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# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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## MEET THE MAGUIRES



Philip and Tracey Maguire with (L-R) Sean, Aoife and Emma during their recent visit to Boston.

Sean Smith photo

## For the Maguires, parental vision and hard work – plus music – make for a ‘wonderful’ happening

BY SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Philip Maguire doesn't lay claim to being a philosopher, but then again he does seem to have a pretty good angle on what it takes to be part of a suddenly popular Irish music family band that features two teenagers and one pre-teen.

First, you don't so much move the goal posts – you look for different sets of goal posts to put in front of you. And second, and perhaps most importantly, you develop an appreciation for the little absurdities of life, such as oxymorons and their exalted place in Irish conversation.

There's a bit more to it than that, of course, but things seem to be working just fine for Philip – guitarist, PR/marketing director, sound manager, travel agent, and most of all, father – and the rest of the Wicklow-based Maguires, who earlier this summer passed through Boston on their first-ever US tour: 17-year-old Emma (fiddle, flute, piano), 15-year-old Aoife (concertina, uilleann pipes, fiddle, whistle, piano) and 12-year-old Sean (bodhran, percussion); Maguire's wife Tracey doesn't play instruments or sing, but is universally acknowledged as an invaluable member nonetheless.

Relaxing the day after their appearance at The Burren Backroom series – and several hours before their concert at the Irish Cultural Centre of New England in Canton – the family reflected on their eventful past few years, in which they went from playing informal gigs in and around their home base to touring around Ireland, appearing on national TV, and recording a well-received CD. Some good luck has certainly contributed to their success, along with a social media-assisted convergence of factors. But at the root of it all is – as always – hard work, and the willingness of a father and

(Continued on page 13)



Karen Murphy stars in the national tour of "Finding Neverland," at the Boston Opera House, August 8 - 20.  
Story, Page 10.

## Holding immigrants for ICE is unlawful, SJC rules

BY ANDY METZGER

STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

In a ruling rife with consequences for immigrants being pursued across Massachusetts by federal agents, the Supreme Judicial Court said last month that state law does not permit officials to detain immigrants solely at the request of federal immigration officials, effectively erecting a legal barrier to a long-running component of immigration enforcement.

The case in question involves Sreynoun Lunn, who was born in a Thai refugee camp to Cambodian parents fleeing the Khmer Rouge and brought to the United States as a seven-month-old refugee in 1985. The court concluded that "nothing in the statutes or common law of Massachusetts authorizes court officers to make a civil arrest in these circumstances."

No single justice was credited with authorship of the ruling declaring that state law "provides no authority for Massachusetts court officers to arrest and hold an individual solely on the basis of a Federal civil immigration detainer, beyond the time that the individual would otherwise be entitled to be released from State custody."

The ruling could stir the immigration debate playing out in Congress and at federal courthouses, as President Donald Trump has sought stricter enforcement of border security and railed against jurisdictions seen as offering "sanctuary" to those in the country illegally.

According to the American  
(Continued on page 15)

## Boston and New England send their 'Rose' to Tralee



BY BIR STAFF

Orlaith Roche, a 26-year-old model from Sudbury, at left, will represent Boston and New England this month as the Boston Rose when some 65 young women from around the world gather in County Kerry for the annual Rose of Tralee competition.

The highlight of the international festival, at 58 years old one of Ireland's largest and longest running events, is the selection of the Rose of Tralee but over its seven days

of celebrating Irish culture (Aug. 16-22) there are street entertainments, a carnival, live concerts, theatre, circus, markets, funfair, fireworks and Rose Parades.

"My dad was born in Wexford, Ireland, and my mom is from Ennis, Co. Clare," said Roche. She added: "I am the youngest of the Roche clan, two boys and two girls - two of whom were born in Ireland. I was born in Boston, but my most vibrant childhood memories are from when I was

living in Ahane, Co. Limerick. Growing up surrounded by the rolling hills and stunning scenery instilled in me the desire to roam and connect with nature.

"Becoming the 2017 Rose of Tralee would be a dream come true and such an honor for not only myself, but my forever proud Irish family."

The ceremony crowning the 2017 Rose will be nationally telecast in Ireland on RTE, and livestreamed at rte.ie

### Point of View

Democracy dies behind closed doors – and behind close investigations, writes BIR columnist Peter F. Stevens in noting that US Sen. Susan Margaret Collins of Maine stands as one of the very few politicians unafraid to speak truth to power.

Page 5.



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

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# From The Industry, gourmet fare in the very heart of Adams Village

By BILL FORRY  
EDITOR

Boston's newest culinary hot spot is an Irish-owned venture that is bringing gourmet dining to the heart of Dorchester's Adams Village.

The Industry, a 151-seat lounge and restaurant serving up a foodie-friendly menu of "innovative American comfort" for lunch and dinner, has replaced Sonny's, a longtime neighborhood hangout that was purchased last year by David Arrowsmith and Martin Davis.

This is the first restaurant project for the duo. Arrowsmith, a native of County Louth, owns and operates Neponset-based Capital Construction. He personally supervised a team of builders who transformed the old pizza and beer joint into a dramatic dining space with new windows, doors, and a state-of-the-art, 618-square foot kitchen.

The space itself is spectacular, but the real show-stopper at The Industry is the food. The Industry scored a coup in landing Stephen Coe to work as executive chef. Best known recently for his work at Plymouth's Mirbeau Inn & Spa and Quincy's Alba—Coe was named "Best Chef" by South Shore Living last year—the Abington, native has also taken



**Executive chef Stephen Coe** prominent turns at restaurants in France, Italy and Thailand.

"I love this area and the idea of building a brand in Dorchester—and elevating the experience—really appeals to me," said Coe, who supervises two sous chefs and kitchen staff, but also works the line himself most nights. They churn out signature dishes like a 24-ounce Tomahawk bone-in Rib Eye, pear and mascarpone sacchetti, and homemade desserts, including a S'more cheesecake that must be tasted to be believed.

Other favorites sampled on a recent BIR visit: a warm mushroom and asparagus salad topped with a crispy egg and a swordfish topped with lobster and saffron risotto. Flatbreads are another popular bar-top offering, with buffalo chicken, Philly cheese steak and spicy sausage joining Caprese and fresh-fig and prosciutto

on an attractive shingle. Coe—who has three children of his own—has also devised a terrific kids' menu that includes staples like hot dogs and burgers, but with an upscale twist. There's a six-ounce steak frites or salmon, for example. There's mac n'cheese—but it's far from a microwave job. There are plenty of "grown-ups" who'll be wishing they'd ordered their little one's five cheeses with Gemelli pasta and bread crumbs.

The 38-seat bar features 16 tap beers—including nitrogen-fueled Guinness—and a massive, mahogany cooler that chills 180 bottles of wine. Handcrafted cocktails—including an old-fashioned that is the current top-seller—are in ready supply. The large dining room is lined with red-leather booths and floor-to-ceiling windows that open up to Adams Street. On a recent Saturday night, the booths and tables were packed with patrons dining and drinking to the sounds of a live saxophone and guitar two-piece.

*The Industry, located at 750 Adams St., Dorchester, is open daily from 11:30 a.m.- 1 a.m. serving lunch and dinner and Sunday brunch (10 a.m.- 3 p.m.). Valet parking is available after 5 p.m.*



The bar at The Industry in Adams Village. Photo courtesy The Industry

## At New Bedford Whaling Museum, talk of the Good Friday pact and Brexit

Last month, David Byrne, the former attorney general of Ireland and a key figure in the Good Friday Peace Agreement process, delivered a fascinating and thought-provoking lecture at the New Bedford Whaling Museum (presented in partnership with the New Bedford Lyceum). To an appreciative audience, he discussed "How diplomacy brought peace to Northern Ireland: Reflections on The Good Friday Agreement and its impact on Brexit today."

Byrne brought an insider's view to both subjects. In the historic and arduous effort to end The Troubles by bringing the warring parties to the table, Byrne proved an indispensable figure as he worked directly with US Senator George Mitchell of Maine. Byrne discussed the twists and turns of the fragile negotiations that led to the Agreement, which was signed in 1998 and endures today despite several rough patches. Byrne illuminated just how vital the grueling

peace process was for the Republic, Northern Ireland, Great Britain, as well as in the US and across the globe. Byrne's appearance continued the institution's ongoing commitment to bring prominent lecturers and important exhibits to the region. Anyone with even a passing interest in Irish, Irish-American, and American history should take in the museum's splendid "Famine, Friends & Fenians" exhibition before it ends in September.



## BPD bids farewell to a fallen brother

The Boston Police Department and the Dorchester community last month mourned the loss of Officer William F. Smith, III, who died suddenly on July 9 while vacationing in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Officer Smith, 59 was known affectionately as "Billy" to friends, neighbors and colleagues. He was laid to rest in Blue Hill Cemetery following a

funeral Mass on Saturday at St. Brendan Church. On Friday, traffic came to a halt in Adams Corner as hundreds of police officers gathered to attend his wake at the John J. O'Connor & Son Funeral Home in Dorchester. Outside, members of the police bagpipe band—a scene captured by Billy Smith's friend, longtime Globe photographer Bill Brett.



William F. Smith, III

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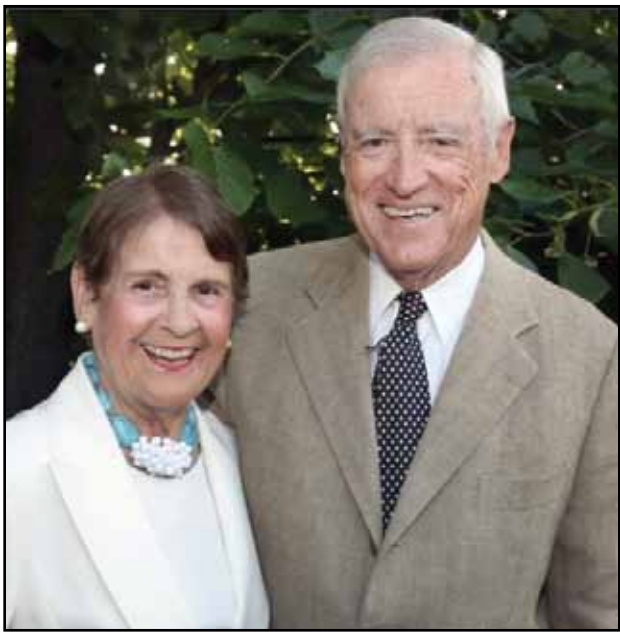
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Publisher’s Notebook



Diddy and John Cullinane

Recalling how Diddy Cullinane sparked goodwill

By Ed Forry

The year was 1989. A group of business and community leaders in Boston gathered to search for ways to help heal a racially divided community. Boston’s reputation was still reeling from years of contentious events brought about by the court-ordered busing of school children. Street crime was on the rise, the murder rate was increasing, and a national economic slowdown loomed ahead. Then up stepped Diddy Cullinane, a Dorchester-born woman who, with her husband, John Cullinane, were known for their philanthropic leadership across the city.

Diddy had been asked to chair that year’s fundraising efforts for the archdiocese of Boston’s Catholic Charities, and she decided to form a multi-racial committee with 44 members – 22 black and 22 white individuals. She called it “Black & White Boston Coming Together,” and hoped that “it would be a visible demonstration that a strong element of goodwill between the races did exist.” From those inspired calculations, a multi-racial organization was established, and it carried on its work for two decades, until it was dissolved in 2008.

This summer, in a book she authored that catalogues the program’s successes, she writes, “So productive and amicable were the subsequent meetings, the group decided to continue as an entity, with a structure and form yet to be determined. From this beginning, Black & White Boston was born!”

In an introduction to the 284-page book, Diddy Cullinane writes, “During one of the City of Boston’s darkest times, a group sought to demonstrate that there existed a strong element of goodwill between the races. Through a variety of activities and drawing on political, corporate, cultural, social and religious support, they succeeded for a period of almost 20 years in proving it did exist. This book is a chronicle of their efforts.”

The Cullinanes reached out this summer to invite old friends and supporters to a reception to launch the book, and they gathered at the Harvard Club on a warm June evening to renew acquaintances, recall the many achievements, and memorialize those early supporters who have passed on.

“It chronicles the 20 years of an organization working to bring the races together around social interaction and jobs,” John Cullinane said. “It worked. For example, (Boston Globe sportswriter) Will McDonough hosted the “Black & White On Green” golf tournament one year. At his funeral service, Father Tom McDonnell, who played in the tournament every year, said Will singled out Black & White Boston as something he really liked.

“Not long after, Archie Williams, founder of Roxbury Technologies, unfortunately died as well. At his service, Bishop John Borders of Morningstar Baptist Church in Roxbury singled out Black & White Boston as something Archie really liked.

“South Boston and Roxbury linked in this way is the way it should be, and Black & White made it possible,” said John.

With participants ranging from high school students to company CEOs, the effort engaged groups from many varied sectors, with “a goal to create dialogue, promote education, encourage action, and develop employment opportunities in the community.”

Projects included golf tournaments, scholarships for caddies, a breakfast series, and business profile awards.

According to the group’s news release, “Black and White Boston Coming Together, Inc., worked with the mayor of Boston, as well as with other organizations that have similar goals. Interaction with educational institutions, business, cultural, and social services provide opportunities for networking, the sharing of experiences and goals, and possible collaborative affairs.”

The organization had a small four member staff, and was funded by private donations and fundraising events.

By Joe Leary  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The sad continuation of officially sanctioned sectarian agitation occurs regularly every July in Northern Ireland. Hundreds of government-approved parades and dozens of subsidized massive bonfires together celebrate the superiority of Protestants over the Catholic population by commemorating a 300-year-old military battle.

