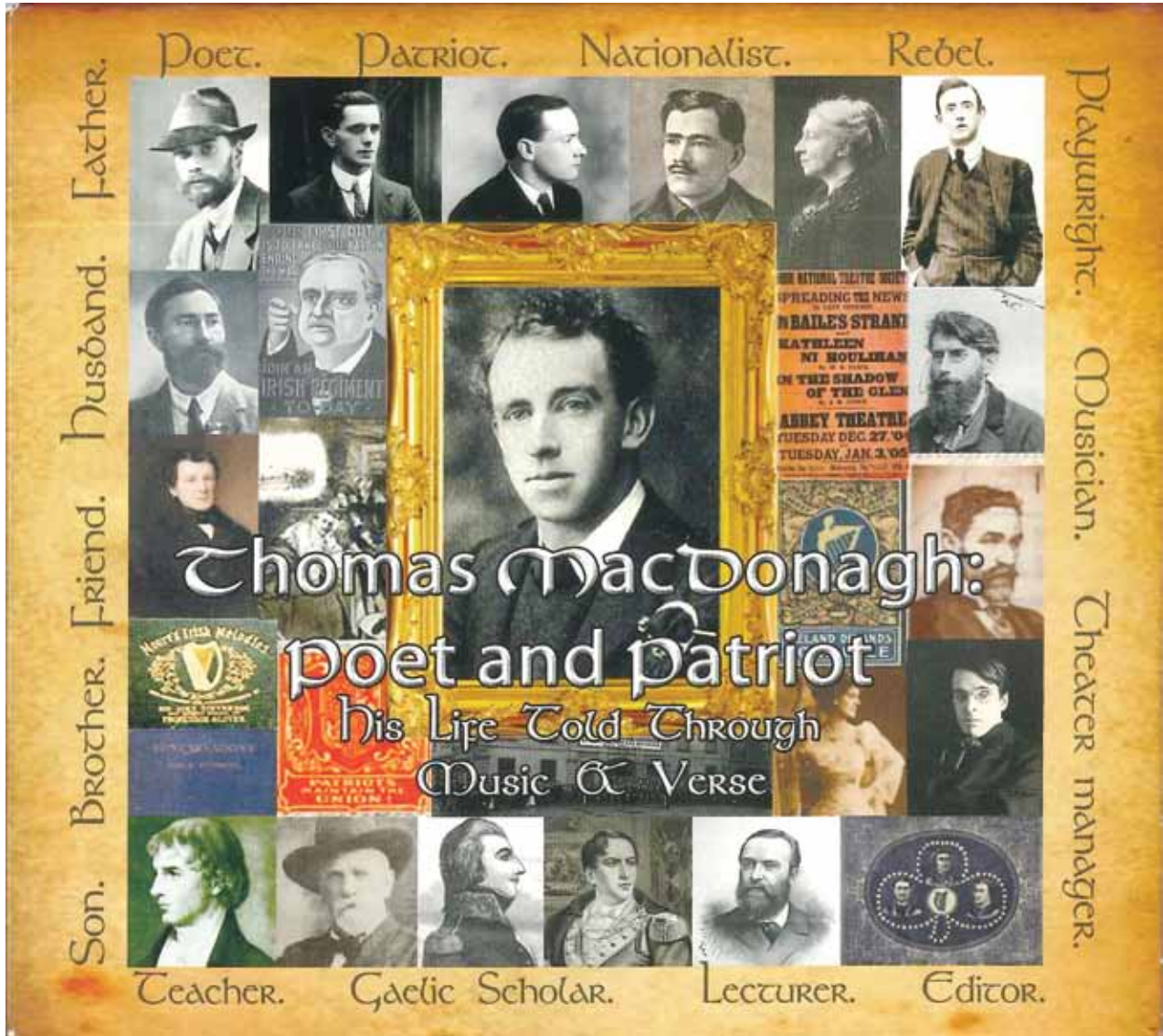
Poet, playwright, educator, MacDonagh is a compelling figure in Irish history, a co-leader of the 1916 Easter Rising and one of the seven signatories of the Easter Proclamation executed by the British. MacDonagh was born and bred in Cloughjordan where, it is said, he had instilled in him early on the affinity for music, poetry, and Irish culture that defined his life.

Butler heard all about MacDonagh from his father, an aficionado of local history, and from a teacher who was equally passionate about history and had interviewed many Cloughjordan residents who grew up with MacDonagh.

"The more I learned about Thomas MacDonagh, the more impressed I was," says Butler. "He had been respected in so many aspects of life. But he had been a kid from our hometown, had played in the fields where we played, walked the same streets we did. To have someone so heroic as part of your town history was very inspiring."

In fact, Butler carried MacDonagh close to his heart—literally. "The local GAA [Gaelic Athletic Association] club was named for MacDonagh," he says, "and on the uniforms we wore was a crest with his picture, right over our hearts."

Now, years later, Butler has fashioned his own tribute: a CD, "Thomas MacDonagh: Poet and Patriot," featuring poetry, songs, and music that recall the life and legacy of Cloughjordan's famous son. Included are readings of some of MacDonagh's



The "Poet and Patriot" CD involved some 55 musicians, singers and readers, many with ties to the Greater Boston area.

signature poems, such as "Knocknacree" ("They keep the boons which patriots prize the most/ Yet now with joy again I greet thy smile"), "John John" ("I dreamt last night of you John-John/ And thought you called to me/ And when I woke this morning, John/ Yourself I hoped to see") and "At the End" ("The songs that I sing/ Should have told you an Easter story/ Of a long sweet Spring/ With its gold and its feasts and its glory").

Some two years in the making, "Poet and Patriot" is a testament to the power of friendship

and camaraderie in the Irish music community, especially Boston's: Most of the 55 guest musicians, singers, and speakers appearing on the 24-track album have current or past ties to the area; their ranks include Tommy McCarthy, Aoife Clancy, Brian O'Donovan, Regina Delaney, Janine Randall, Amy Basse, Declan Houghton, Joan Linnehan, Liam Hart, Levi Abrams, David Bowman, Stuart Peak, Caroline O'Shea, and the Boston Police Gaelic Column, among many others.

Butler—who plays bodhran, tin whistle, and guitar on the CD in ad-

dition to reading poetry—and his chief collaborator, John Owens (guitar, bouzouki, and keyboards), didn't go the easy route in mapping out the CD project. Instead of a straightforward biographical and chronological profile, "Poet and Patriot" is more thematic. The perspective shifts back and forth, focusing not just on the man himself but providing context, evoking the place and times in which he lived.

The experience of putting together "Poet and Patriot" has deepened Butler's appreciation of MacDonagh.