It is an old story, one that has caused thousands of deaths on both sides since Ireland’s six Northern counties were separated from Ireland and added to Britain in 1922. The people of Ireland have paid a tragic price for this over the last 95 years, and despite a peace agreement in 1998, Protestant and Catholics continue to live almost exclusively in their own communities with little trust between them.

And every July, the Protestant side, with the government’s backing, reminds us all how bitter and profound the divisiveness exists. It is a severe commentary on the capacity of mankind for stubbornness and intransigence. We see, and have seen, this situation in many places in the world, even here in the United States, with our Civil War and some of what is coming out of Washington these days.

The summer marching season, as it is called in Northern Ireland, finds one side of the conflict obligated to vigorously remind the other of Prince William of Orange’s victory over King James II at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690. There are hundreds of parades, many of them running loudly through Catholic areas that were formerly Protestant. The parades feature very loud huge Lambeg drums with the participants singing anti-Catholic and anti-pope songs.

The Orange Order, a club reserved to Protestants that has many government leaders as members, is the prime mover behind the parades. This was a banner year for the parades. With the Catholics staying away, there was little resistance to the Orange marchers ruling the streets with their government-approved permits and protection from mobilized police in full riot gear, which further aggravates the environment.

The atmosphere is so charged that even the fairest most thinking members of government are afraid to act, and for years many families on both sides have left Northern Ireland during this period to avoid any trouble.

Parades can take place most any time of the year,

but many of the largest are held on July 15. The night before is called the “Eleventh Night” and it calls for hundreds of bonfires – some as high as a ten-story buildings – to be lit at midnight. This year at one of the bonfires, a casket was hung halfway up its side accompanied by a picture of the recently deceased Sinn Fein leader Martin McGuinness. Sometimes they will have pictures of the pope.

Last year some people hung a stuffed effigy of Gerry Adams from a bonfire. The fire department assigns their men to each bonfire to prevent the fire from spreading. With bonfire piles more than 100 feet high, local fire-fighters stand on adjacent buildings with their hoses forcing water down the sides to prevent damage. Can you imagine Boston’s Mayor Marty Walsh or his fire department tolerating such a practice?

No one wants a return to the violent years, so insulting parades and dangerous fires are still allowed in the hope that such an outlet will discourage resorting to trouble again. But the Catholic population is growing so rapidly that such tolerance may not continue for much longer. There is no doubt that the Catholic influence will soon assume political authority.

The *Telegraph* ran an article recently, showing that 47 percent of university students in Northern Ireland are Catholic and 30 percent are Protestant. This analysis did not include foreign students. The ratio in the universities has been growing more Catholic for many years, and it is much the same in lower grades.

In another article in the *Telegraph* recently, David Williams wrote that “When you look at those children and babies born in Northern Ireland since 2008 the figures reveal that 31 percent were Protestant and 44 percent were Catholic.

Sooner rather than later these trends will become reflected in government policy. Since 1922, when the separation occurred, the republic of Ireland economy has grown substantially while the North’s economy has shrunk and is now dependent on Britain. With Brexit looming this will only get worse. Few like to talk about a United Ireland, but a prudent person should start preparing. Things will probably change as far as anti-pope parades and massive bonfires are concerned.



Joe Leary

Off the Bench

Can Trump survive this level of scrutiny?

By James W. Dolan  
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

President Donald Trump is caught in a spinning wheel that he can’t control. He has every reason to be alarmed at the appointment of a special prosecutor, but not because there was collusion between his campaign and Russia or that he engaged in obstruction of justice. Those allegations have yet to be proved and may never be. The larger issue is whether or not he and some of



James W. Dolan

his aides can withstand the level of scrutiny they are likely to receive. One thing leads to another, as disclosures take investigators from anticipated to unanticipated directions.

With a top-flight team of lawyers and the investigative resources of the FBI now focused on a target-rich environment, Trump should be worried. Given his flamboyant personality, ethical lapses, questionable business ventures, failure to disclose financial information, and conflicts of interest, there is a good chance the special prosecutor will identify misconduct, some of which may rise to the level of “high crimes and misdemeanors.”

Few could withstand the intense examination to which Trump will be subjected without some adverse findings. Given his inclination to make good things bad and bad things worse, he has no one but himself to blame for this situation. His lack of self-control, disregard for the truth, and shallowness have become insurmountable hurdles in his quest for glory.

There is an old Japanese proverb: “The nail that sticks out gets hammered.” Much to his regret, Trump may find that his elevation to the presidency has drawn a level of attention that otherwise would not be problematic. The consequences of his behavior are now far beyond those of a business mogul. What is overlooked in a billionaire is critically examined in a president.

Trump sees himself as either hero or victim; there is no in-between. Without the self-awareness necessary for humility, he is incapable of honestly evaluating his own behavior. Any criticism of him is, therefore, without merit. He is being unfairly maligned by those unwilling to recognize and applaud his big-league accomplishments. Persons with his disability lie, distort, cut corners, ignore boundaries, feel invulnerable, and classify others as friend or foe.

His need for loyalty may not help him as investigators seek to “flip” associates in search of a bigger prize

by offering immunity or a plea bargain in exchange for damaging information. Under such pressure, self-interest usually prevails. Had Trump not fired James Comey, this whole thing may have blown over. There should be no satisfaction in bringing down a president.

If Trump believes Robert Mueller is getting too close, he may make the mistake of firing him, too. I doubt that would stop the investigation. It would be viewed by many as tantamount to an admission of guilt. He can only hope nothing significant is unearthed while he’s worrying that some of what he describes as “deals” may turn out to be unlawful. In the meantime, the investigation becomes a major distraction to someone already disinterested in policy.

That we placed our country in the hands of a man so obviously flawed is incomprehensible. As he feels more threatened by the investigation, his behavior may become more erratic. So far it seems as if we’re watching an episode of “Jeopardy.” Let’s hope it doesn’t become “Survivor.” Unfortunately for him and the nation, the monument Trump is building for himself may never be finished or, if it’s completed, it may sink in the sand. As in the poem by Percy Bysshe Shelley, the pedestal proclaims:

“My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:  
Look on my works ye mighty and despair!”  
Nothing beside remains round the decay  
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare,  
The lone and level sands stretch far away.”

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

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# Democracy dies behind closed doors – and closed investigations

By PETER F. STEVENS  
BIR STAFF

We are poised on the edge of a Constitutional crisis and a medical catastrophe for anywhere between 20 million and 50 million Americans. As President Trump – with the aid of numerous Irish-American lemmings such as GOP leaders Paul Ryan, Mick Mulvaney and Scots-Irish-American Mitch McConnell – tries to incinerate the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), and shut down the “Russian hoax” by finding a way to fire Special Counsel Robert Mueller, one member of the Republican Senate has planted herself squarely in the president’s way.

Susan Margaret Collins stands as one of the very few politicians unafraid to speak truth to power. She also stands as one of the very few GOP legislators unwilling to rip Medicaid away from the poor and the elderly.

Collins likely sees that her party has two paths to suicide. If they destroy Obamacare without an actual and viable replacement – their current bills are a toxic hash – and millions of Americans find that the president’s guarantees of cheaper and better health care are bald-faced lies, the GOP’s burial shroud awaits. If the party refuses to challenge President Trump as he moves against Mueller and suppresses the Russia investigation, they will blatantly tell the nation that they value party above country. The choice is that stark: Putin and political power above country.

Should that come to pass, the GOP as we know it will be RIP after the next few election cycles, and the disorganized, near-rudderless Democrats won’t have to do a thing. The GOP will sink with the Bully in Chief and have no one to blame but itself.

Susan Margaret Collins is one of the six children of Donald Collins and Patricia (McGuigan) Collins whose paternal forebears arrived in Caribou in the 1840s, and she is one of a vanishing breed – the moderate Republican. Sadly, moderate Democrats are also an endangered species.

Compassionate conservatism has marked her long political career along with deep experience in foreign policy and defense. She knows that Russia’s interference in the 2016 election was brazen and unacceptable. She demands answers, and that’s why she has warned the president and his minions that any attempt to fire Mueller is “unacceptable.” She doubtlessly understands that if her fellow Republicans allow Donald Trump to kill the Russia investigation, the Constitution means nothing.

P.T. Barnum famously said, “There’s a sucker born every minute.” Donald Trump counts on that. He has made a career of it in business. He conned millions of voters by promising to repeal Obamacare without touching Medicaid. Is it any surprise that as Mueller begins to delve into the Trump clan’s murky financial ties, especially into the president’s mysterious tax



Susan Collins

returns, he has grown manic trying to squelch the investigation? Again, Trump is counting on a majority of “suckers” to let him get away with what would be the biggest con job in presidential annals.

On the healthcare and Russia investigation fronts, US Sen. Susan Margaret Collins asserts that the miserable multitude is as entitled to quality medical services as the fortunate few and that the nation is far more important than any one person – even a person named Donald J. Trump.

Collins is no fan of Obamacare. Still, she is pragmatic and courageous enough not to sell out millions of Americans who are dependent upon Medicaid, safeguards for pre-existing condition, women’s health care, and other ACA protections. Unlike most of her male GOP colleagues – particularly Ryan and McConnell – she refuses to back down to the bully at the bully pulpit.

It’s fitting that a Down East Republican senator sees Donald Trump for the threat that he poses to a divided democracy. In June 1950, in a nation similarly divided over “Russian” influence, one of Maine’s US senators, Margaret Chase Smith, did what most of her male colleagues did not dare – call out Senator Joe McCarthy. With calm and cutting clarity, she warned that McCar-

thy’s “Four Horsemen of Calumny – Fear, Ignorance, Bigotry, and Smear – threatened the nation.”

She asserted that “a Republican regime embracing a philosophy that lacks political integrity or intellectual honesty would prove equally disastrous to this nation... I don’t believe the American people will uphold any political party that puts political exploitation above national interest.”

With Medicaid on the brink of destruction – and Medicare and Social Security maubge headed for the chopping block – handing massive tax cuts to the fortunate few and aiming to squash the Russian investigation, Trump and his GOP enablers and apologists are racing toward history’s proverbial cliff, apparently unable or unwilling to stop themselves.

To paraphrase Dennis Lehane’s “Gone, Baby, Gone,” the GOP’s determination to pass Obamacare repeal or repeal and replace and the sight of many Republicans’ acquiescing to Trump’s push to choke off investigations of any Russian ties will have a dire result – “Gone, GOP, Gone” in the 2018 and 2020 elections.

That would be less a victory for Democrats than an example of political and moral suicide by the GOP.

For its annual Profiles in Courage Award, the Kennedy Museum might not have to look too far afield for a Republican recipient fighting that disheartening scenario. US Sen. Susan Margaret Collins of Maine fit the bill for her stand against heartless healthcare policy. She also stands high above most of her GOP colleagues for her embrace of patriotism above party when it comes to Robert Mueller’s investigation.

Sen. Collins remains one of the few Republicans, along with an alarmingly small number of Democrats, who clearly grasp the truth uttered by Irish statesman Daniel O’Connell in the mid-1880s. At this darkening moment in America’s annals, his words bear repeating in this space:

“Nothing is politically right which is morally wrong.”

P.S. – As a long-time admirer of US Sen. John McCain, and also as someone who witnessed how the slow decline and death of my father, a Navy combat veteran, from cardiomyopathy nearly brought financial ruin to the family, it was satisfying to watch as he closed down the latest GOP effort to savage health care in this country. Now in the fight of his life against brain cancer, he has, and should have, the best medical care available. So, too, should every American citizen, not just the fortunate few.

I remain an admirer of all that John McCain endured for our nation. I hope that when President Trump moves to have Mueller fired and then to close the Russian investigation, John McCain will again roar like the Lion of the Senate against a president who has no respect for the Constitution, and no regard for anyone save himself.

# Ulster University cites former BRA head Coyle for his outreach work in the era of the Troubles

By GARETH McKEOWN  
THE IRISH NEWS

DERRY, No. Ireland – An American businessman who helped replace guns with jobs in Derry during the Troubles received an honorary degree from Ulster University last month.

Boston native Stephen Coyle, a director of the Boston Redevelopment Authority under Mayor Ray Flynn in the 1980s whose family hails from Derry and Galway, was recognized for his work promoting peace and prosperity in the Maiden City during the conflict, notably his work in helping to bring about the creation of Foyle-side shopping centre.

The landmark building, initiated by former SDLP leader John Hume and then Northern Ireland secretary of state Richard Needham, was the first major regeneration project in the city since the Troubles began. But for Mr. Coyle it was simply “another project.”

One of 14 children, Mr. Coyle, who is CEO of the \$5 billion AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust in America and has supported major building projects around the world, was first brought to Derry in 1986 by Mr. Hume, who enlisted his help to drive economic development in the city.

“His notion was Derry will be the market place for north west Ireland, period. He just believed it. Now who would have believed that in 1986? When you come to Derry in 1986 it’s an armed camp,” Mr. Coyle said. “You’d be stopped and frisked every other block, low-scale harassment to encourage you to go home. You’d be up against the wall, and I’m not being melodramatic: They’ve have the gun to your head saying what are you doing here, why don’t you go home.

“There are curfews, people don’t go out and meet, people who should know each other don’t mix. And when they mix they’re not talking about economic development, they’re talking about what’s the next step in the Troubles, what’s the new political future going

to be. So that’s not what you see in an area actively engage in economic development.

“We met with everybody, we met with people who had credible links to paramilitaries,” said Mr. Coyle. “We met with the government and we came to a conclusion - you had to create a statement project. People had been doing investment on a small scale for some time, but it was not having a cumulative effect in changing people’s mindsets, it just wasn’t having an impact.”

Despite being told such a major capital project was impossible and fraught with danger given the conflict, Mr. Coyle and others, including fellow US businessman Frank Costello, persevered with the Foyle-side development.

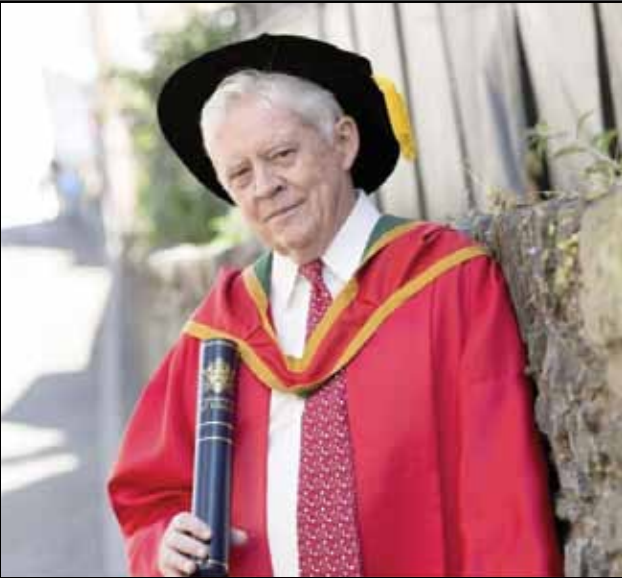
“I didn’t come at it thinking ‘Oh, this will never work.’ It never entered my mind. Even with what was going on and people saying it will get blown up. We wanted to create an outbreak of ordinary economic life.”

The 65-million pound project employed more than 1,000 people through its construction, with the total economic impact estimated at around 1,500 jobs. Hailed at its opening in 1995 as the most important milestone in Derry’s retailing history, the centre served as a catalyst for economic development in the north west.

The Boston’s businessman’s role in promoting economic prosperity did not end there, though as he was part of the team that conceived and launched the Ulster Community Investment Trust, one of the most successful micro-lending programs in the UK.

The trust provides loans exclusively to other third sector organizations such as community groups, charities, sports clubs, and social enterprises, and since 2001 has committed in excess of 50 million pounds to over 360 organisations north and south.

Over the 30 years since he first came to Northern Ireland, Steve Coyle believes the change in Derry is “night and day” and is honored to have played some part in the transformation.



Stephen Coyle worked with Nobel Peace Prize laureate John Hume on the Foyle-side development.

“I was very lucky to have the opportunity to work with people here to help make a difference. It was very important to me. It inspired what I did back home and what I did back home in America gave me the confidence that anything could be done here if you just got people enlisted in the enterprise.”

Mr. Coyle - who has developed close ties with Ulster University and led on the development of the John J. Sweeney Scholarship, which supports one US student a year to study - described his honorary degree as a “great honor,” but was quick to credit the influence of others for the sea change in the north west.

“Derry had the spirit, they had the leadership, and they had the will, that’s how it happened. It was an honor to be engaged, just to play a part.”

**Flynn hails Coyle recognition**

In a statement following the degree ceremony in Derry, Ray Flynn said that “Steve Coyle is committed to helping all people regardless of their race or ethnicity, where they live in this world or whether they are rich or poor.

“I’ve seen first-hand his dedication to our homeland in Ireland. This award is appropriate as recognition of his decades of work to make a better society in Ireland, in Boston, and across the country. The love, respect, and appreciation that the people of Boston have for Ireland is boundless.”



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# Insurance and Investments

*A good financial strategy is not just about “making money;” it is also about protection.*

Provided by Brian W. O’Sullivan, CFP, ChFC, CLU



Some people mistake investing for financial planning. Their “financial strategy” is an investing strategy, in which they chase the return and focus on the yield of their portfolio. As they do so, they miss the big picture. Investing represents but one facet of long-term financial planning. Trying to build wealth is one thing; trying to protect it is another. An effort must be made to manage risk.

Insurance can play a central role in wealth protection. That role is underappreciated - partly because some of the greatest risks to wealth go unnoticed in daily life. Five days a week, investors notice what happens on Wall Street; the market is constantly “top of mind.” What about those “back of mind” things investors may not readily acknowledge?

What if an individual suddenly cannot work? Without disability insurance, a seriously injured or ill person out of the workforce may have to dip into savings to replace income. As the Council for Disability Awareness notes, the average length of a long-term disability claim is nearly three years. Workers’ compensation insurance will only pay out if a disability directly relates to an incident that occurs at work, and most long-term disabilities are not workplace related.

What if an individual suddenly dies? If a household relies on that person’s income, how does it cope financially with that income abruptly disappearing? Does it spend down its savings or its invested assets? In such a crisis, life insurance can offer relief. The payout from a policy with a six-figure benefit can provide the equivalent of years of income.

Why do people underinsure themselves as they strive to build wealth? Partly, it is because death and disability are uncomfortable conversation topics. Many people neglect estate planning due to this same discomfort and because they lack knowledge of just how insurance can be used to promote wealth preservation.

The bottom line? Insurance is a vital, necessary aspect of a long-term financial plan. Insurance may not be as exciting to the average person as investments, but it can certainly help a household maintain some financial equilibrium in a crisis, and it also can become a crucial part of estate planning.

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## Medieval-style tapestry highlights NI’s connection to ‘Game of Thrones’

With fans having had to wait longer than usual, season 7 of “Game of Thrones” is finally upon us. And, with the new season comes a brand new Tourism Ireland campaign that will showcase Northern Ireland once again as “Game of Thrones” Territory to millions of fans worldwide. With fewer episodes this season than ever (just seven) Tourism Ireland’s latest campaign, created in partnership with HBO, offers fans the chance to re-live their favorite scenes from the show all year long. The campaign, which is supported by Tourism NI, will also be rolled out in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

This year’s campaign is bigger than ever, featuring a 77-metre long, Bayeux-style tapestry that tells the story so far from Season 1 through Season 6. The tapestry brings to life the trials and tribulations of the show’s characters in its most epic and famous scenes – complete with blood-red weddings, golden Lannister hair, emerald green wildfire, cold blue White Walkers and jet black crows.

The tapestry will be woven from one enormous piece of linen supplied by Thomas Ferguson’s in Banbridge, one of the last surviving linen mills in Northern Ireland – giving fans a chance to re-visit all the key events which led to the Season 7 premiere. As the season unfolds, new sections of the tapestry will be revealed each week, in the build-up to the next episode.

### Holy Cross to play in Belfast basketball tourney in December

The city of Belfast will host a college basketball tournament in December, marking the first time American college basketball games will be played on the island of Ireland. The two-day tournament, scheduled for December 1 and 2, will feature Holy Cross vs. Manhattan College and La Salle University vs. Towson University, followed by consolation and championship play on the second day.



John McGrillen, CEO of Tourism NI; Niall Gibbons, CEO of Tourism Ireland; and Kathryn Thomson, CEO of the Ulster Museum, at the launch of the 2017 Games of Thrones campaign in the Ulster Museum, Belfast.

Tourism Ireland will share these new sections via social media – using a mix of cinemagraphs (“living” photographs), time-lapse videos of the weaving process, carousels and Instagram Stories – to bring the creation of the tapestry to life. The tapestry will be hung in the Ulster Museum and will be open to the public. Tourism Ireland and Tourism NI are encouraging visitors to Belfast and Northern Ireland to

come and check out the tapestry. Niall Gibbons, CEO of Tourism Ireland, said: “We are delighted to continue our partnership with HBO for the fourth year running, to highlight Northern Ireland – through the exciting events of “Game of Thrones” – on the global stage. TV and film are recognized as strong influencers on travellers everywhere and the stellar popularity of “Game of Thrones” is a fantastic opportunity for us to promote Northern Ireland to a huge audience of potential visitors.

The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame announced the field of teams for the first-ever Basketball Hall of Fame Belfast Classic. The tourney will be held in conjunction with the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, Sport Changes Life, the Rory [McIlroy] Foundation, and The SSE Arena, Belfast. The Hall is partnering with Sport Changes Life, a registered UK charity and US nonprofit organiza-

tion that works in disadvantaged communities to help young people find a path to a brighter future with the help of international student-athletes. Tourney partner Aer Lingus is offering special fares to family, friends, and alumni who will travel across the Atlantic to show their support. For details, email [emeraldexclusives@aerlingus.com](mailto:emeraldexclusives@aerlingus.com) – ED FORRY

## BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

### Save the Date! 8th Annual Boston Irish Honors Luncheon Thursday, October 26, 2017

The Boston Irish Reporter, the region's leading chronicler of all things Irish-American, will observe our 28th anniversary at a Celebratory Luncheon, 11:30 am- 2:00 pm on **Thursday, October 26, 2017 at the Plaza Ballroom, Boston Seaport Hotel/World Trade Center** With an attendance of some 400 top Boston business, civic and political leaders, the luncheon event will present the 2017 Boston Irish Honors. The Boston Irish Reporter is a family-owned and-operated media publication 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.

### Boston Irish Honorees 2010-2016

- 2016** Jim & Mary (Cahill) Judge  
Senator Paul G Kirk Jr  
Kevin & Joe Leary & family
- 2015** - Margaret Stapleton  
Mike Sheehan, Boston Globe  
BPD Comsr William Evans family
- 2014** - Katherine Craven  
Boston Mayor Marty Walsh  
The Burke family of South Boston
- 2013** - Senate President Therese Murray  
Gerry and Bob Mulligan & family  
John P. Driscoll Jr. (posthumously)

- 2012** - Congressman Richard Neal  
Brendan & Greg Feeney  
Mary & Bob Muse & family
- 2011**- Kathleen O'Toole, BPD Cmsr  
State Senator Tom Kennedy  
Three Irish families: Joseph Corcoran family, James Hunt family  
Mark & Tom Mulvoy family
- 2010** - Congressman Ed Markey  
John Donohue, Arbella Insurance  
Two Irish families: Jim Brett Family,  
Mayor John B. Hynes family.

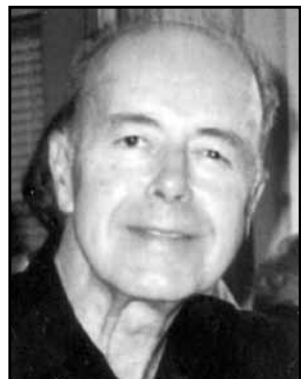
A luncheon committee is currently in formation and soliciting nominations for potential honorees. To suggest a person or family for nomination, or to join the committee, please contact Ed Forry at [edforry@bostonirish.com](mailto:edforry@bostonirish.com) 617-436-1222, ext 11



# Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By Bill O'Donnell

**Peaceful Orange 12th Despite Concerns**—Everyone, presumably excluding Catholics and serious musicians, thought the July 12th demonstrations in Northern Ireland marking an obscure battle or two eons ago, went famously. I wasn't there this



Bill O'Donnell

year, but aside from the bonfires, it did appear from press reports to be a notch below many past orgies of bowler-hatted triumphalism. Well, it was and it wasn't. The bonfires dominated the news, and depending on your tolerance for marching band parade music, it was fair to middling, but peaceful. Ah, but the fires, the celebrated inner city bonfires and the palpable risk to spectators, Green & Orange alike. Some of

the muted creative talents of the Belfast youngsters found their way into discovering just how high these mostly wooden pallets would reach, and how close in some instances to viewers and buildings the fiery pyres could aspire to.

Orange Order grand master **Edward Stevenson** said that he was "delighted with the unprecedented numbers of people celebrating the largest annual festival" in Northern Ireland. While Stevenson's assessment was a positive one, his deputy grand master, speaking out of town in Ballynahinch, used his platform speech to attack those demanding Irish language rights. Yes, indeed, the sectarian polemics help make the day. There was no census taken, so it was difficult to learn how many Catholics, stretching back to an earlier millennium, this year decided to take their holidays around July 12.

Back to the bonfires: The cumulative damage to folk and buildings was minimal, although it must be noted that fire crews were nearby and hosing down, especially the older and more vulnerable structures dangerously close to tall bonfires. And the police were in ample evidence, blocking off some entries and gently keeping people away from fires that posed risks to spectators.

The back story of the North's annual Orange Order's affirmation of pedigree is that it went on as planned despite the Belfast City Council and the injunction it sought against bonfires and their location, based on information some councillors received prior to the twelfth.

**EU Rejects Northern Ireland Special Status**—The European Union parliament voted overwhelmingly – 374-66 – to defeat an amendment granting the North special status. The amendment that was sought, supported by a number of political groups, including Sinn Féin, was intended to ease the harsher restrictions following the passage of the Brexit referendum vote that left the United Kingdom no longer a member of the European Union.

Some of those who were seeking the special status pointed out that future adjustments were more likely to be needed by the Republic of Ireland to allow exemptions from some EU laws, trade restrictions, and special status funding streams. Following the lopsided vote against special status consideration, the consensus was that there would be few instances where similar special status would likely be granted by the EU Parliament.

**A Tale Of Two People, and A Kind Heart**—Helen was in Avoca, Wicklow when a phone call from her husband in Co. Cavan told her that her son had just died from an epileptic seizure. Alone, Helen pulled off the road, put on her hazard lights, and began sobbing. "I didn't know what to do," she said.

Minutes later Michael, a teacher, saw Helen's car at the side of the road and stopped to see if the driver needed help. He listened while Helen poured out her story, saying she didn't know if she could drive the 163 kilometers (over 100 miles) to her home but she needed to get home to Cavan as soon as she could. Without a further thought, Michael said he would drive her home to say goodbye to her son. And off they went. She got her wish—one last hug for her son.

And we know about one man's kind heart because someone called Ryan O'Rourke on RTE Radio and he invited them to tell the story on the air.