"I only knew a dozen of his poems really well, and as I researched, I found a treasure trove of his work I hadn't known. MacDonagh wrote poems in much the same way that John Lennon wrote songs—they were very personal, and, in fact, Yeats told MacDonagh that they were *too* personal. But he used his poetry to express that which would've been difficult for him to talk about. He wrote with his heart on his sleeve, and that's what makes his work so relatable. The poems I emphasized were those that really were about him, and told who

he was, what his passions were. That meant I had to part company with some poems I'd really grown attached to."

While the CD was completed in time for the centenary year observance of the Rising, Butler delayed the release until after the official commemoration in April, and the accompanying influx of publications and recordings marking the occasion.

"I didn't want this to be just 'another 1916 album,'" he says. "Obviously, MacDonagh is forever associated with the Easter Rising, and with good reason. While you can point to him as representing the unique character of the Rising's leadership—that so many were neither soldiers or statesmen but men of learning, and the arts—as an individual he is remarkable in his own right. So the point of making the CD was to allow people to consider who he was and how he came to be that person, and the impact he had on others."

Butler says the best way to regard "Poet and Patriot" is as "a three-act play." The first part establishes MacDonagh as a poet, and a person, influenced by nature, country life, music, Irish legends, mythology, Gaelic culture as well as love and heartache—particularly for his wife, Muriel. Amidst readings of "Knocknacree," "Mayday" (by actor Ciaran Crawford from "Black Mass") and "The Parting," musical interludes include an Owens original ("Summer Joys"), a slowed-down version of the classic reel "The Banshee" by cittern player Glenn Scott, and a vibrant setting of "Aililiu Na Gamhna/ The Liltin' Banshee," enlivened by Liam Hart's robust Gaelic singing.

The middle part deals with MacDonagh's growing nationalism, his entry

(Continued on page 13)

## 'Celtic Sojourn Roots and Branches Concert' set for Lowell on Aug. 19

**BY SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR**  
Lowell is less than an hour's drive from Boston proper, and area Celtic music aficionados may find the trip a very worthwhile one to take on Aug. 19 when the second "Celtic Sojourn Roots and Branches Concert" comes to the city's Boarding House Park.

The concert, sponsored by WGBH as part of the Lowell Summer Concert Series, will feature performances by the trio of Kevin Crawford, Cillian Valley, and Patrick Doocey; Girsá, a New York-based band of exciting young Irish musicians; Acadian threesome Vishten; and dancers Kevin Doyle and the Miller Family.

Brian O'Donovan, host of WGBH-FM's "A Celtic Sojourn," is organizer and emcee for the concert, which follows a similar format as other well-established productions that share the appellation ("A Christmas Celtic Sojourn" and "A St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn"): a convivial, conversational atmosphere with plenty of excellent musicianship



Girsá, a group of young musicians from the New York City area, will be among the performers at the August 16 "Celtic Sojourn Roots and Branches Concert."

and dancing prowess on display.

"Roots and Branches' is an effort to showcase just that: the range of Celtic music itself, as well as the music it is influenced by—and the music it, in turn, influences," says O'Donovan. "The idea was to have a series with much of the same elements you'd find in 'Christmas' or 'St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn,' but disconnected from particular points on the calendar. The first

'Roots and Branches' concert last year worked very well, and this summer we scheduled two [the first was July 16 at the South Shore Conservatory in Hingham]; we're looking at this as a springboard for a full-blown series to come in 2017.

"The guiding principle of 'Roots and Branches' is to highlight the amazing breadth of the music, and the musicians—veterans like Robbie O'Connell and newer, cutting-edge

performers like Kathleen Parks of Cat and the Moon," he adds. "We also like the idea of an outdoor setting for the concert, because after all, most everybody looks forward to sitting outside on a nice summer evening. So we keep things a little lighter, though, of course, above all we strive to keep it entertaining and enlightening."

Known for their work with the groundbreaking band Lúnasa, Craw-

ford (flute, whistle) and Valley (uilleann pipes, flute, whistle) have also established productive solo careers, and have often toured together as well. Individually and together, they show the full range of power, majesty, and sublimity in the Irish wind instrument tradition, making use of elegant harmonies as well as solid rhythms. In addition to Lúnasa and their partnership, the two have played with many

luminaries in Irish music and elsewhere: Crawford with Joe Derrane, Sean Tyrell and, more recently, in the trio The Teetotalers with guitarist John Doyle and fiddler Martin Hayes; Valley with Bruce Springsteen, Natalie Merchant, Mary Chapin-Carpenter, Tim O'Brien, and "Riverdance." Their accompanist, Worcester native Patrick Doocey, has performed regularly as part of Lúnasa as well as with his fiddle-playing brother David.

The members of Girsá—Irish for "young girls"—grew up together in the Irish-American music stronghold of Pearl River, NY, with familial and personal ties to distinguished musicians such as Rose Conway Flanagan, Brian Conway, Joanie Madden, and Patty Furlong, among others. Between them, Maeva Flanagan, Pamela Geraghty, Emily McShane, Bláithín Loughran, and Bernadette Flanagan play fiddle, whistle, accordion, guitar, banjo, piano and bodhran and present an instrumental and song (Continued on page 12)

# Sean McGibbon has big tap shoes to fill

By R. J. DONOVAN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Sean McGibbon is an unabashed lover of the Golden Age of Musicals. Among his idols, he singles out Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly. So the fact that the he'll be starring in "Singin' in the Rain" at North Shore Music Theatre is a dream come true.

The talented tap-dancing actor will play Cosmo Brown, the role originated by Donald O'Connor in the classic MGM film, when the production plays the Beverly theatre-in-the-round from Aug. 16 to Sept. 4.

McGibbon was born in Austin, Texas. "Austin in the 90s was just about everything you could ask for," he said in a phone interview. "It was parks and places to swim and a real artsy city. . . Austin, at the time, was one of the live music capitals of the world."

He was a boy of many interests, and a lot of them centered on performing. He got involved in musical theater, became an accomplished juggler, tried his hand at magic, trained as a jazz pianist, was a varsity tennis player, competed at the national level in table tennis and was a member of the U21 National Kayak Polo Team.

McGibbon jokes that the diversity of his upbringing was a combination of being an only child and having a fervent case of ADHD.

He made his stage debut at the age of two in a Christmas pageant. He said, "I can remember the first applause I ever heard. . . I remember thinking, 'Oh yeah, this is for me.'"

McGibbon's family situation is unusual in that both his

parents were adopted. While his adoptive roots are a convergence of Irish blood, his Mom found her birth mother in the late 90s, discovering an Irish lineage there as well. It also turned out that his biological great-grandfather – William E. Coyle – was a gifted singer. Coyle had been mayor of his town, sang with the Navy Band when he was in the service and had a career as an entertainer.