**Peacemaker Film Travels, Audiences Cheer**—Creator and documentary producer **James Demo**, who has followed and filmed UMass Professor **Padraig O'Malley** for several years into post-production, has issued a major update that includes screenings of the documentary "The Peacemaker," and the presence of O'Malley and Demo at many of the film festivals. All in all, with more yet to come, "The Peacemaker" has been seen at some 25 festivals in places like Colombia, Canada, Ireland, Warsaw, Belfast, Woods Hole, Sebastopol, San Francisco, New York, Milwaukee, and Cleveland.

The documentary has received broad exposure in national publications such as the *Boston Globe*, *The Hollywood Reporter*, *Variety* and others available on the Peacemaker website, [peacemakermovie.com](http://peacemakermovie.com). The film has also be honored by the Cleveland International Film Festival, Nesnady & Schwartz Documentary Competition, and the Florida Film Festival.

Among audiences who have seen the film there has

been a two-pronged emotional response to the life and journey of Padraig O'Malley. Two themes reach out to the film audiences, both central to the film's story. The first response with many festival filmgoers has been from the Recovery Community, which identifies with O'Malley's struggle with his addiction and the honesty in the way that struggle is handled in the film. And O'Malley's life to date in the film is enhanced by his extraordinary, courageous, years-long quest for peace that began in Ireland, was nurtured in South Africa, and has reached across the globe to many of its troubled outposts.

The film shows how O'Malley has devoted a lifetime to the quest for peace and has experienced the difficulties and risks that are inherent in bringing antagonists together under one roof to explore how people in conflict can, amidst the rubble, find pathways to understanding and a beginning to a peace of sorts.

The response from the audiences is emotional when they see how raw and scarring are the enmities that underpin the conflicts and the wars unless the parties themselves can reach out through the differences and come to believe that peace is possible.

"The Peacemaker" is a fascinating piece of movie-making that deals with two of life's most intense and defying problems and the man whom veteran filmmaker Demo has in his camera sights is someone you will not soon forget.

**Banner Year for Pollsters**—Those monitoring the political horse races of 2017 are having a terrific time of it. Testing the waters of **Donald Trump** against everybody is a raging cottage industry and profitable.

The newest match up has Facebook founder and CEO **Mark Zuckerberg** in a hypothetical voter preference poll that tests the 33-year-old billionaire's public political clout. The numbers put Trump at 20 percent in a flat-footed tie with Zuckerberg. No wonder the polls are all over the place, often without a clue as to the beliefs and policies that candidates have.

The voters in America have no idea if Zuckerberg likes his eggs over lightly or how he would handle North Korea or Iran, but he polls idiotically alongside the sitting president. Absurd, yes, but that's politics today in America and it suggests that we might be able to deal once in the proverbial blue moon with an unhinged American president, but it's problematical if we could survive a second.

**BIV Link Critical to Derry, Galway, Boston Success**—Elsewhere in this paper is the story of the recognition of **Stephen Coyle**, the former director of the Boston Redevelopment Authority who was a key force in forging lasting and productive links with the leadership and people of Galway and Derry in the 1980s and 1990s.

Coyle, who now heads the AFL-CIO Housing & Investment Trust in Washington, received an honorary degree and gave the commencement address at the recent University of Ulster Magee College.

In many ways it was a homecoming for Coyle and a warm "thank you" from the citizens of Derry and Galway for his efforts in organizing four Irish Trade Festivals in Boston's World Trade Center, and capping his work in those years with the construction of the

Foyleside Shopping Centre in Derry. The attractive, modern centre remains today as one of the finest commercial settings in all of Ireland.

There are many from Boston who worked and traveled to Ireland to copper-fasten Irish-American ties. BIV co-chairman, Dr. **Frank Costello**, who also worked closely as an advisor to Mayor **Ray Flynn** before his election and afterwards at City Hall, stressed that "the hugely successful Foyleside project that Steve Coyle steered so well for Boston Ireland ventures in Derry was made possible by Flynn's leadership. The mayor gave us the support to commit the resources and time to construct this iconic peace structure serving the city's people at a critical juncture in the emerging peace process. The project in Derry was an investment in fairness and that guideline drove all of us throughout its construction. It showed what could be accomplished if all sides could end the violence."

There were, as noted above, many hands who volunteered and offered help and encouragement as BIV did its work. **Arthur Casey** and the Quincy development firm headed by the **O'Connell brothers** worked directly on site in Derry. Active supporters over the years included **Philip Haughey, John Cullinane, Anne Karakatsanis, Edris Kelley, Padraig O'Malley, Joe Timilty, Michael Donlon, and your reporter**, who spoke at the 1995 Foyleside Centre dedication in Derry and brought greetings from Mayor Flynn and the people of Boston.

A number of busy men and women were enthusiastic, and made up the hard-working backbone of Boston Ireland Ventures' board of directors. Several of them sadly, are no longer with us. These include Jack Driscoll, Ray Dooley, Paul Harold, Eddy Martin, Hon. Robert Quinn and Mary Mulvey Jacobson. They remain in our hearts today, over twenty years later.

**The People of Kerry Lead The Way**—A group of Kerry officials including the Irish Wheelchair Association and county councillors have banded together to provide an innovative way of getting the disabled and mobility-challenged onto Kerry's world famous beaches.

Specially designed sand vehicles, or Hippocampes (contraptions with balloon wheels that can maneuver over the sandy strands), are replacing the standard steel wheelchairs which are difficult to impossible for

the disabled to use on sand.

Now, and for the first time, Kerry's disabled and those with physical limits have open access to Kerry beaches that once were impossible to use. For many, especially children, it is the first time on the Kerry beaches in their lifetime.

Two top beaches in Kerry are leading the way using Hippocampes: Inch, at the entrance to the Dingle Peninsula, and Ballinskelligs, in the south of the county. Soon scenic Ballyheigue should have the special sand vehicles, This popular program is free of charge for the disabled and operates seven days a week in summer.

Incidentally, Ballyheigue was home for a number of years to author **Christy Brown and his wife Mary**. Oh, how Chris, who had cerebral palsy, would have loved the new beach wagons. If visitors to north Kerry are in the Ballyheigue area, a scenic wonder not far from Kerry Head, visit in the town and stop at Kirby's Pub, which had an original sculptured bust of frequent Kirby patron Christy the last time I was there.

**Jimmy Fund Days for Dana-Farber**—One of the favorite "Days of Giving" every summer is the fund-raising two days in August (15, 16) when the Red Sox play two games and WEEI Radio devotes its 36-hour funding drive to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's mission to help cure cancer. WEEI will be joined by Red Sox TV station NESN to make it an over-the-top boost for the Jimmy Fund. Listen in and help if you can.

**Long Kesh/Maze Prison Future Uncertain**—You can call it politics, maybe mean, historic politics, or you can simply write Long Kesh Prison off as a white elephant edged in conflicting orange and green hues, but the facts are that in a province that needs all the help it can get, the 347 acres and its promise of enormous state funds for refurbishment sits silent and forlorn. Politics has always spoken loudly in the six counties.

Long Kesh today is Northern Ireland's largest development site under public ownership. If you have a few moments to think about it, you can imagine an extended park, with affordable homes and spa facilities and the attendant refinements that could easily use those government funds to do something that might—careful here—find ways to make the slumbering site a commercial proposition, producing revenue not budget deficits. There also has been talk of a multisport stadium with up to 5,000 permanent jobs and an investment portfolio reaching 400 million euros. That concept slumbers on, like a project that never came close to a vote.

But the sport stadium idea was taken off life support back in 2009. The reason: competing demands for separate developments elsewhere, and opposition by football fans based on choice of Site. Then there was something exciting and possible—a peace centre with promise of mid-sized seed money from the European Union, and who knows where that might lead?

But history and politics have taken their toll, and enmity has a stern foothold when loyalists and republicans, many former prisoners of the targeted land, marinate in anger and distrust. They are in no hurry, either the green or the orange, to embrace concepts in what they view as a zero-sum game.

The interplay regarding the proposed peace centre takes odd but not surprising turns that hold a capacity for going quickly to "No" and speeding past any nuance or quibbles. Sinn Féin has always argued that the Long Kesh site is a singular resource for education and they are adamant that no progress can be made on the site until or unless a peace centre is guaranteed. The political heavyweights with Stormont muscle, the DUP, the Democratic Unionist Party (Paisley's political home) contend that the centre would be separate and apart from the retained prison buildings.

The first breakdown in comity among the Green and Orange came from the loyalist side, who were representing some victims' families and current and former police officers. Then came a controversial marketing report sourced from the Information Commissioner that did nothing to dampen the differences. It was now back to familiar ground—stalemate.


**Welcome to Leo Varadkar**, a member of the Fine Gael Party and the youngest Taoiseach in Irish history.

## A reflection by Robert F. Kennedy March 18, 1968

"... the gross national product counts air pollution and cigarette advertising, and ambulances to clear our highways of carnage. It counts special locks for our doors and the jails for the people who break them. It counts the destruction of the redwood. And the loss of our natural wonder in chaotic sprawl. It counts napalm and counts nuclear warheads and armored cars for the police to fight the riots in our cities. It counts Whitman's rifle and Speck's knife. And the television programs which glorify violence in order to sell toys to our children. Yet the gross national product does not allow for the health of our children, the quality of their education or the joy of their play. It does not include the beauty of our poetry or the strength of our marriages, the intelligence of our public debate or the integrity of our public officials. It measures neither our wit nor our courage, neither our wisdom nor our learning, neither our compassion nor our devotion to our country. It measures everything in short, except that which makes life worthwhile..."



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**Grabbing the opportunity of a lifetime**

Joseph Boyle of Derry, Northern Ireland, came to Boston on the J-1 Intern program through the Irish International Immigrant Center for an exciting internship with Ironshore, a Boston-based insurance company. As a student at Ulster University, Joseph chose to take advantage of an intern abroad program that allows him to take 9-12 months from his academic studies to pursue an international internship in his field.

Joseph was determined to immerse himself in this opportunity and interviewed with several organizations before accepting his ideal placement with Ironshore.

Since arriving in Boston last fall, he has worked directly with insurance underwriters and gained first-hand

experience in the industry. The experience has not been without its difficulties, however. “My biggest challenge was definitely leaving home and moving to Boston,” he said. “However, I would say that my biggest achievement was also overcoming this challenge.”

Joseph’s work colleagues have made significant efforts to help him acclimate to life in the US and have shown him the ropes in the insurance industry. Through this experience, he has decided to pursue a career in insurance underwriting. This internship will serve him well as he continues to develop his academic and professional skills back home.

Since arriving in Boston last fall, Joseph has traveled to New York City and explored Boston with new friends and extended family. He has enthusias-

tically participated in the IIIC community, joining us at our winter Open House and checking in regularly with staff. He even organized a trip home to celebrate his 21st birthday with his family.

We wish Joseph continued success and hope that he enjoys the last few weeks of his internship!

*If you are interested in learning more about the J-1 Irish Intern program, or if you have an available internship opportunity, please contact Paul Pelan ([ppelan@iicenter.org](mailto:ppelan@iicenter.org)).*

**IIIC thanks Neil Hurley for decades of service**

This month, we celebrate the many contributions of volunteer Neil Hurley. As community clinic coordinator for over twenty years, Neil organized our legal clinics in South Boston, Dorchester, and Brighton. He has been an invaluable



**Neil Hurley**

member of our team and we are grateful for his decades of service. Though he will be stepping down as community clinic coordinator, the indefatigable Neil will stay on as a volunteer with the IIIC. A huge thank you to Neil from all of us at the IIIC.

Immigration Q&A

Foreign driving permits, licenses: Beware scams!

**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 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 foreign license and the individual’s record of arrival from US Customs and Border Protection showing the relevant date. Over 100 countries are on the list, including Ireland and the United Kingdom.

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 has been a movement to advance legislation to change this. IIIC supports this advocacy 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 for the Registry 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 law 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.

*For a free, confidential consultation on any aspect of immigration law, visit one of IIIC’s legal clinics as advertised in this section of the Boston Irish Reporter.*

**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

About depression, anxiety, and alcohol abuse

**By Rachel Reisman**

There are many roads that can lead a person to a struggle with alcohol or drugs: a family or genetic history of alcoholism, a traumatic or life-changing event, or a medical or mental health issue. One of the most common threads, however, is untreated anxiety or depression.

When we are in pain and we are suffering, our brains will seek out relief- this is what we are hard-wired to do. When we cannot name our struggle, and do not know that anxiety and depression can be treated, we may stay silent and cling to that which brings us calm or gives us courage. For many, this is alcohol.

Anxiety is common, in all of its forms. This includes generalized anxiety that hangs around for weeks and days, panic disorder that shows up spontaneously, knocking us down with feelings of weakness and dizziness, and social anxiety disorder that causes us to judge ourselves incessantly and makes it hard to be near others or to socialize.



**Rachel Reisman**

Depression is also a very common emotional struggle. It can show up in many forms: as a low-grade sadness or flatness that doesn’t go away, physical symptoms of pain, trouble eating, sleeping, or functioning, or thoughts of suicide.

Both anxiety and depression involve the brain chemistry of serotonin. They can emerge as the result of life stressors and events, or they can show up as a result of our genes, similarly to diabetes or high cholesterol. Anxiety and depression are not a personality problem or character flaw, but rather a result of medical conditions or mental health issues that can be treated.

Alcohol brings a quick sense of relief from these


symptoms. It sedates our racing thoughts and critical voices, and it seems to lift our mood and help us chat with others. Alcohol can feel like a blessing to those who are exhausted from years of feeling flat or “constantly worried. However, alcohol is a chemical depressant, and in the long run will either worsen anxiety and depression or lead to anxiety and depression.

While alcohol may seem like a solution, it will often make the original problem worse. Alcohol abuse alters our behavior and emotions, creating disorders and health problems. Anxiety, depression, and alcohol abuse are real and treatable.