Six weeks ago, out of the blue, he received a recording of his great grandfather via Spotify. "He's got a fantastic voice," he said, proudly. "It was a moving moment."

With a degree in musical theater, psychology, and jazz from Texas State University, McGibbon said, "I was really fortunate to have a lot of my training in a place called Austin Musical Theater. . . Really old school, very difficult training, very passionate. The productions they did were really, and I mean really, Broadway caliber."

After graduation, he headed to New York with \$1,800 in his pocket. He was fortunate to have already been cast in "The Great American Mousical" at the Goodspeed's Terris Theatre in Connecticut. Adding icing to the cake, the show was being directed by legendary film and theater star Julie Andrews, based on her best-selling children's book.

Working with her was a surreal experience for McGibbon. "She's a connection to the theater that I aspire to, and the people that I idolize," he said.

He was cast as a tap dancing mouse, but an injury almost brought an end to his role. "I had a little tap solo I kind of shared



Sean McGibbon plays Cosmo Brown in the beloved musical "Singin' in the Rain" at North Shore Music Theatre in Beverly from August 16 - September 4.

with another guy named Ritchie. . . (it was a) tap battle and we ended it by jumping and falling into a jazz split. I had done the move maybe a hundred times."

Unfortunately, one night he landed hard. With an attitude of "the show must go on," he continued the performance and was able to get through the next few shows. However, his leg eventually gave out and "looked like kielbasa sausage. It was incredibly swollen. Apparently I had torn the meniscus in my right knee. . . My first gig, and I'm thinking 'Oh, I'll never tap dance (again).'"

McGibbon was lying on a couch backstage when the phone rang. He said, "I pick up and hear 'Sean? It's Juuuules,

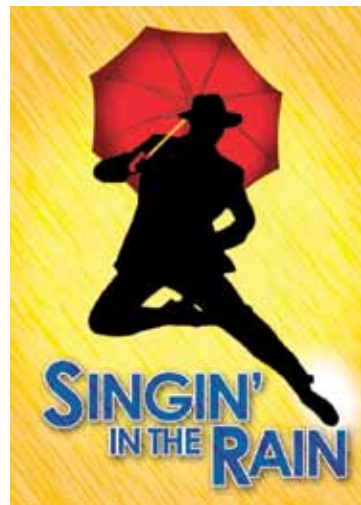
darling. What happened?'" And I say, 'Oh Julie, they think it's the meniscus.' And she goes 'Oh darling, something similar happened to me in 'Victor/Victoria.' It's just terrible.' She goes, 'Do you need any soup? Can I take you to the store? And I say, 'Oh no, thank you. Just you calling really means a lot.'"

"Forty-five minutes later," he said, "her assistant comes over with two six packs and a large pizza. I was floored. I saved one of the bottles and I use it as a Christmas ornament now – Julie Andrews beer."

After "Mousical," he headed home to Texas for physical therapy. Returning to New York with no money, he said, "I really needed to make something happen. I was determined not to go back home. I stayed with a cousin of mine, Liam O'Flynn from Dublin, the most charming Irishman you've ever met in your life. He could go into a bar and say 'I'll have a Guinness' and nine women would come out of the bushes."

Making the rounds, McGibbon was cast in "On Your Toes" at City Center, the 25th anniversary tour of "The Buddy Holly Story," and as understudy for the Jerry Lee Lewis role in the "Million Dollar Quartet" tour that played Boston.

As diehard fans know, "Singin' in the Rain" is a comedic look at what happened when silent film stars faced the introduction of talkies in 1927. A big studio decides to capitalize on the advent of sound by making a splashy musical with two of Hollywood's most glamorous stars. But the leading lady can't sing a note. So an unknown chorus girl is brought in to dub



The beloved MGM musical "Singin' in the Rain" comes alive on stage at North Shore Music Theatre in Beverly from August 16 - September 4.

her voice – to the star's rage."

The American Film Institute lists "Singin' in the Rain" as it's No. 1 Movie Musical as well as No. 5 on its list of Top 100 Movies of all time.

The show's score includes "Fit As A Fiddle," "You Stepped Out Of A Dream," "Make 'Em Laugh," and, of course, the title number performed in an onstage rain shower.

The character of Cosmo is "a bucket list role," McGibbon said, "and something that really got me into performing in the first place. So I'm just over the moon." He added humbly, "Talk about having big shoes to fill."

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

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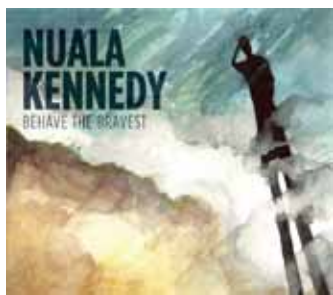
"Singin' in the Rain," August 16 - September 4, North Shore Music Theater, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly. Info: 978-232-7200 or nsmt.org.

## CD Reviews

By SEAN SMITH

### Nuala Kennedy, "Behave the Bravest" •

Dundalk native and Edinburgh resident Kennedy has been a thoroughly captivating addition to the Irish/Celtic music scene these past 15 years or thereabouts, with a prodigious talent for flute, whistle, and singing, and an invigorating, creative spark for adapting traditional tunes and songs as well as writing her own. Kennedy's 2010 release "Tune In" was a crazy-quilt of ideas and inspirations, fun to listen to and sift through; 2012's "Noble Stranger" was somewhat smaller-scaled but with many of the same elements.



By contrast, "Behave the Bravest" is more stripped down, more focused on traditional material – but you know what? It's every bit as rewarding, and displays Kennedy's abilities at peak bloom. Tracks like "Lovely Army," "His Bonnet So Blue," and the Gaelic

"Mo Bhuachaill Dubh Dhonn" show the full extent of her winsome, warm, and engaging vocals. Her prowess on flute – including some lovely sustained notes and vibrato – is delightfully apparent on the leisurely "La Funambule (The Tightrope Walker)," written by Gilles le Bigot, and later on a festive medley with two Galician tunes wrapped around an Irish jig; she wields her whistle to great effect on a trio of reels ("Glen Where the Dear Is/The Ivy Leaf/The Dublin Lasses"). Kennedy is supported here by a core group of Shona Mooney (fiddle), Michael Bryan (guitar), and Donald Hay (drums, percussion), with some additional contributions by Eamon O'Leary – he, John Doyle, and Kennedy are a trio, The Alt – on guitar, bouzouki, and backing vocals, accordionist Johnny Connolly, bassist Joe Philips, and percussionists Mathias Kunzli and Paul Savage. Even with a comparatively more back-to-basics approach, the arrangements on "Behave the Bravest" are varied, often engrossing, and unfailingly strike the right tone: the interplay between Kennedy's whistle, Bryan's guitar, and O'Leary's bouzouki (along with his vocal harmony) on "Lovely Army"; the percussive undergirding of the flute and fiddle duets on "Bonnet So Blue"; and the masterful build-up of instrumentation and narrative tension on "The Lion's Den," which segues into a reel, "The Burning House," composed by Cape Breton fiddler Brenda Stubbert.