When people are able to speak about their fears, loneliness, and sadness - whether in AA or in counseling - they begin to feel relief. Many antidepressants treat both anxiety and depression. They are often low-cost, and can help a medical situation that is no fault of one’s own. When alcohol is no longer part of the equation, anxiety, panic, and suicidal thoughts are not fostered in the same way.

If you, or anyone you know, recognizes this very common scenario, please know that there are multiple pathways to feeling better, and that the Irish International Immigrant Center’s Wellness Services team are available to help sort things out with you. You can contact Rachel Reisman at 617-542-7654, Ext. 14.

*Rachel Reisman, LIC-SW, is the IIIC’s Wellness Services director.*



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Clinics are in the evening – please do not arrive more than 30 minutes before the clinic begins.

**South Boston**

South Boston Labouré Center, 275 West Broadway, South Boston MA 02127  
Tuesday August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00pm

**Brighton**

Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington St, Brighton MA 02135  
Monday August 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

**Downtown Boston**

IIIC, One State Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston MA 02109  
Tuesdays August 1<sup>st</sup>, August 15<sup>th</sup>, and September 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm

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# She believes – in ‘Neverland’

By R. J. DONOVAN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Karen Murphy has traveled the globe as a much-in-demand actress and singer, who has appeared on Broadway and in major touring companies, has performed in concert and presented her own highly acclaimed one-woman show, “Torch Goddess.” Happily, her career has its roots right here in Boston.

She welcomed a BIR interview. I dialed her number and waited for the familiar voice. She picked up and I asked, “Is this Karen Murphy, the Goddess?”

With theatrical flair, she announced, “I’m anxious and excited to return to the city where my career began!”

Karen is back in Boston for the first time in 25 years this month with the national tour of the musical, “Finding Neverland,” with music and lyrics by Gary Barlow and Eliot Kennedy, book by James Graham.

Playing at The Opera House from Aug. 8 to Aug. 20, “Neverland” tells a tale of imagination, detailing how J. M. Barrie came to write “Peter Pan.” Struggling for a new idea, Barrie found his inspiration in a family he met in Kensington Gardens – a widow, her four young sons and their grandmother, Mrs. DuMaurier, played by Karen.

A native of New Canaan, CT, Karen attended both

Boston Conservatory and UMass Boston. She was a singing waiter at North Shore Music Theater and she did “Jacques Brel” at The Charles Playhouse. She also worked at the Nickerson Theatre and played Club Cabaret.

Of special note, she was part of the talented quartet that starred in the original Boston production of “Forbidden Broadway,” the irreverent musical that cleverly spoofed other Broadway shows and performers.

Most recently, she completed a 10-month tour of “Mary Poppins,” playing the evil Miss Andrews. She last appeared on Broadway as Madame Armfeldt opposite Bernadette Peters in the revival of Sondheim’s “A Little Night Music.”

Chatting by phone from “Neverland’s” Baltimore stop, Karen said, “We are doing blockbuster business. We are one of the, if not the only, family-friendly shows out there right now. We’re a different animal . . . And it’s important to distinguish; it’s not a children’s show. It is a family show . . . And who, even a 100 years after it was written, hasn’t heard of ‘Peter Pan.’”

Boston theatergoers will recall that “Neverland,” directed by Diane Paulus, played the American Repertory Theater in Cambridge during its gestation period prior to Broadway.

Said Karen, “Our show, it should be pointed out,



The cast of “Finding Neverland,” playing the Boston Opera House, August 8 - 20.

is quite different from the Broadway production. The whole first 15 minutes of the show are completely different. And the ending is completely different. Much more uplifting.”

And what of Mrs. DuMaurier, the protective, somewhat severe, grandmother of the young boys? “Indeed, protective,” she said. “Disciplinarian. Outspoken. It’s a great part. She gets to morph into something a little softer through certain events.”

What few fans know is that Karen auditioned for “Neverland” multiple times when the show was in development. She auditioned for Cambridge. She auditioned for the tour. She auditioned and she auditioned.

In frustration, her manager called the casting office. “She said, ‘What is it! Karen’s been down to the wire for this thing since day one. What isn’t she giving you in the audition? What’s missing? What can she change? What should she focus on?’”

The casting folks offered a few minor notes and Karen auditioned one last time – wearing a different outfit. She got the job.

“Just tellin’ you!,” she said with a wry tone. “It was obviously a factor. Did I do anything dramatically different? I did not.”

There was, however, a slight shading. As Karen was studying her scene for that final audition, the television was on. “Along came Maggie Smith in ‘Downton Abbey,’ and I said, ‘Well, there ya go, Karen. Take inspiration from that.’ It all added up . . . I am, in a word, deliriously happy. And I am over the moon to play Boston again. I’ve never played the Opera House.”

There was never any

career choice for Karen Murphy other than performing. “I knew from the age of three that I would sing and dance and perform,” she said. “I would watch Leslie Uggams on the ‘Mitch Miller Show,’ wide-eyed, and say, ‘I want to be her.’ I had the opportunity to meet her just about a year and a half ago. I was speechless. I couldn’t talk.”

“Forbidden Broadway,” which ran for years in the Park Plaza’s art deco Terrace Room, was a phenomenal success in Boston. Over the years, alumni cast members have noted that the split-second timing, star power mimicry, and quick costume changes were an intense training ground for any theatrical job that would follow.

“I completely agree,” she said. “You were on the spot and there were only four of you . . . We all had that nascent talent, but doing the show sharpened those skills. The writing was just so unique. Have you heard about (writer-composer-creator Gerard Alessandri’s) latest show, ‘Spamilton?’ It’s his best writing. As good as everything was in ‘Forbidden,’ this is a step above.”

Never one to be typecast, Karen has played a broad range of roles. Diversity

has been her strength and her calling card. “I have been blessed,” she said. “If I had an ‘unwritten-down-but-mental-list’ of all the things I wanted to do with my career, I’ve done them. I’m so grateful and I remind myself of that regularly.”

“I was never an ingénue,” she said. “I didn’t turn 37 and the work dried up. Some ingénues morph into leading ladies and keep going, but it’s very difficult. I’ve always been a character woman. So, fortunately, it’s always worked out for me.”

She added, “I’ve had creative experiences. Those are the hardest to find. Sadly, there’s not a lot of creativity on Broadway. It’s too big a machine. It’s about other things. Not that I haven’t had a good time on Broadway, but most of my creative experiences have been off-Broadway or on the regional stage. And here I am, still working. And with this wonderful role!”

R. J. Donovan is editor and publisher of *onstageboston.com*.

•••

“Finding Neverland,” Aug. 8 - 20, Boston Opera House, 539 Washington St., Boston. Info: 800-982-2787 or [boston.broadway.com](http://boston.broadway.com).

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# Lindsay Straw looks to yesteryear for songs about women who know how to take charge

By SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The women in the songs on Lindsay Straw's latest album don't possess super powers or wear skintight, flashy costumes, nor do they have secret identities or high-tech headquarters. But they're heroic nonetheless, relying on pluck, wit, cleverness, strength of will, and other such qualities to escape danger, turn the tables on aggressive would-be lovers, fashion successful and fulfilling lives, and even ride to the rescue of a gentleman-in-distress.

"I was interested in finding songs in which women emerge triumphant in some way," says Straw, a guitar and bouzouki-playing Montana native who came to Boston a decade ago to attend Berklee College of Music. "Obviously, there's some relativism and context you have to keep in mind when you're discussing songs and ballads that are centuries old in some cases – what might be a 'win' in 1800s folk song terms for a woman isn't necessarily a win for women today."

"The point is, while there are songs in folk tradition where women are victims or behave passively, there are also plenty of others where women display strength, fortitude, and resourcefulness," adds Straw, whose song-search was aided by Club Passim's Iguana Fund, which provides support for young traditional musicians.

Released earlier this year, "The Fairest Flower of Womankind" contains 12 songs from the British Isles folk tradition, primarily of English or Scottish origin but with variants in Ireland, America, Australia, and elsewhere. For Straw, it's a further step along a path she wasn't entirely certain she'd be traveling.

"I guess there was a period years ago when I didn't think that being a full-time professional musician would be an option," says Straw, who in addition to her solo work is a member of traditional Irish quartet The Ivy Leaf, and part of a few other more occasional collaborations; she also plays at weddings and other special events. "For a while, I did have non-musical jobs, but when you're just working harder and not making appreciably more money for all the trouble, why not make music your career?"

Hard to argue with her decision: Her first CD, "My Mind from Love Being Free," garnered many positive reviews, from publications like *Sing Out!*, *Living Tradition* and the UK's *Folk Roots*, the latter of which included a track from the album in its regular series of downloadable compilations of noteworthy music, thus bringing Straw to a wider audience. Reviewers and listeners alike showed appreciation not only for Straw's musical and vocal skills but also for her interest in respected traditional singers like Donegal's Rita Gallagher and Scotland's Jeannie

Robertson. Straw's reverence for 20th-century folk revival sounds and styles also struck a chord: *Living Tradition*'s Jim McCourt said Straw evoked "more innocent times, of Greenwich Village and pure folk."

"The first album was mainly songs I'd been doing for a long time," she says. "This particular group of songs I'd learned more recently, so there was a discovery process – even in the studio – that I hadn't gone through with 'My Mind from Love Being Free.'"

"I also think, this time around, I was a lot more focused on each song and its back story, so I definitely feel a greater connection to them."

"Fairest Flower" is that ideal second album following a successful debut: It takes the qualities that made the first one so good and improves on them. Straw's melodic bouzouki and guitar-playing are as fluid and graceful as ever, complementing her distinctive singing. Straw's voice is a quiet one, but certainly not muted or subdued. She communicates the mood and tone in a song with subtle or understated yet noticeable empathy, such as delight at the indefatigable heroine of "The Forester" – who, after practically running a triathlon in pursuit of the man who wronged her, convinces his king to turn the guy over to her for marriage – as well as the free-spirited lass in "Blow Away the Morning Dew" and her raspberry at an unwelcome, self-appointed protector.

There's a similar levity with "Basket of Eggs," in which a bait-and-switch gambit segues into a cautionary tale with a deadpan punchline, and "The Crafty Maid's Policy," where the lady in question displays a pretty darn good acumen for oral contracts.

"The Maid on the Shore" (lady winds up on a ship full of lusty sailors and escapes unscathed) has many iterations in Ireland and the UK, but the version Straw sings – from a recording by English singer Frankie Armstrong – heightens the story's mystical, even supernatural qualities, especially with its "The moon it shone gentle and clear-o" refrain and the siren-like character of the protagonist, who sings captain and crew to sleep. Straw's syncopated, finger-picked guitar accompaniment in the Nic Jones/Keith Murphy vein contributes to the numinous atmosphere.

"A number of people recommended the song to me, and I was particularly drawn to the melody," she says. "Besides, I rather like the fact that she uses singing to win the day."

"Geordie" is about as heroic and romantic as it gets, with the intrepid (yet curiously unnamed) female riding off to rescue her imprisoned lover, and Straw gives the song the dignity it deserves, as she does with "Fair Annie," with its strongly poignant

narrative and revelation, as well as sisterly solidarity.

Arguably the centerpiece of the album is "Young Beichan," an epic that turns on a promise made, perhaps impulsively, out of gratitude and a woman's determination to see it fulfilled. Straw spreads the ballad over two tracks, the first with only her voice over a harmonium drone, and she employs some striking ornamentation to heighten the drama and progression of the plot.

Where "My Mind from Love Being Free" was largely just Straw, here she has an excellent supporting cast on many of the tracks: her fellow Ivy Leaf members Armand Aromin (fiddle) and Dan Accardi (accordion, fiddle); Benedict Gagliardi (concertina, harmonica), who performs with Aromin as The Vox Hunters; and Owen Marshall (guitar, harmonium), a member of Maine Irish trio The Press Gang.

Aromin and Gagliardi's harmony vocals (along with Gagliardi's concertina) help make "Blow Away the Morning Dew" irresistibly charming, while Aromin's fiddle and Gagliardi's harmonica alongside Straw's bouzouki provide a moody, Scandinavianesque feel

to the second part of "Young Beichan." Straw attributes the latter to inspiration provided by a nyckelharpa-playing friend who demonstrated some Swedish polskas for her.

"I thought, 'Maybe I could polskify 'Young Beichan,'" and fortunately, Armand and Benedict were up to it," she says. "They're lots of fun to make music with. I've spent quite a lot of time with them during the past year or so, and was really glad to get them on the album."

Straw is also full of praise for Accardi – whose accordion gives "Female Rambling Sailor" a suitably maritime flavor and "William Taylor" a dark, foreboding tint – and Marshall, who adds musicality to "The Forester" and "Geordie."

"I'm so glad to have gotten to know people like Dan and Owen – they've been a big part of my Boston/New England experience," she says.

One other note about "Fairest Flower": It's nothing on the scale of the "Abbey Road/Is Paul Dead?" urban legend, but turns out there is apparently an unsubstantiated rumor, or assumption, concerning the CD's cover illustration, which depicts a lovely young woman on horseback, with a rakish



**Lindsay Straw: "While there are songs in folk tradition where women are victims or behave passively, there are also plenty others where women display strength and resourcefulness."**

*Mule Deer Media photo*

tilt of her head and a gaze of self-assurance.

So, let Straw settle the matter once and for all: "No, it's not supposed to be me," she says with a laugh. First, she says, unlikely as it may seem for someone who hails from Big Sky country, "you'll never get me on a horse." More importantly, putting her own face on the cover might lead people to think she was conceitedly positing herself as the titular fairest flower.

"Initially I wanted to have a series of little drawings depicting various song scenes," she explains, "but to keep costs reasonable, I reduced my idea into one sort of composite character who would depict a few common elements of the songs. I chose the artist, Amandine Comte, for her style and stunning depictions of women. And so my pistol-packing, cross-dressed,

horse-riding – and possibly horse-stealing – lady came about."