And then there's "Death and the Lady" – a dialogue between the Grim Reaper and an intended victim – propelled by Bryan's guitar and with an exquisitely chilling minor-key recurring riff played by Kennedy and Mooney. The gradually unfolding urgency with

which she invests it makes for one of the more plaintive renditions of this ballad in recent memory – you really do feel sympathy for the titular lady. It's tracks like this that you savor, even as you look ahead to the next Kennedy production. [nualakennedy.com]

### Open the Door for Three, "The Penny Wager" •

The American-Irish trio of Liz Knowles (fiddle, hardanger fiddle), Kieran O'Hare (uilleann pipes, whistle, flute) and Pat Broaders (bouzouki, vocals) meet, and in fact surpass, the expectations raised from their 2013 debut.

There's certainly no drop-off in the phenomenal playing by Knowles and O'Hare, who have a penchant for finding ear-catching tunes, whether in published collections or through their circles of musical friends and acquaintances. And Broaders' down-to-earth, thoroughly amiable singing



is as much a treat as ever, as is his solid bouzouki accompaniment. It is the band's arrangements that have, if anything, advanced – a tad more ambitious and adventurous, with very satisfying results. For instance, "Johnny Loves Molly" starts with a melody from the Petrie Collection – interpreted as "somewhat of a march" here – on pipes and fiddle, but suddenly it drops away; Knowles slowly bows a gentle interlude on hardanger fiddle until Broaders starts up a 6/8 rhythm, and the trio gradually rebuilds the pace as they play the title slip jig. "Kitty Got A Clinking," meanwhile, starts off with a pair of jigs, "Tom Busby's" (from the repertoire of piper Tommy Keane) – Broaders' accompaniment is particularly delicious here, as is O'Hare's piping – and "Old Woman's Money," and then shifts effortlessly into a fling (the title tune) without a hitch. And what a boffo closing track: a stately O'Carolan piece, "Planxty Drew," followed by a set of reels that begins with Brenda Stubbert's "Jack and Mattie" and proceeds onto a couple of piping dandies, "The Dublin Lads" and Néillidh Mulligan's "Barr na Cúille."

Broaders' four songs are likewise intelligently crafted: "When First I Went to Caledonia" benefits from Knowles' subtle burnishing; on "The Golden Glove," O'Hare and Knowles provide some elegant waltz-time fills and interludes; Knowles' slip jig "Pleasant Avenue," meanwhile, serves as a graceful lead-in to "A Kiss in the Morning" – the plot of which, like "Golden Glove," turns on deception, but all in the name of love; and "The Penny Wager" has an appropriately rakish character to it, as befits a song about

(literally) rolling the dice.

Open the Door for Three may be a relatively small ensemble, but theirs is a big, and brilliant, sound. [openthedoorforthree.com]

**Cúig, "New Landscapes" •** Doing an Internet search for "Cúig" may well lead to confusion: That's because, once upon a time, there was a fine Celtic quintet from Northumberland by that name, which made a very good album ("Prospect") in 2002. But *this* Cúig is a more recent creation – formed in 2013 – and comprises five ("cúig" is Gaelic for "five") young Northern Irish musicians.

A very profound contemporary mindset characterizes Cúig 2.0, through its interpolation of rock music stylings in a manner that is tasteful, reasonable, and just plain enjoyable to listen to. For starters, the three melody players – Miceál Mullen (banjo, mandolin), Rónán Stewart (fiddle, uilleann pipes) and Eoin Murphy (button accordion) – are demonstrably top-rate, and also as capable of composing tunes as they are performing traditional or other contemporary ones. Their rhythm section is equally outstanding: Ruairí Stewart adds interesting textures with electric and



bass guitars, along with his acoustic, while Cathal Murphy's percussion (bodhran and drums) embellishes rather than straitjackets the melodies (he also does a lovely guitar duet with Stewart to open the track "A Space in Time").

Cúig's arrangements suggest the imprint of bands like Lúnasa and Beoga (whose Sean Og Graham guests on three tracks), and even a bit of the "acid-croft" style of Scotland's Shoooglenifty, but there's no impersonation here – it's all fresh, and refreshing: the soft, echoey electric guitar and bass intro to "New Landscapes" that sets things up for Mullen's banjo; the gathering momentum in "10.40 to Heathrow"; the funk-infused backing to the sinuous duet of Stewart's fiddle and Mullen's mandolin on a Donegal strathspey at the start of "Kent to Kentail," accelerating into the reel "The Call to Dance" (which sounds an awful lot like "Andy Renwick's Ferret"); the brass on "Land's End" and "Napoleon 2.0." Most of their sets average in the five to six-minute range, but you won't find the time dragging. (It also bears mentioning that other parts of Cúig's repertoire include forays into Breton, Galician and bluegrass, although these are not represented here.) [cuigmusic.com]

# Master accordionist Joe Derrane dies at 86

(Continued from page 1) Virginia, where a crowd of more than 1,200 greeted him enthusiastically, and then he was asked by the Green Linnet label to make a new recording. Derrane went on to record six other solo and collaborative CDs over the next 16 years. He worked with many of the leading Irish musicians who had emerged in his absence, among them Seamus Connolly, Kevin Crawford, Seamus Egan, John McGann, Frankie Gavin and – as part of their Symphony Hall concert – The Chieftains. He was the subject of two documentaries, “As Played By Joe Derrane”

and a segment for a series broadcast by the TG4 TV channel. In 1998, he was inducted into the Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann North American Province Hall of Fame for his contributions to Irish music. Derrane was one of many sources to whom local writer and musician Susan Gedutis Lindsay turned in writing her book about Boston’s Irish dance halls, “See You at the Hall: Boston’s Golden Era of Irish Music and Dance,” but he was arguably the most important. “Joe spoke of those days with such color and enthusiasm that it inspired me to write “See You at the Hall,” and it was Joe’s contributions

that helped to shape that story,” said Lindsay, a former writer for the *Boston Irish Reporter*, a few days after Derrane’s death. “In some ways, I feel like I was just the scribe and it was Joe’s book. He had the wisdom to recognize the significance of that era, and the generosity to spend time with me to share the stories that became the architecture of that book. Monster talent, laser-sharp focus and drive, but also extreme humility – he can be an inspiration to us all. His comeback proved, too, that it’s never too late.” In a 2010 column for *The Irish Echo*, the journalist Earle Hitchner – who is credited with aiding Der-

rane’s return – called it “the greatest comeback in the history of Irish traditional music.” The albums Derrane recorded, he said, “bear no whiff of a musician in retirement. If anything, they represent a period of monumental rejuvenation and have reacquainted the world with genius.” But in the midst of this rebirth, Derrane was not content to simply rest on his achievements or his old repertoire. He composed many of his own tunes while drawing on some of the influences from his other, non-Irish music endeavors. One example was “Tango Derrane,” which he recorded on his final album, “Grove Lane,” released in 2010. “What I’ve been trying to do is to elevate the status of the accordion,” he said in a 2010 interview with the *Boston Irish Reporter*. “It’s capable of a lot more than some might think – even the trad-heads. I’m a great believer in stretching yourself beyond the limits of the instrument. So I think I’ve learned more since I started back up again in 1994 than in all the previous years.” “He’s just a stellar musician, with an impeccable groove and sense of timing,” John McGann, Derrane’s accompanist on “Grove Lane,” told the *Reporter* in 2010. “But there’s something else about Joe: One of the most difficult things for a traditional musician to do is stay true to the tradition but also to find your own voice. He’s injected a lot into the music but without changing its essence.” (McGann, who along with Derrane and Connolly formed the trio The Boston Edge, died in 2012.) However prominent



Joe Derrane on the job.

Image Scoil Cheoil

the role of music in his life, Derrane was first and foremost sustained by family, especially his wife, Anne, a Longford native he’d first met while at a gig in New York City: “I felt a tap on my shoulder and turned around, and there she was,” he recalled, “and she said, ‘It’s “Ladies Choice” time.’ I was smitten right then and there.” They were married in 1955. Derrane credited Anne for her unflagging support of his music, even in their early years together when, he said, “it was not unusual for me to play a ballroom gig on a Thursday, a wedding on Friday night, two weddings on Saturday, a ballroom gig on Sunday – and then

I’d get up Monday and go to work. She never complained. “She was always there for me, she was the one who kept encouraging me to practice and play, she told me I could do it, even when I wasn’t sure I could.” Anne died in 2008. Among the tracks Derrane recorded for “Grove Lane” – named for the street in Randolph where the Derranes lived together for 51 years – was a tune he’d composed, “Waltzing with Anne.” “Everything was always here in Grove Lane for me, and for Anne, so I’m glad to be able to give it this connection to my music,” he said at the end of the 2010 interview.

## ‘Roots and Branches Concert’ is set for Lowell on Aug. 19

(Continued from page 10) repertoire that is steeped in Irish tradition but also includes contemporary material. Having formed almost 10 years ago, Girsas’s members – although their ages average in the mid-20s – are seasoned and engaging performers. Vishten takes its musical cues from Francophone

culture, history, and traditions of Prince Edward Island and the nearby Magdalen Islands, the trio’s members all direct descendants of the first colonial families on both islands: the LeBlanc sisters Emmanuelle (whistles, octave mandolin, bodhran, keyboards, jaw harp, percussive dance, vocals) and Pastelle (accordion, piano, percussive dance, vocals), and Pascal Miousse (fiddle, mandolin, guitar, vocals). With their multitude of instruments and a keen understanding of their homeland’s musical legacy, Vishten combines their own compositions with traditional Acadian-French songs and instrumentals, creating a whole new dynamic. They’ve released four albums, earned numerous awards and played throughout North America, Europe, and Australia. Rhode Island native Kevin Doyle was happily exhibiting his Irish step dance talents to audiences long before before the phrase “Riverdance” was ever uttered. A US Irish Dance champion at an early age, Doyle expanded his repertoire to

include American tap, and this athletic, spry blend of traditions and styles brought him beyond the Irish dance world to performance opportunities with the bands Pendragon and Atwater-Donnelly, and in productions such as “A Christmas Celtic Sojourn.” In 2013, Doyle was awarded a Folk Arts Fellowship by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts. Also hailing from the Ocean State are siblings Ruby May, Evelyn, and Samuel Miller, who have competed in numerous national and international Irish dance contests, most recently in Montreal at the 2015 World Irish Dancing Championships where they earned World medals, Samuel placing sixth overall. The Millers – who have trained at the Goulding School of Irish Dance in Medford and Cranston, RI – have performed at venues such as the Blackstone River Theater and Providence Performing Arts Center. For a link to ticket information and other details about the “Celtic Sojourn Roots and Branches Concert,” go to [wgbb.org/celtic](http://wgbb.org/celtic).



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Guitarist and vocalist Donal Clancy plays at The Burren Backroom series on August 24.

## AUGUST CALENDAR

Appearances by innovative accordionist Sharon Shannon and top-flight guitarist and vocalist Dónal Clancy highlight Boston-area Irish/Celtic music events this month.

• The Burren Backroom series will host four acts between now and September, beginning on Aug. 10 with the multifaceted Edinburgh-based band **Dallahan**. The quartet of Jani Lang (fiddle, vocal), Jack Badcock (guitar, vocal), Andrew Waite (accordion), and Ciarán Ryan (banjo, mandolin, fiddle) has strong backgrounds in Irish and Scottish music but also draw on Hungarian and other European influences as well as those of jazz, classical, pop and funk. Dallahan covers this stylistic ground in seamless fashion, shifting from an uptempo Irish jig to a groove-laden contemporary song that sounds straight out of the Newgrass movement, or fusing a Scots reel with a Romanian dance tune.

**Sharon Shannon**, one of the most groundbreaking Irish musicians of her time, will play two shows apiece in the Backroom on Aug. 17 and 18. From

her early days with The Waterboys in the late 1980s through her long solo career, the Clare native has proved tremendously popular for her deft playing and her mixing of Irish music with other traditions, notably Appalachian, and genres that include country, rock, hip-hop, and reggae. She's collaborated with such performers as Christy Moore, Jackson Browne, Frankie Gavin, Michael McGoldrick, Sinéad O'Connor, and the RTE Concert Orchestra, and is associated with one of the most beloved Irish-American songs of recent decades, Steve Earle's "Galway Girl"—she played on Earle's original recording of it.