Although Straw's journeys may not have been as extensive as some of the characters in "Fairest Flower," she has logged quite a lot of miles since becoming a full-time performer. But from May to September – when she lands most of her wedding gigs – she tends to stay put, which is perfectly agreeable to her.

"I'd been doing quite a lot of traveling in recent years, touring in the Midwest, the Northwest, and even abroad, and it got to the point where I felt I should focus more on my home base – I've only gone to about five sessions in the last six months. I miss the people who know who I am."

For more about Lindsay Straw and "The Fairest Flower of Womankind," go to [lindsaystraw.com](http://lindsaystraw.com).



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# BIR CALENDAR Irish/Celtic events in August

Alook at some upcoming Irish/Celtic music events in the Greater Boston area:

• The names Makem and Clancy are, of course, very familiar to Irish music fans, but now they proclaim a new generation. **Rory Makem and Dónal Clancy** – the sons of, respectively, Tommy Makem and Liam Clancy – have each forged highly successful careers in the Irish/Celtic world, and now have united to reaffirm their families’ illustrious legacy while sharing their own compelling brand of folk/acoustic music. The duo will appear at the Burren Backroom series on Wed., Aug. 2. Over the past quarter-century, Makem has performed as a soloist and as part of Makem & Spain; Clancy is a highly in-demand guitarist who has been a member of popular bands Solas and Danú and toured with The Chieftains and fiddler Eileen Ivers.

Returning to the Backroom on Aug. 9 will be **Socks in the Frying Pan**, a trio from Ennis in Co. Clare (Aodán Coyne, guitar; Shane Hayes, fiddle, banjo; Fiachra Hayes, accordion) that in just a few years has built a strong following in the US on the strength of not only their considerable musical ability but polished, sweet-voiced singing and a good-natured stage presence.

Both shows start at 7:30 p.m. For tickets and other information, see [burren.com/Backroom-Series.html](http://burren.com/Backroom-Series.html).

• **Emma O’Sullivan**, an All-Ireland champion sean-nos dancer, will come to the Irish Cultural Centre of New England in Canton on Wed., Aug. 2, where she will pres-



Boston-area band Scottish Fish will officially launch their debut album, “Splash,” on August 12 at Club Passim.

ent a master class from 6-7 p.m. and help lead a family ceili from 7-10 p.m. A Connemara native, O’Sullivan was the winning act on RTE’s “All-Ireland Talent Show” in 2010, and has performed with Sharon Shannon, Martin O’Connor, Lunasa, Teada, Dervish, De Dannan, Altan, and Cherish the Ladies, among others.

On Aug. 8, the ICCNE will host a concert featuring **Ruaile Buaille**, a young quartet from Tullamore in Co. Offaly that combines traditional Irish music with folk and pop styles: Niall Kelly, vocals, guitar, banjo; Shane Lynnam, vocals, guitar, bass;

Jack Godley, banjo, cajon; Arthur O’Connor, vocals, fiddle, banjo. Since debuting in 2011, the band has appeared at events such as Ireland’s Rose of Tralee and festivals in the UK, United Arab Emirates and the US, and recorded two albums. The show will begin at 7:30 p.m.

For more on these events, go to [irishculture.org](http://irishculture.org).

• **Scottish Fish**, a teenage quintet from the Boston area, will mark the release of its first CD, “Splash,” with a concert at Club Passim in Harvard Square on Aug. 12 at 3 p.m. Fiddlers Julia Homa, Ava Montesi,

Caroline Dressler and Maggie MacPhail and cellist Giulia Haible began playing together at fiddle camps and sessions, focusing on Scottish and Cape Breton music. Since then, they have performed at BCMFest, Somerville Porchfest, Club Passim, and other events and venues and incorporated some original compositions into their repertoire.

Club Passim will hold its annual Boston Harbor Scottish Fiddle School faculty showcase on Aug. 19 at 8 p.m., including Boston-area musicians **Katie McNally and Anne Hooper** (fiddle), **Eamon Sefton** (guitar)

and **Terry Traub** (piano), as well as fiddlers **Wendy MacIsaac, Gordon Gunn and Judi Nicholson**. Since its founding in 2003, the school has become one of the most popular destinations for aspiring Scottish and Cape Breton-style fiddlers – some of whom have gone on to become performers in their own right.

For tickets and other information, see [passim.org](http://passim.org).

• Boston-based fiddler, vocalist and songwriter **Kathleen Parks** will give a free concert on Aug. 31 at 5:30 p.m. at Boston Public Market, 100 Hanover Street. Parks, a native of New York’s Hudson Valley who attended the Berklee College of Music, grew up playing Irish traditional music but also was influenced by her jazz-trumpeter father. She went on to incorporate these and other musical styles as a soloist and as a

member of Celtic-jazz-fusion ensemble Cat and the Moon and bluegrass band Twisted Pine, and more recently, Irish/Scottish group the Bywater Band. This event is sponsored as part of Berklee’s Summer in the City series.

• Local duo **Colleen White and Sean Smith** will perform at a free concert in Newton Free Library on Aug. 17 at 7 p.m. White (vocals, flute, whistle) and Smith (vocals, guitar, bouzouki, bodhran) incorporate modern influences into their arrangements of songs and tunes from Ireland, Scotland, and England while retaining the spirit and character of those traditions. They also blend works from contemporary singer-songwriters such as Karine Polwart, Steve Tilston, and Kate Rusby. For directions, go to [newtonfreelibrary.net](http://newtonfreelibrary.net).



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Rory Makem, left, and Donal Clancy will celebrate their families’ musical legacy at The Burren on August 2.

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Lilly Pearlman and brother Neil, of Alba's Edge.

## Summer BCMFest

The third annual Summer BCMFest took place on July 2 at Club Passim in Harvard Square, with afternoon performances outdoors by Celtic Roots, the Rockport Celtic Duo and Alba's Edge, followed by an evening concert with Katie McNally and Neil Pearlman, and Daymark. BCMFest is a program of Passim -- the winter version will take place for the 15th year this coming January 18-20 [passim.org/bcmfest].

Sean Smith photos



Katie McNally at the Summer BCMFest evening concert.

# For the Maguires, parental vision and hard work – plus music – make for a ‘wonderful’ happening

(Continued from page 1)

mother to devote time, energy, and resources to what they see as a positive family experience.

“There’s never been any plan here,” said Philip. “Everything has just evolved, organically, and we all try to stay on top of things. If there’s a gig happening tonight, we go play it, and then we see what happens tomorrow.”

Of course, Philip and Tracey’s outlook stretches a bit farther than that – but never too far. “We think of the horizon for them, individually and together, something they can look forward to,” he explained. “It might be getting a new instrument, or going to see a band we really enjoy, for example; actually, we already have some gigs booked for next March in Orlando, so that will be on our calendar. But it’s always important to look forward to something, because it’s too easy to stand still if nothing’s on the horizon.”

“It still amazes me. I think, ‘How did this happen?’ – or maybe ‘How did you let this happen?’” said Tracey. “Putting a music career and a normal life together is definitely a challenge, but they do it, and seeing how much everyone enjoys it – especially Philip and the kids – is just wonderful.”

The US tour – which also included performances in Philadelphia, New York City, Connecticut, Montana, and at the Milwaukee Irish Fest – had loomed big on that metaphorical horizon. This was clearly the next step for The Maguires to take, and one they didn’t take lightly. It’s one thing to go to the States for pleasure, as the family has done several times; it’s quite another for business – especially when that business involves performing music: Philip can give a whole seminar on the red tape needed to get the proper work visa.

Yet the early returns were very encouraging.



The Maguires performing at the Irish Cultural Centre of New England in Canton as part of their US tour. “I see and hear them play all the time,” says Philip of his children, “but they never cease to impress me.”

Sean Smith photo

“The response we’ve gotten has been phenomenal,” said Philip. “The people who’ve come out to the shows really sit and listen. They’re very into it. And we definitely appreciate that.”

Those who went out to see them in Somerville, Canton, or elsewhere, were handsomely rewarded. Musicians in their teens or younger sometimes face a can’t-win situation, because so much attention may be focused on the fact of their youth and less so on their actual ability and grasp of the music. The fact is: Emma, Aoife, and Sean are accomplished musicians, full stop, and more to the point, display a clear sense of engagement, with the audience and each other. There are no dour or deer-in-the-headlight expressions on their faces as they play; instead, it’s little smiles and nods – along with an occasional “I saw what you did there” sidelong glance – among themselves and a general body language that affirms the enjoyment they derive from making music.

“Once you start playing for other people, instead

of just for yourself,” said Emma, “music becomes something else entirely.”

Of course, you don’t have to watch them live (or on YouTube) to glean this. Listening to their 2016 album, “Little Giants and Other Oxymorons,” offers an illuminating, and most flattering, portrait of the band. Mixed in with their takes on venerable tunes like “Fergal O’Gara’s,” “Hunter’s House,” “O’Carolan’s Draught,” “Moving Cloud,” “Mason’s Apron” and “Humours of Tulla” are Maguires originals, most of them composed by Emma and Aoife.

The highlight of these is “WiFi in the Dark,” a reel/jig hybrid that toggles between the two rhythms seemingly at whim – no small challenge for Philip and Sean to follow – yet acquires an infectious momentum. There’s also a similarly captivating trio of jigs, “The Seagulls’ Blessing/Stuck in the Bog/An Tigin” – the first written by the band. Aoife’s nimble concertina, with some fine harmonies by Emma, is in the spotlight on her hornpipe/reel set, “The Mushroom/Furbo’s

Friend.” Other notables are Emma’s winsome slow reel “The Flattened E Flat,” graced by a fiddle-guitar duet at the beginning, and Aoife’s intricate jig “Na Cailini.”

But their repertoire also has a touch of the exotic to it. While it’s not on the album, The Maguires perform “The Pernold Waltz,” a wonderful bit of faux-Gallic fancy composed by two late-greats, Micheal O Domhnaill and Johnny Cunningham. And on “Little Giants,” Aoife masterfully essays “Tico Tico,” a traditional Brazilian *choro* tune with multiple key changes often played on accordion.

“My concertina teacher Cillian King taught it to me,” said Aoife. “I really like taking on the challenge of tunes that are unusual or difficult – it’s one of my favorite things about playing music.”

One other feature of “Little Giants” bears mentioning: The title of each track is an oxymoron, like “Seriously Funny,” “Organised Chaos,” “Fierce Quiet,” “Deafening Silence” and “Go Ahead Back” (a distinctly Irish one, Philip notes, commonly used by

Dublin parking attendants a few decades ago). But the titular oxymoron has special meaning, according to Philip.

“It has to do with the fact that, even though the three of them are still technically ‘little people,’ they seem like musical giants to musical mortals like me,” he explained. “I see and hear them play all the time, but they never cease to impress me. When we were in The Burren green room the other night, getting ready for our concert, Emma played us this new tune – she’d learned it on the car ride up. The way they all will get locked in when it’s time to perform, they’re forever teaching me what’s possible.”

Philip’s musical roots weren’t particularly traditional, although he did pick up tin whistle through his father; his interest was sparked by Ireland’s late-1980s set-dance craze, when he observed the interaction in the musical families he encountered on his travels. So he was gratified when a then-four-year-old Emma came up to him with whistle in hand and asked him to teach her. One by one, the younger

Maguires found their way into music, and Philip realized that “if I was going to play with them, it was going to have to be rhythm – I couldn’t keep up with them on melody – so I played guitar.”

Still, as Philip and Tracey readily attest, their kids are, after all, kids. So there are social obligations as well as school-related ones to work into the family schedule, and as always, ongoing negotiations to sustain familial peace and fellowship. And then there’s simply the delight in seeing what makes your young ones tick: Sean (whose social media-disseminated bodhran solo a few years ago helped bring The Maguires to a wider audience) is an inveterate tinkerer with a great fondness for Legos – on the day of the ICCNE concert, he showed a visitor one of his creations, a jet-assisted florist shop.

“He’s always inventing things,” laughed Tracey, “and driving his sisters crazy.”

The younger Maguires aren’t sure if their music activities make their family dynamics different from others, but Philip and Tracey feel there’s definitely something special going on.

“We played a bunch of gigs in Clare over a weekend, and it was just exhausting,” recalled Philip. “There was a four-hour drive home, but instead of everyone listening to music or fiddling around with phones, we talked the whole way back. Music is a common focal point for the people we meet, even the food we eat.”

Not that there aren’t some occasional strains: “Emma and I are the ones most likely to argue,” he said. “You know, ‘creative differences.’”

But that’s the beauty of a family band, as Tracey pointed out.

“You don’t fall out,” she said, “because you can’t.”

For more about The Maguires, see [maguireband.com](http://maguireband.com).



CD Reviews

By Sean Smith

**Sharon Shannon, “Sacred Earth”** • There aren’t many people who can pull off making an accordion-centric album featuring a waltz from a 1905 operetta; Shetland fiddlers playing a New England-style reel; an innovative, Berklee-educated cellist; African musicians, instruments and rhythms; and vocal cameos by, among others, the legendary Finbar Furey. But that’s Sharon Shannon for you, a superlative musician and visionary who has been transporting the Irish accordion to heretofore distant territories – reggae, country, rockabilly and Argentinian tango, to name a few – for more than 25 years now.



“Sacred Earth,” Shannon’s 10th studio album, is probably too ambitious for its own good. There is just so much going on, so many avenues of exploration, that what could have been the album’s defining characteristic – an Irish/African crossover – winds up being diluted. Yet the sheer musicality and vibrance demonstrated by Shannon (who also plays fiddle and whistle here, and co-wrote most of the material) and her cohorts is enough to compensate for the less fulfilling moments of “Sacred Earth.”

The album’s African dimension is strongest on three

tracks: “Rusheen Bay” – a pulsating jig/reel combo – and the loping “Sacred Earth” are flavored by the Mali-style guitar-playing of co-producer Justin Adams, and the percussion of Ghanaian Abass Doodoo; “Sea Shepherd” is more serene and meditative, with Senegal kora player Seckou Keita taking center stage.

Shannon has long shown a penchant for sharing the spotlight with others, or even ceding it – notably to singers like Steve Earle (“Galway Girl”) and Imelda May (“Go Tell the Devil”). On this album, she gives plenty of room to musicians like Keita, as well as guitarist Jim Murray and cellist Rushad Eggleston (former Berklee College of Music student and co-founder of Crooked Still), such as on “The Merry Widow” – a waltz by Austro-Hungarian composer Franz Léhar, from the operetta of the same name; additionally, Shannon teams up with a quintet of Shetland fiddlers for “Frenchie’s Reel,” which evokes New England contra dance music. There also are a few tracks, like “The Bull Fiddle” – perhaps best described as a 21st-century ceili band number – where the focus tends to be more on Shannon.

The three vocal selections present quite the contrast: “The Machine,” performed by New Mexico-based singer/guitarist Alyra Rose, is a kind of folk/hip-hop hybrid protest song, while “Let’s Go” sees Shannon return to the blues/rockabilly domain, this time with Australian duo Hat Fitz (guitar) and Cara Robinson (vocals, drums). Furey’s cover of the Jim Reeves hit “He’ll Have to Go” – the last known song Elvis Presley recorded in a studio – is sentimental as it gets, but is imbued with his customary sincerity.

So, yes, a lot to take in, and not all of it works – “The

Machine,” for one, sits rather awkwardly among the other tracks. But at certain times you can sense the tremendous enthusiasm Shannon has for this diversity of collaborations, as if she were hosting a marathon music party on her back porch and welcoming a continual stream of visitors. Maybe next time the guest list will be pared down somewhat. [sharonshannon.com]

**Old Blind Dogs, “Room with a View”** • OBD sometimes seems like an under-the-radar band, despite the fact that it has been around for 25 years and has 13 albums to its credit. Perhaps that’s because the band’s lineup has changed considerably over the years – fiddler Jonny Hardie is the sole original member – although this particular roster has been largely intact for most of the past decade. But OBD albums are invariably a reason to celebrate, and to luxuriate in the band’s rootsy yet cosmopolitan sound, definitively Scottish with hints of African, Caribbean, and American/old-timey.

One of OBD’s hallmarks has been a prominent role for percussion – not of the regimented Scots pipes-and-drum corps variety, but a rock-influenced freestyle that works around the contours of the other instruments. And their newest member is one of the best in that capacity: Donald Hay, who has played with the likes of Kate Rusby, Nuala Kennedy, Shoooglenifty, and The Transatlantic Sessions. He’s settled in quite well, thank you, with Hardie and the two other OBDs, Aaron Jones (vocals, bouzouki, guitar) and Ali Hutton (pipes, whistles, guitar).

The opening track, “Bunker Hill,” is about as dead-on an introduction as there is to OBD’s dash and skillfulness: Jones and Hay lay out a slowly churning riff that becomes a backdrop over which Hutton and Hardie play, at double speed, the reel “Bunker Hill”; and then Jones lets loose on a Scottishized American tune, “Sandy Boys,” with Hay going full bore (his bass drum at the beginning is positively propulsive), and after Hutton and Hardie join in, the band slides effortlessly back to the opening theme to close out the set.

Those who like imaginative, challenging arrangements will find plenty to admire here. Hutton’s flute is at the center early on in the “Newe” set, easing along on a slow strathspey, then powering up for a dynamically accented reel that Hardie takes up to great effect. On “Nevertheless,” Jones and Hardie team up for a glorious rendition of the traditional jig “Billy Rush,” and then Hutton (on low whistle) and Hay shift into “Nina’s Gig,” followed by “The North Star,” Hutton’s pipes leading the way. There’s also a set of French gavottes to broaden the spectrum and add texture.

OBD offers up an equally enjoyable selection of songs, all splendidly voiced by Jones (and harmonized by the other three), notably Brian Cromarty’s chilling “A Ring on Her Hand,” built around the machinations of an arranged royal marriage, and “The Earl O March’s Daughter,” by Lionel McLelland, based on the true story of an 18th-century nobleman’s daughter who pined for her exiled lover – and died broken-hearted when, upon his return, he failed to recognize her because she had so deteriorated (she’s now said to haunt the family castle). The band also does a most creditable job with the traditional Napoleonic ballad, “The Warlike Lads of Russia” which somehow seems a bit more relevant nowadays.

Despite the occasionally grim subject matter, “Room with a View” has an overall positive outlook, and shows that Old Blind Dogs continue to be blessed with a strong vision. [oldblinddogs.co.uk]

**Karrie, “Perpetual Motion”** • The Karrie in question is Karrie O’Sullivan, who for years pursued a career as a horse trainer in County Kerry before being grounded by the great recession. She hadn’t particularly aspired to be a singer-songwriter, but lo and behold, it wound up suiting her just fine. Having a successful singer-songwriter in the family – Mick Flannery, her nephew – helped matters some, connections-wise, but as “Perpetual Motion” (her second album) shows, she has plenty of assets with which to work.

For starters, her voice has elements of Joni Mitchell and Rickie Lee Jones, maybe even a bit of k.d. lang/Lucinda Williams alt-country – mellow and easy-going, some jazz as well as folk inflections, and possessing a solid middle range but capable of reaching the high notes. Her writing, meanwhile, has a neatly cultivated sense of droll self-deprecation and introspection that avoids self-loathing or self-pity: “I lost my man to a jacket and skirt girl/She looked so dull, it did me no good/How can I learn from that mistake/When I can only be myself” (“Tryin’ to Be Honest”); “Real life comes with roses/And it comes with deep bruises/And the color fades in both/Real love, well, it comes with arguments” (“Perpetual Motion”).

O’Sullivan also displays a healthy realism about letting go when it’s time, on “The Wicker Chair” – which deftly shifts speeds and time signatures – and on “No Love in Greed,” with its coda “Time for all of its spite/It too has a kind side/And has welcome for a lesson learned.” Lest you think she’s too cynical or jaded, though, in “To Lost Opportunities” she proclaims “Jack, no matter what they say/I am still a romantic/And the master of none.” And so, she rides off into the sunset, with a discerning eye that doesn’t get too dazzled by the light. (facebook.com/karriesmusic)



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BIR Notebook

Bank of America  
picks Dublin for  
EU base post-Brexit

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bank of America has chosen Dublin as its European Union base once Britain leaves the bloc, its CEO said last month. During a visit to the Irish capital, Brian Moynihan said the bank would add to the 700 staff currently employed there, but declined to provide details. Bank of America has about 4,500 staff in London.

Many international banks currently use London as a base for business across the 28-country EU. When Britain leaves the bloc in about two years, they could lose automatic rights to do business in the remaining 27 EU countries if they don't set up a base there.

So far, several major banks have opted for Dublin and Frankfurt, Germany, to be ready to service clients across Europe, no matter what outcome the Brexit talks yield.

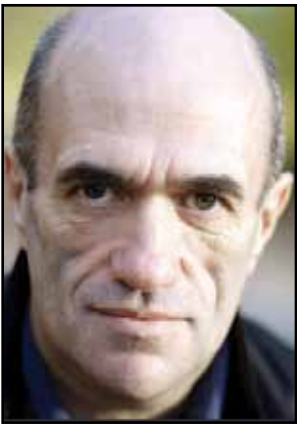
"Dublin is the home of

more of our employees than any other European city outside of the UK," Moynihan said. "We will move roles not only to Dublin but to other EU locations, with the focus on how we can best support our clients in these markets."

Toibin wins Ohio  
Literary Peace Award

The Irish novelist, journalist, and essayist Colm Toibin is this year's winner of a lifetime achievement award that celebrates the power of literature to foster peace, social justice and global understanding, organizers announced last month in Cincinnati.

Dayton Literary Peace Prize officials named Toibin, whose wide range of work has drawn from his native Ireland, his life as a gay man and his travels as an international journalist, for the Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award. It's named for the late US diplomat who brokered the 1995 Bosnia peace accords reached in Ohio.



Colm Toibin

Dayton Literary Peace Prize Foundation co-chair Sharon Rab said Toibin's writings "remind us of shared humanity and the possibility of reconciliation or simply of understanding, which are the first steps to making peace."

"Our [writers'] aim is to reach the reader's imagination, have an effect on the nervous systems of other people," Toibin, 62, said in a statement in response to winning the award.

"Good sentences offer us a way to imagine life in all its strangeness and ambiguity and possibility, alert us to the power of the

imagination to transform and transcend our nature, offer us a blueprint not only for who we are but for who we might be, who we might become," he said.

McIlroy rues 'opportunity lost' at the Open

Rory McIlroy swiped the air with his putter and threw back his head in disgust after underhitting a mid-range birdie putt on the 18th green at Royal Birkdale.

It was fitting. On a low-scoring day at the British Open, McIlroy came up short. It all started so well for the Northern Irishman in his third round: A birdie from six feet at the first; back-to-back birdies on Nos. 4 and 5. A player who was racked with self-doubt when 5 over after six holes on Thurs-



Dan Mulhall has been appointed as the Republic of Ireland's new ambassador to the United States. A former ambassador to Great Britain, he will succeed Anne Anderson, who is retiring. She became the first female Irish envoy to the US in January 2013.

day was now 4 under for the tournament and only three shots off the lead on Saturday.

Could this be the beginning of a charge seen so often by the four-time major winner?

Didn't turn out that way

as Jordan Spieth carried the day in the end.

"I've always been good, when I get off to fast starts, being able to keep it going," he said, "and I didn't today. And I needed to."

Holding immigrants for  
ICE is unlawful, SJC rules

(Continued from page 1)

Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, Lunn was born in a Thai refugee camp to Cambodian parents fleeing the Khmer Rouge and brought to the United States as a seven-month-old refugee in 1985. He now has two children who are U.S. citizens, according to the ACLU, which represented Lunn in the case.

Lunn, who has two children who are US citizens, according to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), which represented Lunn in the case, racked up a criminal record in the early 2000s and was ordered deported to Cambodia, but the country would not accept him, according to the US Department of Justice. Last year, Lunn was arrested on charges of an unarmed robbery that allegedly occurred in Boston. After the charges were dismissed in February, a Boston Municipal Court judge kept Lunn temporarily locked up at the request of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on a civil detainer, or a request to hold a person otherwise entitled to be released to

allow federal authorities time to arrive and take the person into custody for removal.

The U.S. Department of Justice contended that even without explicit law, Massachusetts officials have the "inherent authority" to detain people at the request of ICE.

The Supreme Judicial Court declined to take that view and further opined that "even if the Federal government wanted to make State compliance with immigration detainers mandatory, the Tenth Amendment likely would prevent it from doing so."

Monday's ruling is moot for Lunn's particular case, because ICE already had custody of him by the time it reached the high court, where four of the seven justices were appointed by Gov. Charlie Baker. Lunn was not deported and was subsequently released, according to the ACLU.

The court also did not endorse the ACLU's contention that the hypothetical creation of a state statute to facilitate compliance with ICE detainer requests would contain "constitutional violations" because of the

lack of judicial oversight on the detainers.

"The prudent course is not for this court to create, and attempt to define, some new authority for court officers to arrest that heretofore has been unrecognized and undefined," the court ruled. "The better course is for us to defer to the Legislature to establish and carefully define that authority if the Legislature wishes that to be the law of this Commonwealth."

Senate President Stan Rosenberg said last month that lawmakers were awaiting the Lunn ruling before taking action on a bill (S 1305/H 3269) that would limit the state's cooperation with the federal government on immigration enforcement. "I don't think anybody's going to try to move on this issue until the Lunn case is resolved, because then we don't know how much more has to be added to the law or how much is already actually addressed in the existing law," Rosenberg said.



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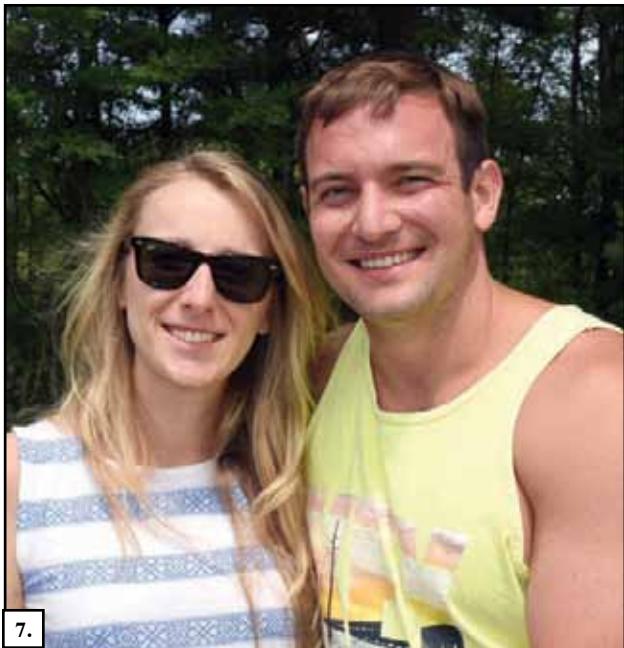
BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett

Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

With more than 45 teams registered in the Boston area, the Irish Cultural Centre is home to the Northeast Division of the GAA. Saturdays and Sundays during the summer are busy on the campus with up to ten games being played in one day. Plus, the Boston Irish Wolfhounds Rugby club makes Canton its home. Founded in 1992, the club competes as members of the Northeast Rugby Football Union's Premier Division. The BIR's Harry Brett made these photos on Sun., July 23.