• A scion of one of Irish music's most famous families, **Dónal Clancy** will come to the Backroom on Aug. 24. Reared in a musical household as the son of Liam Clancy, and nephew of Paddy, Tom, and Bobby Clancy—the Clancy Brothers—Clancy began playing guitar at age 8 and was an experienced professional by his late teens. He was a co-founder of the group

Danú, of whom he is still a member, and has recorded or toured with Solas, The Chieftains, and the fiddler Eileen Ivers, not to mention his cousin, Robbie O'Connell—the two were part of a trio with Liam in the 1990s. Clancy's two solo albums, "Closer to Home" and 2014's "Songs of a Roving Blade," have further established him as a talented guitar player with an equally fine touch for instrumentals as well as for accompanying his genial singing. Over the past several years, he has focused on the Clancy rep-



Daimh, whose sound is strongly influenced by Scotland's Gaelic music tradition, comes to the Backroom on August 31.

ertoire of songs that made his family's tradition a worldwide phenomenon.

• Capping the Backroom events for the month will be **Daimh** (Gaelic for "kinship"), a quintet immersed in the Gaelic music of Scotland's Highlands and islands, and Cape Breton. Their most recent album, recorded live in the Hebrides, offers a snapshot of a band with considerable strengths: the dynamic melodic/rhythmic core provided by founders Angus MacKenzie (pipes, whistle), Gabe McVarish (fiddle), and Ross Martin (guitar), with the added talents of Murdo Cameron (mandola, mandolin, accordion, vocals) and the bewitching voice of their newest member, acclaimed young Gaelic singer Ellen MacDonald. In recent years, Daimh has won "Folk Band of the Year" honors at the Scottish Traditional Music Awards and was selected "Best Folk Band in Europe" at the Folkherbst competition in Germany.

Opening for the band will be local sister-brother act **Elizabeth and Ben Anderson**, a fiddle-cello duo who play Scottish and original music with energetic rhythms and creative harmonies. In addition to The Burren, the Andersons have appeared at BCMFest, the Club Passim Campfire festival, and the Ossipee Music Festival.

For tickets and other details about the Backroom series, go to [burren.com/](http://burren.com/)

[Backroom-Series.html](http://Backroom-Series.html).

• The Anderson siblings also will be the opening act on Aug. 2 at the Club Passim concert series in Danehy Park in Cambridge, near Alewife and Porter MBTA stations. They will be followed by the main act of the evening, The Loomers, who play rock, highway blues, heartland folk, urban country, 1950s rock & soul, and retro-1980s pop.

On Aug. 9, the series will feature traditional Irish music quartet **The Ivy Leaf**, with Dan Accardi (fiddle, concertina, accordion), Armand Aromin (fiddle, whistle), Caroline O'Shea (flute, whistle, vocals), and Lindsay Straw (bouzouki, guitar, vocals), all of whom are mainstays in Boston's Irish music scene. They will open for Honeysuckle, a trio that plays a progressive, dexterous brand of folk music for guitar, banjo, mandolin and vocals.

On Aug. 20, at its Harvard Square headquarters, Club Passim will present the annual **Boston Harbor Scottish Fiddle School Redux** concert, as faculty from the school perform in various collaborations. This year's BHSFS faculty includes fiddlers Anne Hooper, Cynthia MacLeod, Elke Baker, Hanneke Cassel and Paul Anderson; Terry Traub, piano; Laura MacKenzie, Scottish smallpipes, flute, Gaelic singing; Eamon Sefton, guitar; and Elias Alexander, highland

pipes.

For tickets and information on Club Passim, go to [passim.org](http://passim.org).

• **Keltic Storm**, which describes its music as "country, folk 'n roll," will give a concert on Aug. 11 at the Irish Cultural Centre of New England in Canton. The quintet of James McGarrity (vocals, keyboards), Rod McAuley (vocals, acoustic guitar), Eamon O'Loughran (vocals, lead guitar, banjo), Sean O'Brien (bass, vocals), Tony Philips (drums) strives to create a party atmosphere at its gigs, playing audience favorites from all over the musical spectrum—from "Black Velvet Band" and "The Rattlin' Bog" to covers of "Proud Mary," "Summer of '69" and "Dancing in the Dark"—to their original songs.

For reservations and other information, go to [www.irishculture.org](http://www.irishculture.org) or call 781-821-8291.

• The Folk Song Society of Greater Boston [[fassgb.org](http://fassgb.org)] has two house concerts of note this month. "Crofters, Sailors and Cowboys," on Aug. 19, brings together traditional singers **Margaret Bennett, Norman Kennedy, and Danny Cooper with Skip Gorman** for an evening of Scottish, Irish and American music and songs that range across the emotions as well as miles.

On Aug. 26, legendary singer/guitarist **Martin Carthy**, one of the central figures in the 1960s/'70s British Isles folk music revival, will be in town. Carthy has released dozens of recordings, solo and in various collaborations—including seminal folk-rock band Steeleye Span—and influenced legions of guitar players, while his respect for, and knowledge of, the folk song tradition has likewise proved inspirational.

To make reservations and find out more details on these and other FSSGB house concerts, send e-mail to [HouseConcerts@fassgb.org](mailto:HouseConcerts@fassgb.org).

— SEAN SMITH

# Thomas MacDonagh remembered – on CD

(Continued from page 10)

which MacDonagh translated from Old Gaelic; recollections of James Stephens, who published a book about MacDonagh's poetry shortly after the Easter Rising; William Butler Yeats's gripping "Easter 1916" ("A terrible beauty is born"); "A Warning to Conquerors" and the song "Dublin 1913," both written by MacDonagh's son Donagh, and given heft here by Colm O'Brien with grit and passion. The album closes, fittingly, with Francis Ledwidge's "Lament for Thomas MacDonagh."

"What we wanted in that last 'act,'" explains Butler, "was to imagine a salon of poets and friends, all thinking of Thomas and his life and death was all about. But we also included a reference to the British officer who witnessed MacDonagh's execution, and said he had 'died like a prince.' In fact, when MacDonagh came out to the firing squad, he could see many of them were young lads who were upset about having to

perform this task, and he said to them, 'It's a lousy business, fellows. I don't hold it against you.'

"To think about others during your last moments is incredible, and very indicative of the honorable gentleman that he was."

Ironically, "Poet and Patriot" had its beginnings in an unsuccessful



Martin Butler, left, and John Owens, his collaborator on the Thomas MacDonagh CD project: "The point of making the CD was to allow people to consider who he was and how he came to be that person, and the impact he had on others," says Butler.

1916-themed recording project in which Butler and Owens had been involved. "John and I were kicking around ideas for an album of poetry, and it didn't take shape as we hoped. So we just chatted over tea about what we might do, and John—who's a fine historian as well as a great musician, and

whose family came from the area as MacDonagh's—put some tracks down as a start. So we had some nice material to work with."

As the album began to take shape, Butler at first recruited people with whom he'd worked most often, in musical or dramatic settings. Then the circle began to expand outward to include others he'd never met before, but who he believed could make a solid contribution.

"The generosity of all these artists was just amazing," he says. "Nobody I asked said 'no'—there were some who gave their time, but as it turned out there was just no space for them, but everyone was so good about it."

"To a large extent, I wanted everybody involved—especially those who did readings—to represent somebody in MacDonagh's life, some chapter in his development. I couldn't have a hard-and-fast approach, because there was such a variety to his work, and I wanted the album to

reflect that."

He and Owens are planning an album release event for sometime in the future, but are still working on the details: "Although it would be wonderful, of course, to get all the 50-plus people who contributed to the album together for a gig, that's probably not going to happen," says Butler, who recently donated 100 copies of the CD to the Thomas MacDonagh Heritage Center in Cloughjordan, out of gratitude for their assistance in his research.

"I just cannot say enough how grateful I've been to everybody who helped in some way shape or form, whether they appeared on the recording, or just simply gave advice and encouragement. This project meant a lot, obviously, and it took a lot to put together—it's in cases like this when you find out how truly generous people can be."

"*Thomas MacDonagh: Poet and Patriot*" is available via iTunes, Amazon, and CD Baby.

Traveling People

Interesting places, locales boost Ireland’s welcoming spirit

By JUDY ENRIGHT  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR  
Some travelers claim that it doesn’t really matter what type of accommodation you choose when you’re on a trip because “it’s just a place to sleep.” We heartily disagree. Securing interesting places to stay in interesting locales can add so much to your ultimate experience.

TODAY’S TRAVELER

There are as many different types of travelers today as there are options for accommodation, and a lot depends on your budget and on how you like to be treated when you are traveling. The thrifty, independent traveler might choose one of Ireland’s tourist board-approved B&Bs, farmhouse, or family homes, or the popular Airbnb. You can also book lodging with groups like homestay.com, which offers hosted home stays and matches travelers with hosts, locales, and dates by filtering search results for amenities, pets, and hobbies. Many hotels around the country also offer special deals in order to compete and there are some who prefer the anonymity of a hotel to the personal attention in someone’s private home.

One of my favorite accommodation groups over the years has been Hidden Ireland (hiddenireland.com), which offers a glimpse into another era with B&B in historic private homes. Hidden Ireland properties are elegant and fascinating and it’s fun to meet the family and other guests around the breakfast table or in the sitting room.

CASTLECOOTE HOUSE

This spring, a friend and I visited Co. Roscommon and stayed at Castlecoote House, a Georgian mansion restored to its current glory after a devastating fire in 1989 left only outer walls standing. The property was derelict until 1997 when the current owners took over and spent the next 10 years restoring the house.

My bedroom was spacious with a comfortable four-poster bed. The adjoining modern bathroom had a shower surround set into the bathtub to accommodate both shower and bath aficionados.

Breakfast was cooked to order by the host and served before a peat fire

in a bright, cozy dining room. A walk afterwards around the beautifully landscaped grounds, which run down to the River Suck in front of the house, was a treat.

The house opened to the public about a dozen years ago and hosts the annual Percy French Festival in July.

Kevin Finnerty, who owns the house with his wife, Teresa, pointed out that Castlecoote was designed to catch the light at every hour of the day. Asked why travelers might choose to stay in historic private homes like Castlecoote, he said, “Because it’s a great way to see Ireland and get an insight into the culture and history.” For more information, visit castlecootehouse.com. Guided tours and afternoon tea are offered there from April 1 to Sept. 30.

For other Hidden Ireland historic houses around Ireland and Northern Ireland, visit hiddenireland.com. There are many wonderful houses in this group.

TULLYNALLY

Looking for a great way to spend a day while you’re in Ireland? Why not set aside some time to visit the amazing gardens at Tullyally Castle near Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath?

There are about 20 acres of gardens to wander and enjoy views, rare trees, herbaceous borders, follies, lakes, walled gardens (where a family of llamas hangs out) and more.

Thomas Pakenham inherited the Tullyally estate in 1961 after the death of his uncle, the sixth earl of Longford. After producing three large history books—“The Year of Liberty,” “The Boer War,” “The Scramble for Africa,” all of which are still in print—Pakenham began writing about trees—starting with “Meetings with Remarkable Trees” in 1993 - and has since become a passionate gardener.

In recent years, he has brought back seeds from plant hunting trips to China, Tibet, and Sikkim in Northern India. Most of his plantings have been in the Forest Walk, where soil is acidic. He recently planted a collection of rare magnolias at the castle.

Pakenham’s wife, Valerie, has written two historical anthologies, “The



Castlecoote House, an historic Georgian mansion in Co. Roscommon, is open for B&B from April 1 until the end of September. In the foreground is a 16th Century castle tower. *Judy Enright photos*



Comfortable four-poster bed in one of the elegant bedrooms at Castlecoote House in Co. Roscommon.

Traveller’s Companion to Dublin,” and “The Big House in Ireland, and their daughter, Eliza, has penned a family history about the second Earl of Longford, his brothers and sisters, one of whom - Kitty Pakenham - married the Duke of Wellington. No shortage of writers in that household!

Tullyally also has a tearoom with homemade food, cakes, tea, and coffee. And, you can book a tour that runs every Sunday afternoon and reveals secrets of Victorian “life below the stairs” in the castle’s kitchens and laundries.

The gardens and tearoom are open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Thursday to Sunday as well as

bank holidays through August and also every day during Heritage Week, Aug. 22-29. For more information, visit tullyallycastle.ie

PUCK FAIR

Want to see a goat crowned king? Then be sure to visit The Puck Fair in Killorglin, Co. Kerry, one of Ireland’s oldest festivals, from Aug. 10 to Aug. 12.

The festival offers a unique coronation ceremony and parade, free day and night concerts, storytelling, traditional music sessions and dancers, music and dance workshops, midnight fireworks, and a horse fair. There will be street traders and artists, a craft fair, buskers, face painting, a pet show, and puppet theatre. For more, visit puckfair.ie.

GAELFORCE WEST

Feeling energetic? If so, join in Europe’s biggest one-day adventure race on August 20 between Connemara and southwest Mayo.

The 67-km trail (about 41 miles) stretches across mountain scree, bogland, forest tracks, and along Killary fjord and takes in Connemara, the Delphi valley, Mweelrea, Croagh Patrick, and Westport. Some 3,000 people will walk or run the 21 km (about 13 miles) of trails and mountain, cycle for 45.5km (about 28 miles) and paddle a kayak for



Beautifully set table welcomes guests to cooked-to-order breakfast at Castlecoote House in Co. Roscommon.

about 1km (less than a mile.) Entrance fee is 75 euro. See gaelforceevents.com for more.

TASTE OF DONEGAL

From Aug. 26 to Aug. 28, Donegal Town will host more than 120 food and drink exhibitors from all over Ireland and the UK at A Taste of Donegal Food Festival. There will be wine and beer master classes, music, a fireworks display over Donegal Bay, and much more. For more information visit: atasteofdonegal.com.