1.) John Joe and Ann Walsh, Needham; Ann Hawkes and Carmel Murray, Weymouth; 2.) Mark Canny, Maureen Collins, Braintree; 3.) Jacquelyn and Robert O'Mahoney, Weymouth with Juliette Callahan, (center) of Quincy; 4.) Briden Tierney, Dorchester; Courtney Leahy, Watertown; 5.) Maurice Condon, Ohio. Referee; 6.) Leoni and Warner Mullen, Tyngsboro; Cara Gallagher Holding Molly, Melrose; 7.) Ola Sadanowkz and Rob Doton, Bolton Ct.; 8.) Sinead O'Sullivan and John Coleman, Waltham; 9.) Jackie And Michael Gorman, Stoughton; 10.) Lisa, John, and Megan Young, Lincoln R.I.; 11.) Catie Burke, Michael and Neasa Collins, Tuam, Galway.





# What to do in Ireland in August? A lot, that's what

By JUDY ENRIGHT  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR  
Summer may be slipping away, but that doesn't mean there is nothing to do in Ireland in August. The country is still buzzing with activities for all ages.

**40 YEARS OF CHANGES**  
I'm often asked how Ireland has changed during the four decades or so when I've been a frequent visitor. Probably the most obvious change is the complete transformation of Irish food from "meat and potatoes" to gourmet, farm-to-table, and sometimes more exotic fare. Many Irish chefs are now trained in France and other culinary hubs as well as at top-notch Irish cookery schools.

You seldom find a pub or restaurant meal today that's bland and tasteless, and you can find almost every type of cuisine, especially in the cities. You can also sign on with several groups that offer "gourmet tours of Ireland," a concept that would have been unheard of in days past.

There's a big focus now, too, on health and healthy food. One group, Slow Food Ireland, celebrated the 11th annual Burren Food Festival in Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare, this spring with special emphasis on the "Best of Irish gin and Irish raw cheese." (Slow Food is a global, grassroots movement that links the pleasure of food with a commitment to community and the environment.)

Foodies will want to be at the Pier in Donegal Town for the annual Taste of Donegal Food Festival from Aug. 25 to Aug. 27. More than 120 food and drink exhibitors, hotels, and restaurants will participate and sell produce, wine, and craft beer from Ireland and the UK. See: [atasteofdonegal.com](http://atasteofdonegal.com)

If you decide to hike Ballycrov National Park in Co. Mayo, be sure to stop at Ginger & Wild Café in the Visitor Center for a delicious homemade lunch, tea, or snack. See [gingerandwild.com](http://gingerandwild.com) for details.

If you ferry over to Clare Island (a destination for walkers, hikers, cyclists), be sure to stop by the Sailors Bar for a great meal and, if you're lucky, an impromptu show by local or visiting musicians. When you're in Galway, I highly recommend Martine's of Quay Street. A friend and I enjoyed a delicious lunch there. For more, see [martines.ie](http://martines.ie)

There are many other great places to eat all over the country but not enough space to mention them all.

**ACTIVE ADVENTURES**  
The other big change I've seen is the focus on sports and active adventures. Visitors who love to move can find every sort of activity in Ireland from golf and cycling to hill walking, mountain climbing, zip-lining, and active water sports like surfing. There are gentler water sports, too – like swimming at one of more than 80 Blue Flag beaches.



Drive around the country and enjoy the beautiful scenery. This is from County Kerry.



This handsome fellow is one of many greeters at the Fota Wildlife Park in Co. Cork.

A number of dedicated off-road routes for walkers and cyclists have been developed in various parts of the country. Among these are The Great Southern Trail, along the former Limerick to Tralee/Fenit railway, and the Great Western Greenway in Mayo, which also follows an abandoned railroad track from Westport to Achill Island. More greenways are open and on drawing boards in other areas.

These pathways are welcome additions as a draw for active tourists who pump money into local economies, enhance existing businesses, and spawn new businesses – like bike rental and eateries along the routes.

Acknowledging the uptick in active tourism is stately Westport House in Co. Mayo, which partnered with Killary Adventure Co. this summer to offer an assortment of activities to visitors.

Among the activities at Westport House are archery, zip wire rides and an orienteering course. All run through August and are suited for families or groups.

Another popular adventure center in the West is Delphi, on a 300-acre site near Leenane in Co. Galway. The center has a 4-star hotel, hostel, spa, adventure center, restaurant, and café. Some 20 activities are offered there from archery and a high ropes course to mountain biking, surfing and climbing.

## WALKING TOURS



Rent a bike and ride one of Ireland's purpose-built, off road Greenways. *Judy Enright photos*

Many towns and cities offer guided walks. In Clifden, you can join local historian Kathleen Villiers-Tuthill to hear stories of famine, war, religious conflict, street riots, and more. Tours run through September. Private tours are also available. For more, visit: [connemara-girl-publications.com](http://connemara-girl-publications.com).

Take an historical walking tour of Galway on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 5 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m. More information is available on [goreofgalway.com](http://goreofgalway.com).

Learn about St. Patrick, Granuaile (the Pirate Queen) and the Clew Bay Tragedy on a walking tour of Westport, Co. Mayo. The one-hour tour runs every day in any weather. For details, see [westport-walkingtours.ie](http://westport-walkingtours.ie)

You can also walk, hike, trek, or tour with Walk Connemara. To book, contact Paul Phelan at [walkconnemara.com](http://walkconnemara.com) or [walkconnemara@gmail.com](mailto:walkconnemara@gmail.com)

From May to October, there are walking tours of Cork City that are about 90 minutes and limited to 15 walkers. For details, visit: [corkcitywalktours.com](http://corkcitywalktours.com)

Tour County Kerry with a company called backroads.com, take walking tours of Belfast, Dublin, Cork and other cities, or

join [wildatlanticadventures.com](http://wildatlanticadventures.com) for sailing, island adventures, guided walking, and more.

Go to [visitdublin.com](http://visitdublin.com) to learn more about a "Best of Irish Rock and Roll Music Tour" or a Literary Walking Tour. The Rock and Roll tour is two hours and explores the Irish music scene from the early mid-20th century to contemporary. See where Bono of U2, Sinéad O'Connor, Imelda May, West Life, Thin Lizzy, Van Morrison, Rory Gallagher, and the Undertones started their careers.

On the literary walking tour, you can visit the birth home of Oscar Wilde and follow in the footsteps of literary leg-

ends, including James Joyce, Jonathan Swift and Bram Stoker, author of "Dracula."

This is, of course, just a small sampling of tours available all over the country. On the internet, you can find many, many more.

There is much to do in Ireland, too, for those not interested in working up a sweat. Nothing beats a drive around the country to enjoy stunning vistas. And it's always fun to stop at one of the birds of prey exhibits/shows around the country (Ailwee Caves in Clare, Westport House and Ashford in Mayo, Dromoland Castle in Clare, Eagles Flying in Co. Sligo) or walk through

acres of fenced wild critters at Fota Wildlife Park or see the assortment at the Kiltimagh Pet Farm in Mayo. There are also many heritage and cultural opportunities everywhere.

You can also join a whale/dolphin tour at Dolphin Discovery in Co. Clare; Blasket Islands Eco Marine Tours, Dingle Peninsula; Dingle Dolphin Boat Tours; Whale Watch, West Cork; Cork Whale Watch, Union Hall. Or go fishing – see: [fishthewildatlantic.com](http://fishthewildatlantic.com) for more.

## PEARSE CULTURAL CENTRE

When you're in Connemara, be sure to stop in Ros Muc to see Pearse's Cottage where Patrick Pearse, one of the leaders of the 1916 Rising, spent summers from 1909 to 1915.

A cultural centre recently opened there and visitors can experience the Irish language and culture of the Gaeltacht while enjoying the countryside. The development has four elements, including a new visitor center, Pearse's Cottage, 10 acres and a looped walk, and an interpretive space focusing on Patrick Pearse.

Fulltime guides are available and, according to Sonya Nic Lochlainn from Udarás na Gaeltachta, "the response by locals and visitors has been very favorable."

**AER LINGUS**  
I want to share a story about Aer Lingus. There is more than one airline that services Ireland, but I have always flown Aer Lingus for its excellent safety record and outstanding service.

The Aer Lingus crew is almost always pleasant, helpful, and accommodating, but I witnessed two exceptional flight attendants in action this spring.

An elderly man sat in the aisle seat in the row ahead of me on the May 27 flight from Shannon to Boston. Two air hostesses on the flight – Sarah Jane and Noreen – were so sweet and attentive to this complete stranger and his needs that it was heartwarming. They checked on him often, knelt in the aisle beside him to ask if he needed anything, and treated him like a beloved family member, which he wasn't.

In my opinion, they exceeded their regular duties. It was refreshing to see such kindness in today's not always so kind world.

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# The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

As many of the world's languages do, Irish has two different verbs which are translated as some form of "be" in English which has only one form but many usages. Irish has the **Copula, Is**, where both sides of the **verb** are equal and a **Descriptor , Bí**, where one side describes a less permanent feature plus an **Auxilliary** "be".

**Copula: Is mise Philip** and I will be until I die after which it will be **Ba sé Philip é**, "He was Philip". I can never change who I am.

**Descriptor: Tá mé tinn:** "I am sick" but I may not be tomorrow. "Sickness" passes as do many other things. I can say, "Philip equals me" but I cannot say, "Sick equals me."

**Auxillary: Bhí sé ag iasgach:** "He was fishing" ("He was at fishing" – Irish views all activities as "real", existing by themselves weather one is "doing it" or not. I have heard, "She is at the golf." in an Irish speaker's English.) This verbal usage is the same as English indicating that some action is actually in progress at the time.

I know that English speakers can confuse these two verbs. Believe me, as a teacher of Romance languages I always had students who misused **ser/estar** or **avoir/etre** as well as Scottish Gaelic and Irish with **Is** and **Bi**.

Therefore, it is important to distinguish between the two. In which of these sentences would you use some form of **Is** or **Bi** where the English is italicized.

1. *Is* Patrick married?
2. I see that Bill *is* covered with dirt.
3. He *is* too lazy to even stand up.
4. Thomas *wasn't* home yesterday.
5. *Isn't* my car ready?
6. His sister *is* as tall as his mother.
7. I *was* walking downtown yesterday when I saw the bus collision.
8. She *will not be* here for another three months.
9. Susan *is* a nurse.
10. Sean *is* upstairs in his room.
11. My wife *is* reading the paper.
12. How tall *are* you?

Answers: **Is:** 1., 3., 6., 9., 12.                      **Bí:** 2., 4., 5., 7., 8., 10., 11.

Perhaps it is time to review the **forms** of **Bí** in the tenses we have had so far. These are the **Present**, the **Definite Past**, **Future** the **Conditional**. Most of the other tenses and forms are seldom used except in a few idiomatic phrases, "Set Pieces" such as "Thank you" and "How do you do?" which never requires an answer in English. In addition there is a new tense the **Habitual Past**, "used to".

**Present, Independent:** "*is*" **Tá mé, tú, sé, sí, sibh, siad** but **Táimid** "we are".

After particle: **Níl mé**, etc. but **Nílimid; go bhfuil mé**, etc. but **go bhfuilimid** "that we are", **Nach raibh sé ....** "Wasn't he ...?".

**Definite Past:** "*was*" **Bhí mé, tú, sé, sí, sibh, siad**, but **Bhíomar** "We were".

After a particle such as **Ní, An, Nach, go raibh mé**, etc. the forms are the same except **rabhamar** "We were not/Were we?/ ...that..."

**Future:** "*will be*" **Beidh mé**, etc. but **Beimid**, "We will be". After a particle it is the same, **Nach beidh mé** "*I will be*"

**Conditional:** (Usually follows a particle, "if" for example), "*would be*" or "*were*":

<b>bheinn</b> (if) "I would be"	<b>bheimis</b> (if) "we would be"
<b>bheifeá</b> (if) "you would be"	<b>bheadh sibh</b> "if you-all were"
<b>bheadh sé</b> (if) "he would be"	<b>bheidis</b> (if) "they would be"
<b>bheadh sí</b> (if) "if she were"	

I realize that in modern spoken American English we now use "was" in the **Conditional** tense as well as the "old fashioned" mood we linguists term **Subjunctive** but I am an "old fashioned grammarian" so bear with me. I still say, "If I *were* king", not "If I *was* king – and so does Irish.

**Habitual Past, "used to be":**

<b>Bhinn</b> "I used to be"	<b>Bhiodh muid</b> "We used to be"
<b>Bhiteá</b> "You used to be"	<b>Bhiodh sibh</b> "You-all used to be"
<b>Bhiodh sé/sí</b> "He/she used to be"	<b>Bhidís</b> "They used to be"

Now see if you can translate these sentences in to Irish: 1.) "It will be warm tomorrow." 2.) Kate was sick . 3.) "Bill is upstairs." 4.) "What time is it?" 5.) "This is my sister, Mary." 6.) "Wasn't it warm yesterday?" 7.) "Kate will be here at three o'clock." 8.) "Nora is in Derry today." 9.) "Wasn't Daddy at the station?" 10.) "He used to be there at five o'clock."

Answers: 1.) **Beidh sé te amaireach.** 2.) **Bhí Cait tinn uirthi.** 3.) **Tá Liam thusas an staighre.** 4.) **Cén t-am é?** 5.) **Is sí sinn mo deirfiúr.** 6.) **Nach raibh sé te inniú.** 7.) **Beidh Cait anseo a trí a chlog.** 8.) **Beidh Nóra i Doire inné.** 9.) **Nach raibh Dadaí sa stáisiún?** 10.) **Biodh sé ansin a cuig a chlog.**



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