While you’re in Donegal, don’t miss the Donegal Craft Village and especially its award-winning Aroma coffee shop and restaurant. We enjoyed a wonderful lunch there this spring and took home some of Aroma’s delicious homemade bread to enjoy another day.

The craft village is outstanding. Several of my favorite artists have shops there, including the multi-talented Niall Bruton, who makes jewelry in precious metals as well as many other art pieces, including bronze sculptures, and the McGonigle Glass Studio, whose jewelry I’ve bought in shops around Ireland, especially at O’Reilly & Turpin in Westport, Co. Mayo.

There are many other artists and crafters in the Village whose shops are



For those concerned about being able to shower in an historic property, the owners of Castlecoote House in Co. Roscommon have just the solution - a bathtub fitted to serve as a shower or tub.

well worth a visit. Just be sure to check opening times as we went on a Monday (before summer season started) and not many stores were open. See donegalcraftvillage.com for more.

TRAVEL

It’s a bit hard to believe it’s already August and summer is nearing an end. Enjoy your trip to Ireland if you’re going this month or whenever you go. There is so much to do all year and so many activities all over the country for every age and interest. See ireland.com for details on activities, festivals, and more.



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# The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

Remember the short conversation that I gave you last month? Let’s go over some parts of it. For example, In Lines 1 an 2 we have the standard morning greetings for a Roman Catholic. A Protestant would simply respond with **Lá maith**, “Good day”.

Pádraig: **Dia duit, a Liam.**  
Liam: **Dia ‘s Muire duit, a Phádraig.**

Notice the two names, “Bill” (**Liam**) and “Patrick”. These are in what is called the “**Vocative Case**” – the form used when talking directly to someone. Recall that there are three rules to form the **Vocative**. Rule 1. Prefix the name with the particle **A**/uh/; Rule 2, Lenite (“aspirate”) the initial **consonant** unless it is **l, n, r** which are never lenited. Rule 3 applies only to male names – “slenderize” the final **consonant** by inserting a “silent **I**” unless the **consonant** is already “slender”.

Some examples include:

Rules 1 & 2:	English	Irish	Vocative
	Bridget	<b>B</b> ríd	<b>A B</b> hríd
	Barry	<b>B</b> arra	<b>A B</b> harra
	Rose	<b>R</b> ois	<b>A R</b> ois
Rule 3:	Anthony	<b>A</b> ntaine	<b>A A</b> ntaine
	Thomas	<b>T</b> omas	<b>A T</b> homas

Remember that initial **Th-** is pronounced as /h/.

Let’s practice a few of these. See if you can write and/or say the **Vocative** for these Irish forenames: 1.) “Susan” **Siobhán** 2.) “Calum” **Colm** 3.) “Eileen” **Eibhlín** 4.) “Sarah” **Sorcha** 5.) “Elizabeth” **Eilís** 6.) “Brian” **Brían** 7.) “Declan” **Déaglán** 8.) “Eamon” **Éamann** 9.) “Kate” **Cáit** 10.) “Kevin” **Caoimhín**

Line 1 also has a question. Each **verb** in a question has the particle **An** in front of it, **An chuala tú an stoirm aréir?** hink of **An** as a spoken “Question Mark”.

**An** has a different form in the Definite Past where it is **Ar** in common speech. The answer usually must have the same **verb** and often in the same tense. However, the **negative particle** which precedes a **verb** does have a different form depending on the tense.

Present: **Níl**                      Future: **Ní**                      Definite Past: **Nior**

Sentences which begin with a question word such as “What, where, who, when, how, why” will not have the **An** marker.

It is time now to introduce what is known as the **Habitual Past**. In English, the closest equivalent is “used to” as in “She used to play”, **D’imireadh sí** from the base verb **imir**, “play”.

The first thing to remember is that all of the **Past Tenses** “lenite” (“aspirate”) the **initial consonant** (except **l, n, r**). If the **verb** begins with a **vowel** or **f-** then it is “artificially lenited” with **d’** or **d’fh-** where the **fh-** is “silent”.

The endings for regular **verbs** become **root lenited** plus ...

“I”- <b>(a)inn</b> /een/	“we”	- <b>(a)imis</b> /eemeesh/
“you” - <b>t(e)a</b> /tah/ or /cha/	“You-all”	- <b>(e)adh</b> /uh/
“he/she” - <b>(e)adh</b> /uh/	“they”	- <b>(a)idis</b> /eejeesh/

Remember that the letters in parentheses are “dummies” just to match, for balance”, a **vowel letter** that is before the **final consonant** of the root word.

This is best illustrated with **bog** “stir” or “soften” and **cuir**, “put” or “plant”.

<b>Bhogainn</b>	“I used to stir”	<b>Bhogaimis</b>	“We used to stir”
<b>Bhogtá</b>	“You used to stir”		
<b>Bhogadh sé, sí, sibh</b>	“He/she/you-all used to stir”		
<b>Bhogaidis</b>	“They used to stir”		
<b>Chuirinn</b>	“I used to plant”	<b>Chuirimis</b>	“We used to plant”
<b>Chuirteá</b>	“You used to plant”	<b>Chuireadh</b>	“He/she/you-all used to plant”
<b>Chuiridis</b>	“They used to plant”		

Test yourself by seeing if you can translate these sentences into Irish. Remember to “eclipse” nouns if necessary.: 11.) “They used to plant potatoes.” 12.) “We used to put on our caps.” 13.) “She used to stir the pot.” 14.) “I used to plant potatoes.”

Answers: 1.) **A Shiobhán** 2.) **A Choilm** 3.) **A Eibhlín** 4.) **A Shorcha** 5.) **A Eilís** 6.) **A Bhriain** 7.) **A Dhéagláin** 8.) **A Éamainn** 9.) **A Cháit** 10.) **A Chaoimhín** 11.) **Chuiridis prátaí.** 12.) **Chuirimis ar gcapíní.** 13.) **Bhogadh sí an bpota.** 14.) **Chuirinn prátaí.**



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### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

#### August 2016

**Sunday, Aug. 7**  
Sunday Social: Wild Rovers. Doors open at 7 p.m.  
**Sunday, Aug. 14**  
Sunday Social: Noel Henry, 7 p.m.  
**Sunday, Aug. 21**  
Sunday Social: Erin’s Melody, 7 p.m.

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**FRIDAY, AUGUST 5**  
Sean Wilson with Tony Mac.  
Doors open at 7 p.m. \$20  
Call the Club at 617-327-7306  
to reserve a table.

Socials every  
Sunday Evening  
at 8:00 pm

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